

Corporate & Social Inclusion Select Committee

A meeting of Corporate & Social Inclusion Select Committee was held on Thursday, 30th August, 2007.

Present: Cllr David Coleman (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Andrew Larkin, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: R Kench (CESC); S Chaytor (Tees Active); J Trainer, S Johnson, D Ladd (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons were in attendance

Apologies: Cllr Aidan Cockerill

CSI 8/07 **Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

CSI 9/07 **Review of Theatre Subsidy**

The Committee considered various documents relating to the review.

Members had requested at the last meeting that clarification be provided with regards to the BVPI General Survey. The Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the questions on satisfaction with theatres and whether things had got better or worse would only have been answered by those who had indicated that they had used theatres.

Members of the Committee were presented with a breakdown of TS postcodes as requested at the last meeting. The information had been provided by Riverside Leisure Promotions. Members noted that other Teesside Areas accounted for nearly half of the figures. It was also discussed that the figures provided did not include those who bought tickets on the night of a performance.

The Committee were provided with the distribution list for the poster sites and brochure drops. Members discussed the distribution and whether it would be useful to include community centres and schools. It was noted that other methods of promotion were used such as advertisements in newspapers. Members agreed that it would be helpful to invite John Davey to the next meeting in order to discuss the marketing strategy of Riverside Leisure Promotions.

A revised comparison of subsidy levels and programming information was presented to the Committee. Members discussed the information and commented that it was hard to draw conclusions due to the differences with the other venues in the region and the types of performances offered. In particular the Committee discussed the amount of subsidy per seat, marketing, amateur productions and pre-allocated seats.

The programme information was discussed and members commented that there was scope to widen the programme in terms of different types of performances. The Head of Arts & Culture commented that this would need to be considered as part of a longer term strategy. Members agreed that it would be useful to

invite Derek Cooper from Riverside Leisure Promotions to the next meeting to discuss artistic programming.

Members were presented with the comments received from the Members' survey on the Forum Theatre.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The information be noted.

2. John Davey and Derek Cooper of Riverside Leisure Promotions be invited to the next meeting.

**CSI
10/07**

Work Programme

Members of the Committee considered the project plan.

CONCLUDED that the project plan be noted.