



## COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER MEETING FOR LEISURE AND DIRECT SERVICES 7 NOVEMBER 2007

Report of the Scrutiny Management Commission

### Petition – Crisis in Community Theatre in Derby

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Council Cabinet member for Leisure and Direct Services consider the points made in the petition and provide a response to the Scrutiny Management Commission meeting in January 2008.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the Scrutiny Management Commission meeting on 23 October 2007 Keith Bryers presented a petition entitled Crisis in Community Theatre in Derby. The petition, which was signed by the chairmen of 23 local amateur theatre groups, asked the Council to:
  - Reduce the hire charges for amateur groups at the Assembly Rooms or Guildhall or provide grants to meet the ever increasing costs
  - Apply pressure on Derby Playhouse to make its Main House accessible to amateur groups at reasonable times and at an affordable hire charge
  - Honour its commitment to reconvene the Steering Group of performance spaces in the City to decide to take forward the recommendations in the Locum report
  - Actively pursue ways to ensure that Derby's last remaining traditional theatre building, the Hippodrome in Green Lane, is preserved and brought back into use as a theatre for use by amateur groups
- 2.2 The Commission agreed that the petitions should be referred to the Community Commission for investigation. Members also requested that the Council Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct Services be asked to look into the budgetary implications for the Council of responding to the points made in the petition and to provide a response on these and the points made in the petition to the Scrutiny Management Commission meeting in January 2008.

**For more information contact:** David Romaine 01332 255598 e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk  
**Background papers:** Appendix 1 – Implications  
**List of appendices:**

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. None arising from this report.

**Legal**

2. None arising from this report.

**Personnel**

3. None arising from this report.

**Equalities impact**

4. The petition indicates the level of interest of Derby people in amateur theatre

**Corporate Objectives**

5. This report has the potential to link with the following Corporate Objectives,
  - Making us proud of our neighbourhoods
  - Giving you excellent services and value for money