
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

12th October, 2005

Report of
Councillor Blundell

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies - Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Limited

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10th May, 2005, the Cabinet approved a process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council. This reports sets out details of the work of Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Limited over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 I recommend that Coventry City Council continue to appoint two Councillors to the Board of the Belgrade Theatre Trust.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 There have been a number of significant developments for the Belgrade over the past year. The executive team of Hamish Glenn and Joanna Reid have ensured that the Belgrade has now a flexible financial approach, i.e. certain staff contracts are tailored to performance so that the Belgrade does not have a high static overhead when it is not producing work. They have strengthened their community and outreach work and their involvement with "hard to reach" groups. There have also been using drama programmes as a way of building personal development etc.
- 3.2 Most significant has been the Belgrade Capital Development to develop a second auditorium. As a Council we have been highly supportive of this. It will undoubtedly lead to being a real asset for the Belgrade Plaza Development, and I believe, will add significantly to the nighttime economy and act as an incentive to draw into the city centre that important more mature group of patrons that is currently lacking. We must, however, make sure there is adequate, inexpensive, safe and convenient, nearby parking for everyone.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 Coventry City Council is a major sponsor of the Belgrade which is a significant contributor of the cultural life of the city and an important vehicle to deliver educational programmes.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Councillors Blundell and Skipper are the two City Council representatives on the Belgrade Theatre Trust. In the last 12 months there have been 8 scheduled meetings of the Trust Board of which Councillor Blundell has attended 6 and Councillor Skipper has attended 5. In addition, two extraordinary Board meetings were arranged both of which were attended by both of the City Council's representatives.

5.2 There is no remuneration for the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61