

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture and Public Realm)

York Theatre Royal: 2012/13 Part Year 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).

Background

2. The SLA is a joint agreement between the Council and the York Theatre Royal. The SLA 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. Following feedback from the Cabinet Member and the Scrutiny Committee changes have been made in the new SLA for 2012 – 18 (Annex 2). The key partnership requirements covered in the new SLA are:
 - 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.
 - 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 and extending our reputation for world class culture.
 - 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.

- To develop work and activities that promotes the enjoyment of Theatre with older people and diverse communities.
 - 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.
4. Reports are brought to Scrutiny Committee twice a year to report on performance against the outcomes agreed in the SLA. Annex 1 sets out in detail the work undertaken in the last 6 months and the plans in development for the future.
 5. Within this period the Theatre has successfully secured funding from the Arts Council: England, the Paul Hamlyn Trust and the Esmee Fairburn Foundation. It is expanding its income streams through the development of the Creative Hub in De Grey House and rentals of the facilities in the De Grey Rooms.
 6. Working with the York Museums Trust and Riding Lights Theatre Company, as part of the York Cultural Company, the Theatre has successfully produced the 2012 York Mystery Plays. Critically acclaimed this work has involved substantial numbers of community volunteers both behind the scenes and in performance.
 7. Plans for the new season of work in the studio and main house as well as their outreach activities are reported in Annex 1.

Consultation

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

Options

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

Corporate Priorities

10. 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

11. **Finance:** The Council's funding for 2012/13 is £304k. Under the new SLA this will reduce by 10% in 2013/14 to £273,600 and remain at that level for the remainder of the agreement.

12. The report has no additional implications relating to:
- Human Resources
 - Legal
 - Crime and Disorder
 - Information Technology
13. **Equalities.** Annex 1 sets out the contribution the Theatre makes to support 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

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

Recommendations

15. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the report and comment upon the progress that the Theatre has made in the last 6 months

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

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex 1 - York Theatre Royal Performance report

Annex 2 - Service Level Agreement April 2012 – March 2018