



## **THREE Urban Festivals Consortium**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. To grant delegated authority to Director of Development and Cultural Services for the authorisation of DCC's involvement in to the THREE Consortium Agreement.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

2. To allow swift progress of the THREE cities festivals initiative.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Urban Cultural Programme was devised by the Millennium Commission and the Arts Council England to provide an outlet for the excellent bids which failed in the competition for City of Culture 2008. Derby had not submitted a City of Culture bid, but the Arts Council invited Derby, Nottingham and Leicester to put a joint bid forward for the Urban Cultural Programme at short notice. Within days a consultant had been appointed and work started on this pioneering initiative.
- 3.2 THREE Cities Urban Cultural Programme has been granted an award of £800,000 from the Millennium Commission and the Arts Council for the enhancement of festivals and the celebration of capital developments in Derby, Nottingham and Leicester.
- 3.3 The THREE programme will bring increased collaboration, heightened ambition and strengthened programmes through existing and new festivals, and will support celebrations and launches of new capital development across the three cities. THREE will initially run through 2005 and early 2006, supporting the commissioning of new work and enhanced programming, through existing infrastructure of festivals and cultural organisations.
- 3.4 We have developed the bid with special reference to supporting and enhancing the City's Events Programme, which received a significant boost in the last budget round. In particular, we intend to build up the Darley Park Concert weekend, the South Asian Arts Festival and the Festival of Words.
- 3.5 For further details and full proposal visit the THREE website [www.threecities.org.uk](http://www.threecities.org.uk).
- 3.6 There is a further bid to East Midlands Development Agency for £800,000 match funding to either extend or enhance the programme.

- 3.7 The THREE Cities Consortium which bid for this opportunity is an innovative mechanism designed to underline the potential for collaboration across the region. The Arts Council East Midlands is overseeing implementation of the project plan using models developed in other collaborative projects in the arts field. The governance arrangements for THREE are being finalised with appropriate Officer and Member input from the three cities. The terms of reference and membership of a Management Board will need to be agreed by all parties.
- 3.8 The THREE consortium is currently going through a recruitment process for the management of THREE. We anticipate that the team will include a Director and a Marketing Officer plus administrative support. The team will be employed from November 2004 – March 2006 in the first instance and will be raised at a location within the East Midlands.
- 3.9 The timetable for the programme is very tight. In the period January to March 2005 we expect the Project Team to carry out intensive planning for summer 2005, alongside the letting of a number of small-scale commissions for targeted work to give the programme an early sense of momentum.
- 3.10 The guiding principle in the project is that the cities should derive equal benefit from the programme. This principle is being carried forward into the Consortium Agreement, which is currently being finalised with inputs from the three local councils concerned.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 To wait until the Consortium Agreement is finalised and to submit it to Cabinet late November or December 2004.

This will hold up the process of establishing the Project Team and placing the early commissions.

For more information contact:	Donna Fox – Head of Arts and Events, Ray Rippingale – Assistant Director of Cultural Services
Background papers:	Celtic House, Arts and events Team, Room 519
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications

Appendix 1

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

1. A grant of £800,000 is available for additional funding for festival enhancement in Derby, Nottingham and Leicester.

Match funding for the initial bid was provided from current funding already planned for investment in festivals and celebrations in Derby. Therefore no addition funding was required from Derby City Council.

**Legal**

2. The draft Consortium Agreement has been scrutinised by the Council's Legal Department. Governance of the Consortium is being explored and will become a priority for the Project Team, with guidance from Arts Council England.

**Personnel**

3. None

**Corporate Themes and Priorities**

4. Improving cultural and leisure services