



COMMUNITY COMMISSION 1 October 2007

Report of the Chair of the Community Commission

Community Theatre

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To consider a petition from the Derby New Community Theatre Association regarding access to suitable venues by community theatre groups

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Derby New Community Theatre Association has submitted the attached petition asking the Council for assistance for community theatre groups to access suitable venues and deliver performances. The petition was considered by the Scrutiny Management Commission at their October meeting in line with the Council's policy and who subsequently referred it to this commission for a more detailed response.
- 2.2 The Derby New Community Theatre Association is a charitable association of more than 20 amateur theatre groups in Derby who allege that performance venues in Derby are either too expensive to hire and or are available at inappropriate times of the year which is putting their survival at risk. They are asking the council to reduce hire charges at the Assembly Rooms and the Guild Hall or offer grants to groups to meet ever increasing costs. They also ask the Council to use its influence on the Derby Playhouse and make the main house available for hire at reasonable charge and at appropriate weeks in the year.
- 2.3 Since the next meeting of Community Commission is scheduled for January 2008, this special meeting has been arranged to examine issues raised by amateur theatre groups and consider how they could be assisted. The following individuals have been invited to give evidence to the Commission:
 - Chair of Derby New Community Theatre Association
 - Ray Rippingale- Assistant Director, Leisure Services;
Pete Meakin, Head of Arts and Events
 - Karen Hebden – Director of Derby Playhouse

- Councillor Alan Graves- Cabinet Member, Leisure and Direct Services

2.4 Members are asked to receive the evidence and give their considered response on how the issues raised by the Derby New Community Theatre Association could be addressed.

For more information contact: Mahroof Hussain 01332255597 mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk
Background papers: None
List of appendices: Appendix 1 - Implications
Appendix 2 – Petition

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. Derby New Community Theatre Association is seeking support from the Council in accessing suitable venues to deliver their performances. This could be either in the form of concessions to hire charges at the Assembly Rooms and the Guild Hall and grants towards hire cost which could have financial implications for the Council.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

4. Effective scrutiny can benefit all sections of the community.

Corporate Priorities

5. Giving excellent services and value for money.