

THEATRE: *Crewe Lyceum***Listed** Grade II**Address:** Heath Street, Crewe CW1 2DA**Local Authority:**

Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach CW11 1HZ
Email: lyceum.theatre@cheshireeast.gov.uk

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

Current Freehold Owner: Cheshire East Council**Current Leasehold Owner:** Cheshire East Council**Current Operator/Manager:** Cheshire East Council**Local Contact:** Save the Lyceum Crewe - [Facebook campaign](#)**The Theatres Trust Contact:** Suzanne McDougall. Tel 020 7836 8591Email: Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrust.org.uk

Original theatre architect (s): 1889: Alfred Darbyshire, 1911: Albert Winstanley, interior rebuilt after fire**Building Description**

The *Lyceum Theatre* in Crewe is the only surviving pre-war theatre in Cheshire. It opened in 1889, accommodating 1,250. It suffered a serious fire in 1910 and was substantially rebuilt by Albert Winstanley. In 1994 major improvements were made by taking in an adjoining site providing extensive new facilities, including new foyer, restaurant, kitchens and bars. The façade of the old theatre is of red brick with a broad semi-circular arch filling the gable. The tympanum carries the date 1911 and the name of the theatre. The main feature of the old façade is echoed in the new addition containing the new main entrance under a sharply tilted glass canopy. The name LYCEUM is repeated in bold seriffed letters in the parapet band. The interior of Winstanley's auditorium was restored in the 1994 refurbishment. It comprises stalls, dress circle and gallery with slips to two superimposed stage boxes topped by onion-domed canopies, flanked by little Jacobean-style obelisk finials. A rare example of a gas sunburner can be seen at the centre of the circular, deeply coved ceiling which is decorated with heavy scrolled brackets and garlands.

Theatre Use

The *Lyceum* is still in theatre use.

Building Location

The *Lyceum* is in a central location within the town centre.

Risks

Cheshire East Council is undergoing an 'efficiency review' and although all options for the *Lyceum* are being considered, the most serious risk is that the Council can no longer allocate £250,000 a year to subsidise the theatre. The theatre relies on this small grant and may have to close. Certainly many midweek shows will be axed, with just a handful of performances staged across weekends.