



## A STATEMENT FROM THE PLAYHOUSE

The Playhouse is delighted to confirm the construction of a new disabled access lift has begun this week.

This provides an enhanced, fit-for purpose, larger capacity lift which will resolve previous access issues with the facility. This long term solution will ensure that all guests and their carers who require the lift can enjoy performances at the theatre, whatever their needs.

**Councillor Mike Solomon** said, “The Playhouse Theatre is one of Weston-super-Mare’s key cultural institutions and it’s fantastic that the new lift will allow all residents and visitors to watch performances.

“Construction works will see the left-hand side of the stairwell temporarily closed off so that a purpose-built platform lift can be installed. When completed, the lift will provide increased capacity for the wheelchair user and a carer if required. These important improvements to the buildings’ accessibility will be completed in time for the summer season and I hope they encourage many more people to experience the shows on offer.”

Construction works are expected to take a number of weeks due to the complexity of the building. During installation there will be limited access for some users and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. The Playhouse Theatre has been working to ensure anyone making a booking is aware of the reduced accessibility during the works, however if you feel this may impact a booking already made, please contact the Box Office.

**Mark Thompson, General Manager** said: “The Playhouse is not only Weston’s home of live entertainment, it’s also somewhere the community can call home too - from those who attend the visiting shows as audience members to those who perform in our town’s very talented and various community groups, it’s a place of shared experiences.

“We’re delighted to have found a long term solution to allow greater access with a more reliable and robust solution. The plans that have been developed for the new lift will allow greater comfort to users ensuring better access for everyone in the community and those visiting from further afield.

“Everyone deserves to have the opportunity to attend the Playhouse and we’re thankful to North Somerset Council’s support in making this a reality for our audiences. Whilst the work is carried out access will remain challenging for a number of weeks but our commitment to ensuring the work is carried out as quickly as possible should hopefully bring comfort to our audiences that better days are ahead. This finally brings a long term challenge for the building to a close, making the Playhouse exactly what it should be, open and accessible for everyone to attend”.

**The Playhouse Theatre**

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