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**Report to**

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

15<sup>th</sup> June 2011

**Report of**

Councillor David Welsh

**Title**

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Belgrade Theatre Trust 2010-11

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**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of Belgrade Theatre Trust 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 Belgrade Theatre Trust.

**3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 The Belgrade Theatre has continued to develop from re-opening after a £14 million investment in 2007. It has re-established itself as a producing theatre, increasing the variety of Belgrade productions and has kept the B2 theatre in use for longer periods during the year.
- 3.2 2010/11 has been a difficult year financially, the Belgrade has worked to maximise funding without damaging the program for people in Coventry. Coventry City Council did not reduce funding by more than the 3% already identified in the budget; this communication was welcomed by the Belgrade Theatre, and hopes it will continue in future. The other main source of funding for the Belgrade Theatre is The Arts Council. The Theatre will continue to receive funding from the Arts Council, but at a reduced rate.
- 3.3 The Belgrade will continue to find ways to provide the widest variety of entertainment and opportunities for education and learning, including school performances, workshops, including participants from priority areas and different community groups.

**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 to the cultural life of the city and an important vehicle to deliver educational programmes.

**5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment**

- 5.1 Coventry City Council's representatives on the Belgrade Theatre Trust are Councillors David Welsh (from June 2010), Councillor Blundell (from May, 2010). During the period of May, 2010 to April, 2011 inclusive six Board of Director meetings took place, of which Councillor Welsh attended three and Councillor Blundell attended five.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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Councillor Welsh

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:

None

Papers open to Public Inspection

**Description of paper**

**Location CH59**

Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies