

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities and Culture)

**York Theatre Royal Service Agreement: 2011/12 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) which runs to March 2012 during the first part of 2011/12.

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. 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
4. Reports are brought to Scrutiny Committee twice a year to report on performance against the outcomes agreed in the SLA. This report covers the first nine months of 2011/12. Annex A: The Performance Report sets out the detail.
 5. This has been a busy time for the theatre both artistically and organisationally. There has been an excellent critical response to the Theatre's "in the Round" season on the Main stage. The Studio season has highlighted the best of the work from the Theatre's Associate companies as well as highlighting new writing. Both the Youth Theatre and outreach work has maintained high levels of engagement with the whole York community.
 6. Organisationally the Theatre has been pushing ahead with plans to maximise income streams from fundraising and from the development of the Creative Complex at De Grey Rooms and De Grey House. A recent independent economic impact research report shows the Theatre contributes at least £3.4 million to the local economy.

Consultation

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

Options

8. This report is for information only 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 at the end of 2010/11.

11. The report has no additional implications relating to:
- Human Resources
 - Legal
 - Crime and Disorder
 - Information Technology
12. Annex A 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

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Report Approved **Date** 16 January 2012

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.

Annex

Annex A - York Theatre Royal Performance report: 2011/12 half year