

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 December 2024

Chichester Festival Theatre Monitoring Report

1. Contacts

Report Author:

Sarah Peyman, Culture & Sport Divisional Manager,
Tel: 01243 534791 E-mail: speyman@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To receive the 2023/24 annual report from Chichester Festival Theatre and assess performance in line with the monitoring framework.

3. Background

- 3.1 An annual cultural grant of £187,500 to Chichester Festival Theatre was approved by Cabinet in December 2016 for the years 2018-2022. Further extensions until March 2026 have been approved by Cabinet and Council.
- 3.2 Social and economic impact assessments have recently been completed by the theatre to inform future discussions and decisions around cultural grants and to recognise and quantify the positive impact culture has on the city and wider district.
- 3.3 The theatre continues to provide a cultural offering to local residents of national significance, undertake activities that benefit local residents through their community programmes, directly and indirectly benefit the wider cultural sector, and provide significant economic benefit to local businesses and other attractions.
- 3.4 Chichester Festival Theatre were successful in their application for National Portfolio Funding from Arts Council England and were granted £1,772,234 per annum for the period 2023/26.
- 3.5 The funding agreement for Chichester Festival Theatre is conditional upon the reporting to the satisfaction of the Council (acting reasonably) on annual activity. The content of the reporting is outlined in, but need not be limited to, the monitoring framework.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1 In line with the Monitoring Framework there are a number of activities and measurements to be reported to the Council annually.
- 4.2 Details of these and a summary of how the theatre have evidenced and met these requirements can be viewed at Appendix 1 of this report.

4.3 Further information including the full annual report, statutory accounts, economic impact assessment and social impact assessment can be accessed as background papers.

4.4 The information provided by the theatre has been reviewed and it is felt that they have met all of the requirements of the monitoring framework.

5. Resource and legal implications

5.1 Chichester Festival Theatre have submitted their statutory accounts to the Council within 6 months of the end of the financial year. These have been reviewed by the accountancy team and they have reported that whilst CFT has made a loss during this period it is less than the previous year and their expenditure has reduced as well. They have reserves of £5.5m, of which £4.5m are designated reserves, leaving unrestricted funds of £1m.

6. Community impact and corporate risks

6.1 The monitoring agreement outlines the areas of activity undertaken by Chichester Festival Theatre that demonstrate the benefits to the district, generated by the District Council's funding of the Theatre.

6.2 The recent economic and social impact assessments highlight the financial and social/community benefit the theatre brings to the district and local community, and the main risk to the Council is a loss of this should these activities not continue.

7. Other Implications

8.

	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder:		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity:		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact:		X
Safeguarding and Early Help:		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR):		X
Health and Wellbeing: The theatres activities are shown to have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of those involved in their activities	X	

9. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Final Monitoring Summary 2023/24

10. Background Papers

9.1 Chichester Festival Theatre Annual Report 2023/24

9.2 Chichester Festival Theatre Statutory Accounts 2023/24

9.3 Chichester Festival Theatre Economic Impact Assessment

9.4 Chichester Festival Theatre Social Impact Assessment