

# Chichester District Council

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 June 2016

### Cultural Grants - Task and Finish Group final report

#### 1. Contacts

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#### 2. Recommendation

**The committee is requested to:**

- 2.1. **Note this report from the Task and Finish Group.**
- 2.2. **Endorse the 2016/17 annual reports from Pallant House Gallery and Chichester Festival Theatre.**
- 2.3. **Agree the Council's 2017/18 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 2017 to review the two organisations' progress against their 2016/17 SLAs and to consider and develop their draft 2017/18 SLAs. The group consisted of Mrs C Apel, Mr N Galloway, Mrs N Graves, Mrs J Tassell and Mr G Hicks (Chairman).

## **4. Consultation**

### **4.1. Chichester Festival Theatre**

- a) The group met and welcomed the new Executive Director Rachel Tackley unfortunately Daniel Evans the new Artistic Director was away, however Dale Rooks Education Director and Simon Parsonage Finance Director were present. Rachel introduced herself and said that she and Daniel would continue the high quality work of the theatre whilst making their own mark.
- b) The theatre's 2016/17 annual report and updates on performance against the SLA 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.
- c) The group acknowledged the high 2016 Festival audience figures reaching 90% average occupancy and heard that Membership had increased by 43% and ticket sales for the new Festival were up on last year at this same time. The group also noted the changes in ticket pricing to attract young people to attend the theatre.
- d) The group recognised the theatre's investment in both work placements and career development opportunities for young people, noting 8 apprentices were currently being supported and work experience placements continue to be offered.
- e) The group noted the comparative savings being made on heating and lighting costs as a result of the infrastructure changes made during the refurbishment works.

### **4.2. Pallant House Gallery**

- a) The group met the new Director of the gallery Simon Martin. Andrew Churchill deputy Director and Sandra Peatty Head of Learning and Community were also present.
- b) The gallery's 2016/17 annual report and updates on performance against the SLA for this period were considered. The group was satisfied with the amount of work being achieved for and with the district's communities, and were particularly pleased to hear of the relaunched school programme which had attracted new and increased numbers of schools, pupils and teachers to be involved.
- c) The group acknowledged the new activities design to attract families and in particular parents with young children into activities within the gallery, through free Early Years workshops and free open day events.
- d) The group was also impressed by the large numbers of volunteers who assist the gallery as room stewards and help deliver the various community projects but also heard that that number ( over 250) need to be briefed and managed.
- e) The group was told of the success of Outside In which had led to the now well established project which has national reach to become a separate

charity in its own right with former director of the gallery Marc Steene at its helm. The charity will be hosted at the gallery for a short time to achieve financial stability but will be completely separately funded.

- 4.3 The group was satisfied that the draft 2017/18 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 theatre and gallery have been consulted on the draft SLAs, and subsequent clarifications have been endorsed by the Task and Finish Group. The appended SLAs (Appendix 3 Chichester Festival Theatre, Appendix 5 Pallant House Gallery) are recommended by the Task and Finish Group for approval.
- 4.4 Following this review and conclusions, the authority to release the biannual payments to both organisations, due in April 2017, 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 2017.

## 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

	Yes	No
<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 2016/17 Annual Report

Appendix 2 – Chichester Festival Theatre 2016/17 Service Level Agreement Progress Report

Appendix 3 - Chichester Festival Theatre 2017/18 Service Level Agreement

Appendix 4 - Pallant House Gallery 2016/17 Annual Report

Appendix 5 - Pallant House Gallery 2017/18 Service Level Agreement

## 8. Background papers

None.