



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CULTURE AND PROSPERITY COMMISSION 31 October 2005

Report of the Chair of the culture and Prosperity Commission

QUAD – Energy Costs

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Culture and Prosperity Commission seek information on the funding of QUAD, on the likely energy costs of operating it, and on the likely cost and benefits of the green measures that it is currently proposed to incorporate in the building.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 It is appreciated that over the past two years, energy costs in the UK have increased very significantly and that further large increases are expected in the immediate future. It is also recognised that these increases in the cost of energy have had, and will continue to have, serious cost implications for the Council.
- 2.2 There is a concern that the energy costs associated with the operation of QUAD may significantly impact upon the financial viability of the project and that this in turn may affect both the consequent contribution of QUAD to the cultural environment of the City, and the ability of the City Council to fund the operation of QUAD without detriment to other Council services.
- 2.3 At the full Council meeting on 14 September 2005, the Council Cabinet member for Leisure and Cultural Services told Council members that some of the most conspicuous 'green features' of the original QUAD proposals could not be carried through with the current level of funding. However the Cabinet member also said of QUAD that 'concentration had been on an astonishingly wide range of sustainability measures which provide value for money', and that if ways could be found to introduce further ground breaking green measures, they would be grasped.
- 2.4 In view of the cultural importance of QUAD to Derby, and the ever increasing energy bill faced by the Council, it is considered that it would be of benefit for the Culture and Prosperity Commission to seek more detailed information from the Council Cabinet member for Leisure and Cultural Services on the funding of QUAD, on the likely energy costs of operating it, and on the likely cost and benefits of the green measures that it is currently proposed to incorporate in the building.

2.5 Depending on the information provided by the Cabinet member, Commission members may subsequently decide to explore for themselves the ways in which more sustainable energy could be utilised by QUAD and/or to make recommendations to Council Cabinet.

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

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising directly from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Any reduction in the energy costs of operating QUAD will be to the benefit of all Derby people.

Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities

5. This report has the potential to link to the following of the Council's Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities:

Objectives:

- A lively and energetic cultural life
- A prosperous successful and vibrant economy

Values

- Be open, transparent and honest in everything we do
- Adopt new ways of working wherever these will help us do things better and provide value for money, customer focussed services

Priorities

- Minimise increases in Council Tax and increase value for money services