

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Riverside Theatre</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>The Leisure &amp; Development Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>16 November 2021</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Information</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Arts Service Development Manager

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>yes</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	10302
Staffing Costs	n/a

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Aug 2016 (CAH strategy)
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: 2019
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose**

**The purpose of the report is to provide an update in relation to the Riverside Theatre funding proposal for the 2021/22 period.**

## **2.0 Background**

A report was brought to the Leisure & Development Committee in October 2021 requesting funding to support the Riverside Theatre to the sum of £107,500 through a service contract and on the basis of a submission received from the Ulster University.

Council agreed to defer its decision subject to a workshop to discuss the proposal and the University's longer term estates strategy for the theatre.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> November, notification was received from the University confirming withdrawal of their funding proposal with the understanding that Riverside Theatre staff would continue to liaise with Council on specific opportunities as they arise and expressing interest in continuing to develop projects as appropriate moving forward.

The University have confirmed that there is work being undertaken to ensure the on-campus theatre remains *'an asset for delivering academic excellence and a rich student learning experience, and the Riverside will also maintain its opportunities for young people, youth outreach and its schools' programme.* Work with artists and production companies will continue on a case by case basis, and the programme for 20/21 will continue to be delivered in the main.

Furthermore, staff have been informed that the independent review commissioned by the University is due to conclude by the end of January 2022 and will inform the theatre's future and potential as a venue. The outcome of the review will be communicated to Council.

A further report will be brought back to Council, following the outcome of the review.