



COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE AND DIRECT SERVICES 7 November 2007

Report of the Community Commission

Funding Agreement between Derby City Council and the Derby Playhouse

RECOMMENDATION

1. That next year's funding agreement give a high priority to improving the access to the Playhouse by Derby's amateur theatre community

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Community Commission scrutinised the current agreement at its meeting on 1 October 2007. The deadline of 30 June 2007 for the production of an Action Plan for the Support of Derby's Amateur Theatre Community was missed. The explanation was that a new consultant needed to be engaged which had the consequence of slipping the sector consultation period to September- November. Mr Meakin said the review will be completed in December and the Action Plan be made available in January 2008.
- 2.2 It was not explained why a consultant actually needed to be engaged to achieve the Action Plan, rather than doing so through liaison between the Playhouse and the amateur theatre community – perhaps with some support from the Council's Consultation Support Team.
- 2.3 The delay left the Commission with the impression that delivering the Action Plan has not been a high priority for the Playhouse. However the need now is to ensure that the amateur theatre community do get the access to the Playhouse that the amateur community itself and the Council seek. The completion of the Action Plan is only the first step. Next year's agreement needs to be robustly worded to ensure it is implemented promptly and adhered to.

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Background papers: None
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Legal

The current agreement, involving Council funding of £395,275 for 2007-08, requires:

- detailed activity reporting and
- four Action Plans

with financial sanctions for failing to report and/or achieve progress. However, there is not a direct link made between activity and promoting value-for-money, nor a requirement to deliver Best Value or Gershon efficiencies.

Personnel

None directly arise but clearly jobs at the Playhouse are dependent on continuing Council funding.

Equalities impact

The Assistant Director's report indicates that requirements regarding an Equalities and Diversity Action Plan have been met. From the point of view of the amateur theatre community that will only be achieved when the action plan regarding their access has been produced and implemented.

Corporate Priorities

This report can help promote 'Giving You Excellent Services And Value For Money'.