

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning & Culture)

**APPLICATION TO THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND: MYSTERY PLAYS
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMME**

Summary

1. This report seeks approval for the submission of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) by the Council, as a lead partner within the Mystery Plays Co-ordinating Committee, to support the community and education programme of the York Cycle of Mystery Plays.

Background

2. Following a public consultation on the future of the Mystery Plays, undertaken in 2005 on behalf of Arts and Culture, a co-ordinating group was set up to develop a more regular programme of productions of the York Cycle of Mystery Plays, avoiding programming clashes.
3. The Mystery Plays Co-ordinating Committee is made up of representatives of:
 - The Minster Mystery Plays Board
 - The York Guilds Mystery Plays
 - National Centre for Early Music (holders of the Mystery Plays archives)
 - CYC Arts and Culture

It has met to agree a co-ordination of productions of the Mystery Plays on a two year cycle starting in 2008.

4. The development of a community and education programme alongside each production is of vital importance and funding will be sought from the HLF: "Your Heritage" programme amongst others. Where the application is made by a local authority the Heritage Lottery Fund requires minuted approval from the appropriate executive member to accompany the application.
5. Work on the detailed proposal to the HLF is still ongoing with the key stakeholders noted above as well as with the University of York and York St John University. Discussions with the HLF have been very helpful and positive and the intention is to submit the final bid by the 30 June 2007 deadline.
6. The bid will encompass a production by 16 – 25 year olds in 2008, a wide-ranging educational programme with schools in 2010, and a commission of a multi-cultural reinterpretation of the Mystery Plays for 2012. This education and community programme will involve a wider range of people in active participation over and above the performers in the plays themselves. The detailed bid will available in July.

7. Initial indications suggest that a budget of between £160k and £200k will be required to cover the programme for the three years. We will be applying to the HLF for between £100k and £120k.

Consultation

8. In addition to the initial consultation in 2005, and continuing consultation with the key stakeholders, we have also had the involvement of the Theatre Royal's Youth Theatre, Riding Lights' Education team, York College and schools and drama groups across York and North Yorkshire.

Options

9. The option associated with this decision is whether to approve submission of a bid.

Analysis

10. If successful the bid will allow the creation of a community and education programme.

Corporate Priorities

11. The community and education programme will contribute to the following Lifelong Learning and Culture outcomes:
 - Making York More Eventful
 - Engaging in Learning
 - Building Stronger, Safer and Greener Communities

Implications

12. **Financial:** The bid requires match funding of £60k to £80k. Arts and Culture will contribute to this funding requirement in two ways: By putting some existing staff time into developing the programme across the three years (which has an in-kind value) and by committing to spend about £5k per annum of current Arts and Culture project budgets which exist to promote community and schools activities. (This funding is in addition to the £20k per annum being provided by the Council over 5 years as a contribution towards the Minster plays in 2010).
13. For the Council there are no human resources, legal, property, crime and disorder, or information technology implications arising from this proposal.

Risk Management

14. No programme will be undertaken until the funding and resource budget is secured.

Recommendations

15. The Executive Member is asked to agree that a bid be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund by the Council, as the lead partner within the Mystery Plays Co-ordinating Committee.

Reason: To secure funds to develop an education and community programme for the next three productions of the York Cycle of Mystery Plays.

Contact Details

Author:

Gill Cooper
Head of Arts & Culture

Report Approved

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

Fae Raby
LCCS Finance
Tel. 554227

Chief Officer responsible for the report:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning & Culture)

Date 25.5.07.

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

Consultation on the future of York Mystery Plays Cycle by Ben Pugh

worddoc/reports/emap/Mystery Plays HLF bid.doc