

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

**YORK THEATRE ROYAL SERVICE AGREEMENT: 2009/10 HALF 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) 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
 - performance targets and indicators to be met by the Theatre
 - performance information to be provided
 - review and reporting procedures
 - partnership arrangements between the Council and the Theatre
3. Reports are brought to Overview and Scrutiny at the half-year point and again in July to report on full year performance against the outcomes agreed in the SLA 2009 – 2012. This report covers the first half of the financial year 2009/10.
4. The SLA provides a process whereby the agreement with the Theatre will be formally reviewed by the Council towards the end of those four years and a further plan for the next four years will be agreed. The Council's funding for 2009/10 under the SLA is £304k. The Theatre also receives funding from the Education budget of £15k to support the Partners in Education and Theatre (PET) scheme. This is included in the performance report from the Theatre (Annex 1).
5. The key partnership requirements covered in the 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. The report from York Theatre Royal (Annex A) sets out how they have 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 Strategy

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. Annex A details the contribution the Theatre makes to supporting our Equalities Agenda. In particular their free theatre tickets for young people has been particularly well used as has the provision of an audio description service for each main house production.
11. There are no additional implications relating to:
- Finance
 - Human Resources
 - Legal
 - Crime and Disorder
 - Information Technology

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

13. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment upon the performance of the York Theatre Royal.

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

Contact Details

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Report Approved**Date**

19.11.09.

Wards Affected:**All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Service Level Agreement 2009-2012 - Annex 3 to January 2008 Performance Report

Annexes

Annex A - Theatre Royal Performance Report April – September 2009