



**Notice of meeting of
Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To: Councillors Reid (Chair), Cunningham-Cross (Vice-Chair), Brooks, Fitzpatrick, Jeffries, Levene, Taylor, Watson, Potter and Crisp

Date: Wednesday, 3 August 2011

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, York

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda or any other general interests they might have within the remit of the Committee.

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 June 2011.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak on an item on the agenda or an issue within the committee's remit can do so.

Anyone who wishes to register or who requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer for this meeting, details of whom are listed at the foot of this agenda.

The deadline for registering to speak is 5.00pm the working day before the meeting, in this case **5.00pm on Tuesday 2 August 2011**.

4. Attendance of the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services

The Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services will be in attendance to report her priorities and challenges for this municipal year.

5. Report from the Cabinet Member of Leisure, (Pages 9 - 10) Culture & Social Inclusion

As the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion is not able to attend this meeting due to an prior commitment, a report has been attached which informs Members of her priorities and challenges for this municipal year.

6. York Theatre Royal Service Agreement: (Pages 11 - 30) 2010/11 End Of Year Report Performance Update

Members are asked to note the progress and performance of the York Theatre Royal under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) which runs to March 2012.

7. Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny (Pages 31 - 32) Committee Workplan 2011-12

Members are asked to consider the Committee's workplan for the 2011-12 municipal year.

8. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972

Democracy Officers

Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook (job share)

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551031
- Email catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk and louise.cook@york.gov.uk

(If contacting by email, please send to both Democracy officers named above).

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officers responsible for servicing this meeting, as listed above.

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

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If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

A leaflet on public participation is available on the Council's website or from Democratic Services by telephoning York (01904) 551088

Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

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If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

Every effort will also be made to make information available in another language, either by providing translated information or an

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Holding the Cabinet to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Cabinet (39 out of 47). Any 3 non-Cabinet councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Cabinet (or Cabinet Member Decision Session) agenda. The Cabinet will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Cabinet meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- Public libraries get copies of **all** public agenda/reports.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	LEARNING & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	21 JUNE 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS REID (CHAIR), CUNNINGHAM-CROSS (VICE-CHAIR), BROOKS, FITZPATRICK, JEFFRIES, TAYLOR, WATSON AND KING (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR LEVENE

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting Members were asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda or any other general interests they might have within the remit of the Committee, none were declared.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 March 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

4. INTRODUCTION TO COMMITTEE REMIT & TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered a report that highlighted the Council's current structure for the provision of the Overview and Scrutiny function and the resources available to support it. Members also considered the agreed terms of reference for the individual Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

Officers updated Members and informed them of their roles within the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny committee.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

Reason: To inform Members of scrutiny arrangements.

5. PRESENTATIONS BY SENIOR OFFICERS ON ONGOING WORK WITHIN DIRECTORATES AND FUTURE PLANNED WORK

Members received a presentation by the Director of Adults, Children and Education and the Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning and Culture. The presentation highlighted the ongoing work within their directorate and informed Members of their successes, future planned work and key challenges within the following areas:

- YorOK Board
- Schools and School Improvement responsibilities including 14-19
- Looked After Children
- Early years
- Library and Archives Services
- Museum Services
- Park and Open spaces
- Public Health, Sport and Active Leisure

Officers informed Members of their partnership arrangements and their local performance successes and stated that:

- York were the only authority in the North that had no schools in the below standards Ofsted category.
- teenage pregnancies were down.
- 16-18 NEET (not in employment, education or training) figures were the lowest north of Watford.
- Museum and art gallery visitor figures were up by 38%.
- the Parks and Open spaces team had won their fifth Green Flag award.
- library visitor figures were rising.
- swimming and sports visits to Energise, Yearsley and Waterworld had increased by 1.7% on last years figures.

Officers stated that some of the challenges they were facing included:

- Looked After Children –pressures in locating the right placements.
- Participation in active lifestyles – meeting the challenge of reaching the target of 5 x 30mins a week.
- Demographic changes in the City – growth in the population is putting big pressures on Primary School places.
- Financial savings.

Members thanked officers for their presentation and congratulated them on their impressive figures.

In answer to Members questions officers confirmed they would:

- produce a table that would compare the last few years performance results with the current results. ¹
- produce the figures for the use of the hydro pool by the general public at Energise. ²
- welcome Members input in the renewal process of the Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan.
- continue to work with local schools that had received a satisfactory Ofsted result.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

Reason: To keep Members informed of future planned work for Adults Children and Education directorate.

Action Required

Produce a table showing the previous years results with the current results. RM
RM

Produce the figures for the use of the hydro pool by the general public at Energise.

**6. LEARNING AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DRAFT WORKPLAN 2011-12**

Members considered the committees draft workplan for the forthcoming year and were asked to consider any additions and or amendments they may wish to make.

Members discussed potential scrutiny topics and agreed some areas to be considered. It was suggested that officers could provide more details on these topics at future meetings which would allow the committee to decide how to proceed. Officers and Members also discussed the way the committee could be run and suggested they :

- hold informal and formal meetings.
- encourage more young people to be involved.
- hold more meetings, with a topic for each meeting.
- meet at different venues around the City.
- have less paperwork more discussions.

Members agreed to invite the Cabinet Members of Education, Children & Young People's Services and Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion to the next meeting to allow them to update the committee on their challenges and priorities for this year and to discuss where the Scrutiny Committee could help support those specific areas.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the following topics be considered for the draft work plan for 2011/2012:

- Renegotiation of the Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan 2013-2018.
- 14-19 agenda – expected impact of removal of EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance).
- Change of demographics for primary schools.
- Localism – enabling the provision of Youth, Cultural and Leisure services.
- Undertaking active lifestyles – Meeting the challenge of reaching the target of 5 x 30mins a week.
- Schools in the Ofsted Satisfactory category – how they would be supported to receive a 'Good' category.
- Delivery of Museum Services.
- Delivery of Music Services.
- Looked After Children.

(ii) That the Cabinet Members of Education, Children & Young People's Services and Leisure, Culture & Social Inclusion be invited to the next meeting.

Reason: In order to provide the Committee with a work programme for future meetings.

Cllr Reid, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.30 pm].

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Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion Portfolio Report
Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Neighbourhood Management Review

I am currently instructing a review of the Neighbourhood Management Unit, as I feel there are areas of duplication between its work and that of our Street Environment Officers and Housing Estate Managers.

With the pilot that has been taking place, as well as the Capable Guardian scheme, it seems to me to be an ideal time to take stock of recent developments and set out how the service will operate in the years to come.

EFLG - Equality Framework for Local Government

The Council Leader and I recently underwent mock interviews in advance of the council's formal equalities assessment, to establish where the council sits currently on the extremely important equalities agenda. Although officers were keen to project the authority and seek an 'excellent' rating, from my own experience I felt this was far too optimistic at this stage.

The results of the mock peer review upheld that view and so we are therefore currently seeking a level of 'achieving', which indicates there is much more we can be doing, reflecting my own opinion as to where I think we are at present.

We propose embedding equalities in a much more fundamental way over the years of this administration, and are committed to achieving an 'excellent' rating during that period.

Whilst some areas of the council are doing reasonably well in relation to Equalities, other areas are rather more problematic; however, I am confident that strong leadership from the top of the organization will ensure that progress is made along the road to achieving an 'excellent' rating.

EAG - Equalities Advisory Group

This Group is important not only to my portfolio but to the work of the council more generally. I feel it is has not been attached the importance it deserves by the previous administration, and I plan to change this. EAG needs more teeth and when it provides comments on Cabinet reports, the Advisory Group should get feedback and a clear idea on how its comments have influenced decision-making.

Community Stadium

We are getting things moving once again with the Community Stadium after the long hiatus before the election. We are committed to delivering this project and are working with all partners to achieve that goal.

This will not be easy, but I believe by maintaining a dialogue with those involved that success is achievable. Planning will be the most challenging obstacle.

Libraries Review

The original review of the libraries service was not carried out as I would've wanted it to be, so I plan to undertake consultation on the planned changes before Equalities Impact Assessments are carried out, rather than the other way around as happened before. The Peer Challenge process identified this as a problem that needed to be rectified.

Cllr Sonja Crisp

Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion
July 2011



Learning and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

3 August 2011

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities and Culture)

York Theatre Royal Service Agreement: 2010/11 End Of Year Report Performance Update**Summary**

1. This report is to inform the Scrutiny Committee of the progress and performance of the York Theatre Royal under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) which runs to March 2012.

Background

2. The four year SLA is a joint agreement between the Council and the York Theatre Royal. It sets out:
 - the key objectives of the partnership and partnership arrangements
 - performance targets and indicators to be met by the Theatre
 - performance information to be provided, review and reporting procedures
3. Reports are brought to Scrutiny Committee twice a year to report on performance against the outcomes agreed in the SLA. This report covers the second half of 2010/11.
4. The SLA provides a process for formal review towards the end of the four year period leading to a further plan for the next four years. We will shortly be embarking on this review. As noted in Annex 1: The Performance Report, the Theatre has gained National Portfolio funding from the Arts Council: England but has not seen a substantial rise or a reduction in their funding from them over the next 3 years. Our negotiations with the Theatre will have to take into account the Council's financial context.

5. The key partnership requirements covered in the current SLA are:
 - The need to provide a year round programme of high quality work promoting the city regionally, nationally and internationally
 - The potential for the theatre to take a more significant role in supporting children and young people to enjoy and achieve in schools and in extended schools settings
 - The opportunity for the Studio theatre to support new talent in the creative sector in the region
 - The need to ensure that the theatre was accessible and developed its audiences especially within those sectors of the community that traditionally had low attendance or participation rates
 - The need to improve the proportion of earned income against public investment
6. Annex 1: The Performance Report sets out how the Theatre has addressed these issues over the past six months, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward.

Consultation

7. This report is for information and there is no consultation to consider.

Options

8. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

Corporate Objectives

9. The York Theatre Royal contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure.

Implications

10. **Finance:** The Council's funding for both 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 was £304k under the SLA. The funding from the Education budget of £15k to support the Partners in Education and Theatre (PET) scheme ceased in financial year 2011/12.
11. The report has no additional implications relating to:
 - Human Resources

- Legal
- Crime and Disorder
- Information Technology

12. Annex 1 sets out the contribution the Theatre makes to supporting our Equalities agenda. In particular their discounted theatre Tickets for Young people have been particularly well used as has the provision of an audio description service for each main house production.

Risk Management

13. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

14. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment upon potential priorities they would like to see included in the Service level agreement with the Theatre from March 2012.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's role under the Service Agreement

Contact Details

Authors:

Gill Cooper
Head of Arts,
Heritage and Culture
Ext. 4671

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and
Culture)

Report Approved **Date** 20.7.11.

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Service Level agreement 2009-2012 contained as Annex 3 in January 2008 performance report

Annexes

Annex 1: Theatre Royal Performance Report 2010/11

Annex 2: Service Level Agreement 2008-12

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**YORK THEATRE ROYAL
Performance Report**

2010 / 2011

1 INTRODUCTION

Another very busy and successful six months for the Theatre Royal with a high level of activity and strong attendance. The Theatre has opened its ambitious “in the round” season with an ensemble company at the same time as opening two productions of **The Railway Children** in Canada and in London. The financial year came to a successful conclusion however the year ahead will be challenging as the Theatre works with reduced funding from the Arts Council and rapidly changing economic realities that are changing audience behaviour.

2 ARTISTIC PROGRAMME AND DEVELOPMENTS

Jack and the Beanstalk

The 2010/11 pantomime reached attendances of around 54,000. Next year’s pantomime was announced on the final night, it has a distinctly York feel, as always. Berwick has decided to call it **York Family Robinson!** That’s a mix of Swiss Family Robinson, Robinson Crusoe and that something else that is uniquely part of the city.

To Kill a Mockingbird

The production built on the Theatre Royal’s reputation for producing theatre for children, young people and families. It was a great success both artistically and financially, attracting the largest number of attendees at the theatre for a piece of drama. Over 12,000 people saw the production in York, including over 40 schools and then the York Theatre Royal production went on tour across the country for ten weeks attracting further audiences of over 75,000.

TakeOver Festival

Over 50 young people “took over” the theatre to produce the TakeOver Festival. The Festival was over two weeks and had 25 performances from

theatre companies from across the country. York Theatre Royal will be raising funds to continue to offer this extraordinary opportunity to young people to take over their theatre in York for a few weeks each year for the new few years. The funding to support this project has now come to an end. Two applications have been made by the Theatre to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Esmée Fairbairn Trust.

New “in the round” Season

The theatre opened its new “in the round” season in May. This ambitious project will see 8 new productions at York Theatre Royal over the next 6 months. The Theatre has been transformed from its usual configuration of the traditional Proscenium Arch to a new stage built across the stalls seating and with a new bank of seating on the stage. This has created an almost round performance area with seating on most of the sides. The Theatre experimented with this last year with **The Wind in the Willows** to great success as a pilot for considering this year’s season. The Theatre is also managing an ensemble company of actors throughout the season so that audiences will be able to see actors performing in many different roles across the season. In effect it means that actors will be rehearsing in the day time and performing in the evening. It is an interesting business model for the theatre and York Theatre Royal has attracted a lot of national attention for model.

The Crucible

The season opened with a new production of Arthur Miller’s classic *The Crucible*. This was a co-production with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and included their students working on the production as their final year assessment. With a company of 18 actors it launched the season with a superb production that was enjoyed by large audiences and attracted lots of interest from schools in York and beyond.

My Family & Other Animals

The second production in the season could not have been more different and gave the acting company a very different challenge and our audiences a chance to see the same actors in very different roles. This was the world premiere of a new adaptation of this classic novel from Gerald Durrell and it attracted lots of attention from the national press with very good reviews in *The Times*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Guardian*. It was an

extraordinary theatrical piece with large scale puppets and youth theatre participants.

Two Planks & a Passion

The Theatre has been working with a community company of York people since March on this new production of Anthony Minghella's hilarious and moving piece of theatre about staging the Mystery Plays in York. The cast also includes members of the professional ensemble cast and it has been a very fitting way to embark on the Mystery Plays for 2012. Members of the York Community are not only represented on stage but also worked alongside the Theatre on making costumes, stage management and marketing. This is the start of the new Mysteries Company of the York Community who will work alongside the theatre for the next year.

Parlour Song

The Theatre also opened its first Studio show of the ensemble season. It is the regional premiere of Jez Butterworth's play **Parlour Song**. Jez Butterworth has recently won awards in New York for his much garlanded play, **Jerusalem**.

York Amateur Companies

We have had a strong showing from the York amateur theatre companies across the last six months. Four companies have worked at York Theatre Royal. In the Studio Settlement Players presented Ibsen's **Ghosts** and Old Bomb put together a collection of new writing from York writers alongside some classic pieces from Pinter. York Light produced an outstanding production of **Crazy for You** and York Musical Theatre produced the rarely performed **The Slipper and the Rose**. Between them these productions attracted audiences of over 9,700 showing our vibrant this part of the artistic programme is at the Theatre Royal. The Theatre Royal also supported York Write to select and produce four new theatre pieces from York-based writers in the Studio Theatre which played to packed and appreciative audiences. The final York Write Script Factor Final will be held at the Theatre in July.

The Railway Children

The success of York Theatre Royal's production of **The Railway Children** continues. In May 2011 a new production opened in Toronto, Canada to great acclaim and is due to perform in a newly constructed theatre in the

centre of the city until the end of October. The National Railway Museum was involved in the production once again and a locomotive from the collection was shipped out to Canada to complete the production. It is anticipated that this production will be the first in a number of North American based productions over the next several years.

At the same time **The Railway Children** steamed back into Waterloo Station and opened in June with another new production, this time featuring comic and actor Marcus Brigstocke. Reviews have been five stars for the show and it will continue to play over the summer months and into the Autumn with the possibility of running until Christmas. “Welcome to Yorkshire” are once more involved with the project using the production as a vehicle to promote the city and region in London.

York Mystery Plays 2012

This major project for the city continues to make good progress and will form a major part of the York 800 celebrations in 2012.

York Theatre Royal, York Museums Trust and Riding Lights Theatre Company have formed a new company to manage the event. This new company will include directors from the three organisations on its Board. Its main responsibility will be to manage this high risk project on behalf of the city.

The partnership is working towards the main launch of the project on July 18th at which we will present the artistic vision, an overview of the site, outline its historical context and give the community of York imaginative ideas about how they can get involved in supporting and celebrating this unique part of our city’s historical and contemporary tradition. The launch is being held at the Theatre Royal and will include contributions from all the partners. It is aimed at a broad spectrum of people in the city to galvanise their imaginations as individuals, business leaders and community leaders to share in this significant event at the heart of the city’s theatrical tradition and a high point in the York 800 celebrations.

The tickets for the Mystery Plays went on sale at the beginning of April. Partly to coincide with the Olympic tickets going on sale but also to be able to respond to the demand from longer lead in groups and international markets as well as the partnerships’ members groups. The Communications teams from the three partner organisations are working

well together on a marketing and communications plan and campaign. They have held meetings with Welcome to Yorkshire to tie in with their campaigns for Summer 2012 and have already placed some international advertising with Visit Britain.

York Theatre Royal is also working with City of York Council on a project for York 800 called York Stories to unearth and give voice to all the stories, historical, contemporary and future that have formed this great city.

3 EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION

Education

It has been a busy time with the intensive work with the four Partnership in Education schools and our one-off schools' sessions and activity around **To Kill a Mockingbird**, including the production of an education resource pack to accompany the show.

As the long-standing Partnership in Education project with the City of York Council draws to a close we are currently working on exploring our provision for schools and looking at ways that we can connect with more schools outside of partnership work that encourages them particularly to come to us, rather than us going to them. This is all being thought about in context with and relation to our potential role in the new International Centre for Arts and Narrative (iCAN) working with the University of York St. John.

Youth Theatre

The Theatre Royal's 300 strong Youth Theatre has been as active as ever over the last six months.

The youngest group of 5-7 year olds have done a performance project and made a film. **Jeremiah and the Dark Woods** and **Cops and Robbers** were both lovely pieces that were performed to family and friends in the studio and reflected a great deal of hard work by both groups. And then during the production of **Two Planks** and **a Passion** they made a film about York Stories, in which they interviewed members of the York community about their life here. This project forms part of the run up to York 800 and the York Stories project.

The four youth theatre groups of 8-10 year olds produced four new theatre productions in the Studio Theatre **Dark Age**, **Following Pharaoh**, **100 Reasons not to Fly** and **Dreaming By Day**.

The 11-13 year olds devised 4 new plays around the theme, **Gifted**. Each group put together a box of different items which they gifted to another group to create a story inspired by the objects. They have also done a project around our co-production of a new play inspired by Romeo and Juliet with Pilot Theatre Company, **What Light**.

The 14-16 year olds have worked around the themes in **To Kill A Mockingbird**, the main house production, with access to the director and the cast and then have gone on to work on **The Crucible** with the cast and director. They will be producing new work for performance in the Autumn Term.

The 16+ theatre groups performed 2 new pieces of theatre around the theme of climate change at the Regional Youth Theatre Festival, **A Moral Obligation** and **You've Got Whale**. The 16+ has also had careers sessions with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama students during their time at the theatre performing in and working back stage on **The Crucible**.

Graduate Youth Theatre Company

Snickleways Theatre Company is the new graduate theatre company that those over 20+ have formed. The company has only been formed since for a few months, but have already led an open rehearsal for the open day and successfully got an Access Grant for £630 from Arts Award for them to go as a company to the Edinburgh Fringe and see shows and network. They are also in the process of applying to perform at Galtres festival and are looking into an opportunity to take a production to Kenya.

Young Actors Company

The Young Actors Company performed their commissioned piece **Celebrating Severus** at the Yorkshire Museum, which was part of a wider festival, partly as a pilot to see if more creative practical work could take place in the museum. All parties involved deemed the project to be highly

successful and feedback was extremely positive. We are discussing further opportunities to collaborate again in the future

The Young Actors Company is also preparing for its next production, **Little Angels**, written by York-based writer, Hannah Davies. This will be performed in September by the young company alongside two older actresses from the community of York.

Regional Youth Theatre Festival

This took place in February and we had 10 youth theatre groups from all over Yorkshire represented between the ages of 14-25. All the young people participated in workshops and saw performances from other youth theatres and the event was given the theme of Consequences and was in partnership with The Centre for Global Education and the National Association of Youth Theatres. The weekend was a great success and is set to be an annual event.

Early Years

We continue to offer very well attended Storymakers sessions every Wednesday morning and Story Corner takes place as a free foyer activity every Saturday morning.

Playhouse

The Theatre Royal National Playwriting Playhouse project that we manage on behalf of 4 national theatres culminated in five schools performances at the Theatre Royal in July. This means that five York Schools performed the world premieres of new plays from some of the country's leading playwrights. Teachers from the 5 local schools joined the Theatre staff and playwrights on a retreat to develop the plays and then they worked with their pupils on the productions. Schools working with the Playhouse project this year are Knavesmire, Park Grove, Wigginton, Sand Hutton and Archbishop of York.

5 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Arts Council

The theatre is pleased to announce that it has become a National Portfolio Organisation for 2012 - 2015. The Arts Council assessment of the

application gave the theatre a strong rating for the contribution that we would make to the Arts Council goals.

Liz Wilson and Damian Cruden have since had discussions with the theatre's lead officer at the Arts Council and the Head of Theatre from the national Arts Council. These were positive meetings that demonstrated an appreciation of the theatre's work and our position both regionally and nationally. We will continue to work with the Arts Council to access strategic funds to support our contribution to the portfolio of national touring and our support of new companies and artists. We will also pursue a relationship of support with the national and regional organisations that have been funded by the Arts Council to focus on their strategic goal of extending high quality arts opportunities for children and young people.

Fundraising

The Theatre organised a number of fundraising activities to support the Theatre's Access For All Fund to improve access for all people to the theatre and its buildings. As part of opening up the De Grey Rooms the theatre held a Dance-A-Thon in the newly restored Ballroom. Over 200 people took part and raised over £7,500 towards the fund. The Access for All Fund currently stands at £20,275.

De Grey Complex

The last six months have been a very busy time for the organisation. The Theatre moved out of its premises in Walmgate that has housed its rehearsal rooms, wardrobe and costume departments and at which we stored all our props and furniture. All of these activities and departments have now moved into the De Grey Rooms.

York Conservation Trust has done a superb job of restoring the Rooms and the Theatre opened them officially with an Open Day in April. Since that time we have held a number of public events including a Tea Dance and a 1940s dance night. All of the public dance events have been very well attended. The Theatre has now launched the Ballroom as a new function room in the city and we have had interest for weddings, parties, balls and conferences.

The Theatre is now working with the York Conservation Trust on making progress on making a move into the De Grey House now that the City of York Council has vacated the premises.

The plan is to move into the house over the course of 2012.

Liz Wilson
Chief Executive
July 2011

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SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2008/2012

This is a 4 year service level agreement (SLA) is between The City of York Council and York Citizens' Theatre Trust Ltd. It will commence on 1st April 2008 and end on 31st March 2012.

PARTNERSHIP OUTLINE

Aims

1. To maintain and develop York Theatre Royal as a local, regional and national theatre provider, creating productions of quality, daring, delight and accomplishment for the citizens of York and the region, and for visitors to the city.
2. To continue to develop local and nationally significant programmes of work with partnerships across the UK and internationally, that contribute to making York a vital and vibrant city.
3. To encourage creative expression and engagement with the community through a diverse programme of work, both on and off stage, that offers a cultural mix of entertainment, innovation, participation and enjoyment.
4. To create opportunities for all ages to learn, develop skills and use the entire theatre building and organisation as a resource. To offer the building, and the Theatre staffs' knowledge, skills and experience as a resource to local people, schools, universities and colleges and to create opportunities for the creative activity of the community.
5. To continue to develop the Youth Theatre, and links with educational institutions, and to create opportunities for skills development and learning at all ages.
6. To continue to develop the infrastructure of York Theatre Royal to ensure the building is fully accessible and to raise the quality of the facilities provided for all audiences and visitors.

7. To contribute to York's economy by attracting visitors to the city, play an active role in the City of Festivals Initiative, and to strengthen the evening economy of the city.
8. To work collaboratively to support the "Cultural Quarter" initiative.
9. To work in active partnership with business, education, community and arts organisations, and local authority service providers to extend both the range and reach of the Theatre's work.

PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY 2008/2012

In order to achieve the aims listed above The Theatre Royal will:

- Provide a year round programme of work which shall include in-house productions, including a pantomime, youth theatre productions, touring drama productions, and hires to local amateur companies.
- Provide sign language interpreted and audio described performances, and touch tours.
- Provide a regular Youth Theatre for at least 250 young people annually.
- Provide educational activities related to each main house production, including special matinees, talks, teachers' packs, workshops and visits to schools.
- Develop The Studio programme promoting new and culturally diverse work: using the space to provide opportunities for local voluntary arts organisations and a programme for Young people and families.
- Continue to offer discounted tickets for school groups and young people. To monitor and report specifically on the effectiveness of these for the York population by post code analysis.
- Continue to develop the education/outreach service, in liaison with the Council, providing curriculum and non-curriculum related events including the P.E.T. project to six agreed schools annually. (PET provision specified in separate SLA).
- Provide student placements and careers advice to support the development of a strong local creative sector.
- Continue to pursue options for an improved provision for rehearsal, youth theatre and production facilities for the Theatre.

- Work with key stakeholders on the Cultural Quarter developments as well as other developments as appropriate.
- Ensure that all publicity material, brochures and print acknowledge the support of the Council.
- Continue to address Arts Council and CYC objectives relating to diversity and inclusion programmes.

In order to achieve the aims listed above the City of York Council will:

- Provide grant support, as detailed below, payable on the 1st of April annually.
- Ensure the building is kept in good working repair in terms of the council's obligations as set out in the lease.
- Provide support and advice, through the person of the Lead Officer in the first instance.
- Support the work of the Theatre in schools, facilitating clear communication and collaborations with educational settings.
- Ensure that the Theatre is involved in cultural and community development projects and activities.
- Facilitate effective working relationships with all council departments and ensure access to potential partnership and stakeholder groups.
- Seek ways to continue to strengthen the role of the Theatre in civic and cultural life of the city.

OPERATION OF PROGRAMME

Weeks in Operation	52	Target total audience*	168,000
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Amount allocated	£
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* This represents an annually increasing trend and a detailed breakdown of this target into the operational areas will be agreed annually and reported to E MAP. Operational area categories will include Youth Theatre numbers, No. of young people participating in educational activities, average % audience per show, % audience from post code areas. The targets agreed may differ depending on the negotiated balance of activities each year. They will be negotiated with the Lead Officer and reported to E MAP every six months.

REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Theatre will provide information to the Lead Officer in the following areas:

Annually

Health and Safety Policy (including list of currently certified first aiders)
 Child Protection Policy
 Race Equality Action Plan
 Equal Opportunities Policy
 Insurance Certificate
 Audited accounts
 Annual operational review report (including a post code analysis of the audience figures targeting agreed priority areas).

Bi Annually

Report to Executive Member and Advisory Panel for Culture and Heritage

Quarterly

Main house, studio and workshop attendance figures broken down by production
 An analysis of financial actual figures against budget
 Copy of any promotional materials
 Summary of Youth Theatre membership
 Summary of Education and Outreach activities
 Press pack and evaluation for each season.

The Lead Officer and the senior management of the Theatre, will meet at least four times each year to monitor and review the agreement.

PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The Theatre will undertake to:

1. Operate the Theatre in accordance with the recognised industry safety and public service standards, and, where relevant, a quality assurance programme.
2. Operate an effective access and equal opportunities policies, which will give full consideration to the access needs of people

with disabilities, different cultures and gender, and ensure that the programme reflects their needs and integrates them fully.

3. Ensure that the funds allocated are used specifically for the provision of the agreed services and by the named organisation only.
4. Maintain appropriate insurance to cover public liability and employment liability.
5. Notify the Lead Officer, or their representative, if unable to sustain the services as specified and return such part of any unspent support, allocated pro rata, as the City of York Council may determine.
6. Make provision for the inspection of the accounts by Council officers at any reasonable time, if requested, within 14 days.
7. Consult with the Lead Officer, or their representative, over any changes to charging policies.
8. Consult with the Lead Officer, or their representative, over staffing matters and recruitment of senior staff.
9. Keep and supply a copy of all minutes of all Trustee meetings to the Lead Officer, or their representative, and ensure that the Lead Officer, or their representative, are invited in advance to Trustee meetings of the Theatre.
10. Abide by all requirements of current child protection legislation.

In the event of the Theatre committing a serious breach of its obligations under this agreement, the Council will be entitled to terminate this agreement by notice and reclaim on a pro rata basis such sum as represents all funding from the date of the breach. Any subsequent entitlement to funding will cease immediately.

The City Council's financial contribution for 2008/2009 will be £298,200

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The agreement will last for 4 years and end on 31st March 2012 subject to annual renegotiation as outlined above.
2. The level of funding and the specific service content will be renegotiated each year. The intention is for the City of York Council to maintain funding value at current levels and increase by the council agreed level of inflation (applied to its own labour costs), but not to decrease it.
3. This agreement can be terminated by the Theatre by giving 3 months notice prior to each annual monitoring review.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF YORK CITIZENS' THEATRE TRUST

	PRINT NAME	
CHAIR		
CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
DATE		

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

	PRINT NAME	
LEAD OFFICER		
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR		
DATE		

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2011-12

Meeting Date	Work Programme
21 June 2011 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Committee Remit & Terms of Reference 2. Presentations by Senior Officers on ongoing work within directorates & future planned work 3. Report on Draft Workplan for 2011-12
3 August 2011 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Executive Members to discuss their priorities and challenges for this municipal year 2. York Theatre Royal – Service Level Agreement Performance Update & Priorities for 2012-17 (Liz Wilson to Attend) 3. Workplan
28 Sept 2011 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Quarter Monitoring Report 2. Update Report on implementation of recommendations arising from previously completed reviews 3. Workplan
7 Dec 2011 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Second Quarter Monitoring Report 2. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan – Service Level Agreement Performance Update & Priorities for 2013-18 (Janet Barnes to Attend) 3. York Theatre Royal – Service Level Agreement Performance Update Report (for information only) 4. Workplan
25 Jan 2012 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Chair of York@Large & Chair of Learning City 2. Workplan
21 March 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Third Quarter Monitoring Report 2. Workplan

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