

# Chichester District Council

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 May 2016

### Cultural Grants - Task and Finish Group report

#### 1. Contacts

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#### 2. Recommendation

**The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:**

- 2.1. **Note this report from the Task and Finish Group.**
- 2.2. **Endorse the 2015/16 annual reports from Pallant House Gallery and Chichester Festival Theatre.**
- 2.3. **Endorse the Council's 2016/17 Service Level Agreements with both organisations.**

#### 3. Background

- 3.1. In April 2010 the Council entered into Funding Agreements with Chichester Festival Theatre and Pallant House Gallery. The agreements provide annual funding of the theatre and gallery for eight years until 31 March 2018.
- 3.2. The funding agreements require the theatre and gallery to:
  - a) Enter into an annual Service Level Agreement (SLA) by mutual agreement between both parties
  - b) Submit annual reports and Audited Accounts to the Council within six months of the end of each financial year
  - c) Provide a formal report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis
- 3.3. The funding agreements also allow for a three yearly review or reconsideration if the Council's financial position changes to an extent that places other services at risk. It includes a clause requiring these organisations to work together with other funding partners to secure their financial stability.
- 3.4. This Task and Finish Group was reconvened in April 2016 to review the two organisations' progress against their 2015/16 SLAs and to consider and develop their draft 2016/17 SLAs. The group consisted of Mrs C Apel, Mr N Galloway, Mrs N Graves and Mr G Hicks (Chairman).

## 4. Consultation

### 4.1. Chichester Festival Theatre

- a) The theatre's 2015/16 SLA and annual report were reviewed and the various projects and outcomes acknowledged. The group was satisfied with the amount of work being achieved for and with the district's communities.
- b) The group acknowledged the high 2015 Festival audience figures and great number of awards achieved.
- c) The group recognised the theatre's investment in both work placements and career development opportunities for young people.
- d) The group noted the theatre's new arrangement to increase recycling by arranging for collection of ice cream pots.

### 4.2. Pallant House Gallery

- a) The gallery's 2015/16 SLA and annual report for this period were considered. The group was satisfied with the amount of work being achieved for and with the district's communities, particularly with dementia sufferers, their carers and the Think Family Projects.
- b) The group acknowledged the completion of the refurbishment of the coffee bar and restaurant.
- c) The group suggested greater local press coverage would encourage new visitors and additional gallery friends.

4.3 The group was satisfied that the draft 2016/17 SLAs for both the theatre and gallery were complementary to the strategic aims of the Council and that the Council was achieving value for money from its grants, particularly the community work being carried out in both organisations which meets the authority's corporate priorities of 'support our communities' and 'improve and support the local economy'. The 2016/17 SLAs are now being finalised.

4.4 Following this review and conclusions, the authority to release the biannual payments to both organisations, due in April 2016, has been signed off.

4.5 As agreed previously by the committee, the Head of Community Services will meet with the Directors of both organisations in the autumn to review progress and performance in order to release the six monthly instalment on 1 October 2016.

## 5. Community impact and corporate risks

5.1. The main risk to this Council is a loss of economic and community benefits if reduction in public funding causes a major reduction in the level of activity generated by the theatre.

## 6. Other implications

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
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<b>Crime and Disorder</b>		✓
<b>Climate Change</b>		✓
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b>		✓
<b>Safeguarding</b>		✓

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Chichester Festival Theatre 2015/16 Annual Report

Appendix 2 – Chichester Festival Theatre 2015/16 Service Level Agreement Progress Report

Appendix 3 - Chichester Festival Theatre 2016/17 Service Level Agreement

Appendix 4 - Pallant House Gallery 2015/16 Annual Report

Appendix 5 - Pallant House Gallery 2016/17 Service Level Agreement