

BENTLEY

Project Case Study

Project: Redevelopment of Stephenson Memorial Hall Theatre and Museum

Client: Chesterfield Borough Council

Funding: LUF Round 1, Arts Council, CBC Capital funding

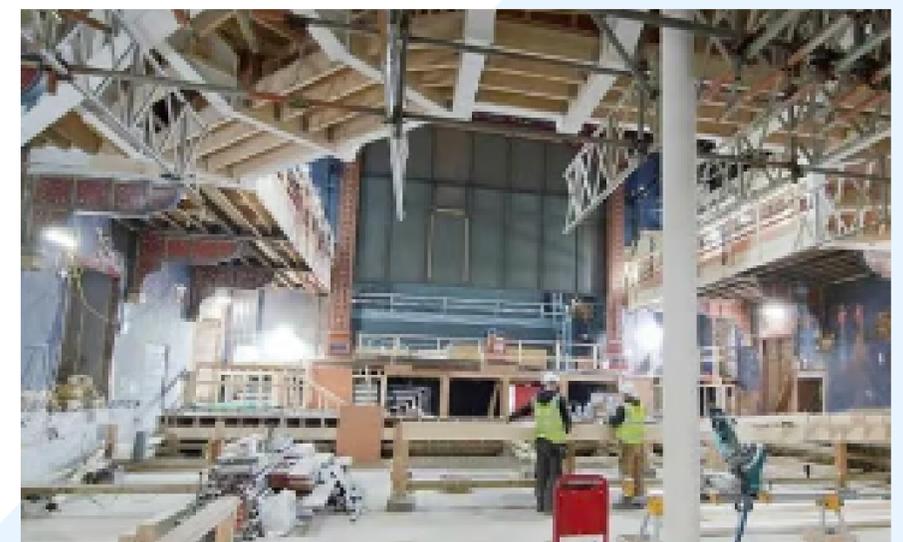
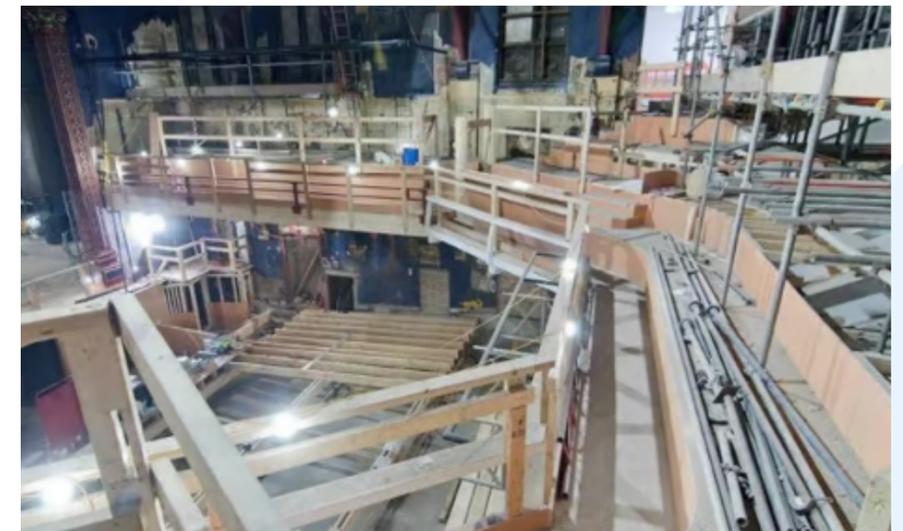
Cost: Circa £19m

Stephenson Memorial Hall is a Grade II listed building, housing the Pomegranate Theatre and Museum and Art Gallery in the heart of Chesterfield Town Centre. Over the past 4 years, Bentley has worked with Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) to secure major funding of over £15m via LUF Round 1 and The Arts Council to deliver the redevelopment and refurbishment of this unique facility.

The project aims to enhance, expand and modernise the theatre without compromising the atmosphere and historic features.

The new space will create an exciting and accessible facility, fusing the performing arts, visual arts and heritage whilst using the latest technology to break down the barriers to access culture and heritage stories, bringing together a theatre, cinema, museum, gallery, café, bar, education space, and community facilities.

The theatre's auditorium is being refurbished with new seating, increased capacity and improved sight lines. New theatre systems including lighting and stage rigging will create a contemporary theatre experience whilst the new seating layout will retain the intimate feel of the auditorium. Work will also protect the Grade II Listed building and ensure that it remains part of the borough's heritage for many more generations to come. Creating a more accessible experience is another key aim of the proposals. The plans include three new lifts which will significantly improve the accessibility of the building with the new Corporation Street link gallery extension will creating a gateway impact ,improving the sense of arrival to Chesterfield.



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Bentley has been involved in the project since project inception, leading the successful LUF 1 funding application, drafting the funding bid and managing the consultant team on behalf of CBC, and has been retained as both project and cost managers through to planned completion (scheduled for Summer 2026).

Bentley supported CBC to initially develop the project through concept and feasibility designs while setting up and agreeing the project governance structure including Project Board, Terms of Reference and reporting. Bentley also supported CBC to secure a further funding boost of £695,000 from Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme which will be used to install a ventilation system in the theatre auditorium and create a new Changing Places toilet.

Bentley has led the procurement of the full professional team, the development of RIBA Stages 2, 3 and 4 design, the submission and approval of planning permission and approval of listed building consent.

Bentley also led the procurement activity to appoint the main works contractor, delivering procurement workshops, resulting in a Project Procurement Strategy, which considered the most appropriate method of procurement, contract type and delivery model.

Bentley provides ongoing project management and cost management advisory services (client side) to include multi-disciplinary design team management, quantitative risk management, programme management and governance reporting. More recently, Bentley have been awarded an enhanced role as Contract Administrator, replacing the Architect to increase efficiency in instructing changes and providing current cost reporting.

