

Riverside Theatre Service Contract Review	12 September 2017
To: The Leisure & Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
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 Cultural Services Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	£107,500

The purpose of this report is to review Council's current service contract with the Riverside Theatre - 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017.

Background

A report was brought to the Leisure & Development Committee on 14 June 2016 reviewing a legacy partnership arrangement with the Riverside Theatre and providing options moving forward. A recommendation was agreed and subsequently approved by Council on 28 June to provide continued support through a service based contract using a single tender action with the University as sole provider, in order to maintain the operation of the only professional, bespoke theatre venue within the Borough. The value of the contract is £107,500. It includes the following key elements:

- The delivery of a range of music events, drama, dance, talks and literary events, including professional productions, schools' and educational productions and community/amateur presentations.
- Participation in joint programming working groups with Cultural Services staff to ensure alignment of provision across the Council area and ensure complementarity.
- Development of joint marketing materials to maximise the promotion of arts provision across the Borough.

The recommendation was subject to a review after year 1.

Review of Riverside Theatre Provision 2016-17

The contract sets out a number of targets for the theatre. A summary of achievements for 2016-17 is as follows:

Description of activity	Indicative target 2016-17	Achievement
1. Public events - these include drama, music, dance, talks, literary events, exhibitions & workshops	47 events 8,500 tickets sold	132 events 22,418 tickets sold
2. Exhibitions	4	4

3. Creative workshops for young people	26 workshops	28 workshops
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The Riverside Theatre has exceeded the targets set for 2016-17 and continues to provide a varied programme of events which equally supports both professional performance in a range of art forms and community arts activities.

Regular meetings have been established between Cultural Services Officers and the new Riverside Theatre Manager, who took up her post on 1 April 2017, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to programming and complementarity in provision between the theatre, Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre and Flowerfield Arts Centre.

Opportunities to maximise and enhance the marketing and promotion of all the venues, both in print and online, are currently being developed. A reciprocal arrangement is now in place regarding the inclusion of information about the venues and their programmes in the respective events guides and the Council's logo has equal prominence with the University's logo on all publicity material.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that for the remainder of this Council's term (2017-19) and subject to satisfactory annual performance reviews, Council continue to support the Riverside Theatre through a service based contract as a single tender action with the University as sole provider, in order to maintain the operation of the only professional, bespoke theatre venue within the Borough. The value of the contract is up to £107,500.