

EXECUTIVE

AUGUST 24TH

REPORT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (JOY WISHLADE)

(This is the responsibility of Cllrs Bradley and Cavill)

TDBC and the Brewhouse

Executive Summary: TDBC's formal relationship with the Brewhouse Theatre be updated into a modern partnership arrangement as exists with other key partners such as Tone Leisure.

1. Background

- 1.1 TDBC has an ongoing commitment to the Brewhouse Theatre and its work, which goes well beyond just putting on productions and includes education and the wider visual arts. It is an important agent in delivering culture in its wider sense and providing a central location for the arts. In this way it contributes to our corporate priorities.

2. Current arrangement

- 2.1 TDBC currently manages its relationship via a joint Service Level Agreement with the county, which is monitored by the Brewhouse Panel. The Brewhouse Panel was set up in 1983 in order to consider the future workings and needs of the Brewhouse. The terms of reference of the Panel were revised in 1998 to better fit the requirements of the time. The main purpose defined in these revised terms of reference is "to monitor the management of the Brewhouse Theatre and Arts Centre and to consider proposals for future developments which might affect the Council". Two of its main responsibilities are to "approve release of the Council's grant on a periodic basis and to ensure that the funding provided by the Council is effectively used" and "to agree with the Theatre Management any Development and Business Plans and to monitor their achievement". Under the working arrangements it was proposed that the Brewhouse Panel met monthly and that a closer working relationship with the TDBC Arts Officer and the Chief Executive of the Brewhouse was developed.
- 2.2 In fact the current Brewhouse Panel meets twice a year. Monthly finance reports from the Brewhouse are sent to officers, the portfolio holder makes the decision about releasing the grant money and this decision is then forwarded to panel members. The Service Level

Agreement is based on a county-wide formula for key strategic organisations. A good working relationship has been established between the TDBC Arts Officer and the General Manager of the Brewhouse.

3. The case for change

- 3.1 The 1998 terms of reference and the agreed working arrangements of the Brewhouse Panel are in need of review and updating. They are no longer being fully followed as circumstances have changed over the past 7 years. Also the Brewhouse is now going through a fundamental review of its role and is planning to develop its business in line with this emerging role. A new chairman has been appointed and a new general manager has been recruited. The Brewhouse now seeks to work in a modernised partnership relationship with TDBC, one which gives them access to senior officers of TDBC and a structured and formalised route to report to Members via the main stream Review Panel arrangement.
- 3.2 This change would also fit in with TDBC's plans to improve scrutiny following the review of this function.

4. Partnership arrangements

- 4.1 TDBC works with a variety of partners but the most closely aligned to the partnership with the Brewhouse is its relationship with Tone Leisure. TDBC has an ongoing funding agreement with Tone Leisure supported by a business plan that Tone Leisure develops to reflect the targets and achievements that TDBC wants to see demonstrated. The day-to-day relationship is managed between operational TDBC officers and their counterparts within TL. The partnership relationship is managed at a quarterly partnership meeting between the two organisations chaired by a Strategic Director from TDBC. The Chief Executive and the Chair of the Trustees attend on TL's behalf, as do other relevant members of staff from both organisations. The Tone Leisure Board of Trustees has elected Member representation from TDBC. A bi-annual report on Tone Leisure's performance is presented to the Health and Leisure Review Panel.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the Brewhouse Panel is disbanded and a partnership arrangement similar to that used with Tone Leisure is introduced for managing the relationship with the Brewhouse. A funding agreement is already in place and would continue to be monitored by officers on a monthly basis. Formal accounts would be presented on a quarterly basis to the Partnership Meeting. The Business Plan and relevant performance monitoring arrangements would be agreed with the Brewhouse as part of this funding agreement and would take the place of the current Service Level Agreement.

Reports on these would be made to the Partnership Meeting on a quarterly basis.

- 4.3 The day-to-day relationship with the Brewhouse would continue to operate through the TDBC Arts Officer. The quarterly partnership meeting would be chaired by a TDBC Strategic Director and would be with the Chair of the Trustees and the new General Manager of the Brewhouse, plus relevant other senior staff from both organisations.
- 4.4 A report to the Health and Leisure Review Panel would be made on a quarterly basis.
- 4.5 There would be elected Member representation on the Brewhouse Board of Trustees.

5. Review Board

The Review Board discussed the report and recommended its approval.

6. Recommendation

That the Executive agree to disband the Brewhouse Panel and introduce a partnering arrangement in October 2005 to coincide with the new business planning process of the Brewhouse and the imminent introduction of updated scrutiny arrangements for TDBC.

Joy Wishlade
Strategic Director
August 2005