

## Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee

### Review Title: Theatre Subsidy

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<b>Scrutiny Officer/Project Manager:</b> Judith Trainer	<b>Contact details:</b> 01642 528158 Judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk						
<b>Departmental Link Officer:</b> Steve Chaytor, Managing Director of Tees Active Reuben Kench, Head of Culture	<b>Contact details:</b> 01642 527322 steven.chaytor@teesactive.co.uk 01642 527039 reuben.kench@stockton.gov.uk						
<b>1. Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</b> Extend the range and quality of opportunities for people to experience culture and leisure. Improve operational efficiency.							
<b>2. What are the main issues?</b> Is a £240,000 pa subsidy to Billingham Forum Theatre good value?							
<b>3. The Thematic Select Committee's overall aim/ objectives in doing this work is:</b> Establish whether the subsidy is justified and whether it is at an appropriate level							
<b>4. The possible outputs/outcomes are:</b> Ensure that the subsidy represents good value for money Appropriate mechanisms to ensure an appropriate mix and quality of programming at the theatre							
<b>5. What specific value can scrutiny add to this topic?</b> Impartial assessment based on documentary evidence.							
<b>6. Who will the panel be trying to influence as part of their work?</b> Cabinet, Riverside Leisure							
<b>7. Duration of enquiry?</b> 4 months							
<b>8. What category does the review fall into?</b>  <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>Policy Review</b></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>Policy Development</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>External Partnership</b> ✓</td> <td><b>Performance Management</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Holding Executive to Account</b></td> </tr> </table>		<b>Policy Review</b>	<b>Policy Development</b>	<b>External Partnership</b> ✓	<b>Performance Management</b>	<b>Holding Executive to Account</b>	
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<b>External Partnership</b> ✓	<b>Performance Management</b>						
<b>Holding Executive to Account</b>							

**9. Extra Resources needed? Would the investigation benefit from the co-option of an “expert” witness?**

No

**10. What information do we need?**

**Secondary Information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.)**

Management Structures  
Financial Information – Breakdown of subsidy  
Relevant extracts from Contract  
Attendance/ticket sales – profiled by day of week and type of production  
Programming Information  
Pricing, concessions

**Primary/new evidence/information**

Comparison of subsidy levels with other Local Authorities  
Comparison with programmes of other similar theatres  
Comparison of subsidy levels with Ark and SIRF  
Analysis of subsidy levels per seat and per occupant  
Analysis of usage levels (local residents, visitors from outside of the Borough, socio economic)

**Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member/portfolio holder, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)**

Finance

John Davis – Riverside Leisure

Possible input from a manager from another theatre (to be confirmed following review of documentary evidence)

**What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?**

Breakdown of subsidy including direct and indirect subsidy

Programming, pricing, concessions, analysis of subsidy and usage levels, promotional strategy

**11. What processes can we use to feed into the review? (site visits/observations, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, written questionnaire, etc.)**

None

**12. In what ways can we involve the public and at what stages? (consider whole range of consultative mechanisms, local committees and local ward mechanisms)**

None

## Project Plan

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KEY TASK	DETAILS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>Scoping of Review</b>	Information gathering	June 2007	Scrutiny Officer Link Officers
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives for review	12 June 2007	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officers

<b>Agree Project Plan</b>	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	19 June 2007	Select Committee
<b>Publicity of Review</b>	N/A		
<b>Obtaining Evidence</b>	Consideration of research and evidence from witnesses Formulation of recommendations if possible	Late July 2007 TBC	Select Committee
<b>Members decide recommendations and findings</b>	Members of Committee review findings and formulate recommendations	Late July or early September 2007 TBC	Select Committee
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss findings of review.	September 2007	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders</b>	Circulation of report	September 2007	Scrutiny Officer
<b>Final Agreement of Report</b>	Approval of final report by Committee	2 October 2007	Select Committee
<b>Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee</b>	Consideration of report	16 October 2007	Executive Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report to Cabinet/Approving Body</b>	Consideration of final report and recommendations by Cabinet	25 October 2007	Cabinet/ Approving Body

