



COMMUNITY COMMISSION 1 October 2007

Report of the Assistant Director Cultural Services, Regeneration and Community Department

Retrospective Review of the Funding Agreement between Derby City Council and the Derby Playhouse

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Commission consider the funding agreement between Derby City Council and the Derby Playhouse.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 2.1 Members of the Community Commission asked to consider the Council's funding agreement with Derby Playhouse at the July's scheduled meeting of the Commission.
- 2.2 On 29 March 2007, the City Council signed a Funding Agreement with Derby Playhouse Board, covering the financial year 2007/8. The Agreement expresses the joint objectives of the Council and Board and lays out the obligations on both parties.

Payments

- 2.3 Funding to be provided by the Council will total **£395,275**. Payments will be distributed through the year. **April 2007 - £118,583; July 2007 - £118,582; October 2007 - £79,055, January 2008 - £79,055.**

Commentary: the April and July payments were completed on time.

Review process

- 2.4 The Company will complete their own self-assessment against the Council's performance matrix in preparation for the annual review meeting where the self-assessment scores will be discussed and analysed with the Council's Lead Officer. The annual review meeting will evaluate the Company's achievements and challenges within the areas of:

- artistic content/programme

- artist/art-form/audience development
- cultural diversity/equalities
- Derby's profile as a centre of excellence
- education/participation
- local economy (incl. leverage)
- partnership working/arts infrastructure

Commentary: The Board have indicated that they have problems in dealing with the Performance matrix routine as laid down, and a new timetable has been offered to the Board.

ACTION PLANS FOR 2007-8

2.5 As part of the Agreement, the Playhouse Board agreed to produce a number of action plans:

- complete consultation with Derby's amateur theatre community by the end of May 2007.

Commentary: consultation on one aspect of the Playhouse relationship with the amateur community, the Eagle Awards, was completed in June 2007. The holistic consultation did not start until the appointment of a consultant in September 2007

- publish an Action Plan for the Support of Derby's Amateur Theatre Community 2007-8 by 30 June 2007. This plan will improve on the amateur community's access to the Playhouse in 2006/7.

Commentary: the deadline was missed and the report is promised now in January 2008

- publish an Equalities and Diversity Action Plan by the end of April 2007. The expectation is that the work the Company is already doing following a request by Arts Council England will serve this purpose.

Commentary: completed

- publish a Development Plan for Board Composition by the end of June 2007

Commentary: completed

- publish a Plan for Participation and Learning by the end of July 2007 (to include the use of the Studio, Community Theatre, Youth Theatre, Kids' Club, volunteering, community outreach and education).

Commentary: completed

- consult with the Council's Lead Officer at key points in the drafting of all these Action Plans

Commentary: partially completed. There was good consultation on the Equalities and Diversity Plan and the Participation and Learning Plan.

FULFILMENT OF ACTION PLANS FOR 2007/8

- 2.6 The Council will consider each of the four Action Plans and support the Company with suggestions for improvement. If the resulting revised Plan is not satisfactory the Council may hold back or claw back part of its funding. The maximum amount in respect of the Amateur Community Plan will be £45,000. The maximum in respect of the Equalities and Diversity Plan would be £16,300. The same amounts could be withheld if satisfactory progress is not made on implementing the Plans.

For more information contact:	Ray Rippingale 01332 256094 ray.rippingale@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 – Playhouse funding agreement 270307

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The Council is providing grant of **£395,275 during 2007-08 to Derby Playhouse.**

Legal

2. There is a legally binding agreement between the Council and Derby Playhouse that covers funding arrangements and outputs during the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

4. The Company is required to ensure that good equalities and diversity practice is followed towards all sections of the community.

Corporate Priorities

5. Giving excellent services and value for money.