

Culture and Sport Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 23 August 2016

Council Companies – Festival City Theatres Trust Performance 2015/16

Item number	7.2
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This is the third annual performance report prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement process adopted in 2013/14 and first reported to Committee on 19 August 2014.

The Festival City Theatres Trust (FCTT) had a successful year, and carried forward a surplus of £180,102 into 2016/17 and reserves of £352,656, reaching a target level a year ahead of schedule.

Links

Coalition pledges	P24 , P25 , P31 , P40
Council priorities	CP2 , CP6 , CP9 , CP12
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 , SO3

Report

Council Companies – Festival City Theatres Trust Performance 2015/16

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee

- 1.1 note the positive performance of the Festival City Theatres Trust (FCTT) during 2015/16.

Background

- 2.1 This is the third annual performance report prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement process adopted in 2013/14 and first reported to Committee 19 August 2014.

Main report

- 3.1 The Festival City Theatre Trust (FCTT) reports on its performance to Council Monitoring Officers as required by the Services and Funding Agreement on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.
- 3.2 The Services and Funding Agreement has 34 targets aligned to 27 Objectives and Goals under six performance headings. The latter include developing and promoting joint working, promoting participation and responding to users' views and needs. The FCTT performed well against all of the targets within the 27 objectives and goals.
- 3.3 The programme continues to reflect work by international and national theatre and dance companies, alongside performances and participation activities by local amateur groups in the Festival Theatre, the King's Theatre and the Studio at the Festival Theatre.
- 3.3 2015/16 Programme examples include Jeeves and Wooster; Yer Granny; Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo; Matthew Bourne's Car Man; Royal New Zealand Ballet; Rebecca; The King's Speech; The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time; Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom; Dinosaur Zoo; Mike and the Mechanics; Yamamoto Drummers and Cinderella. These again reflect the

breadth and depth of the programmes being offered across both theatres and the Studio at the Festival Theatre.

- 3.4 Live screenings of theatre performances have included the National Theatre's Coriolanus starring Tom Hiddleston and Hamlet starring Benedict Cumberbatch. The film screenings programme has included the opening and closing gala film screenings for the Edinburgh International Film Festival; and the UK Premiere of Justin Kurzel's visceral film adaptation of Macbeth starring Michael Fassbender.
- 3.5 The Festival Theatre and Studio hosted activities of nine Festivals including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Imagine, Edinburgh International Festival, the Ocean Film Festival and Edinburgh International Film Festival.
- 3.6 Much successful work has been undertaken to continue to expand the Learning and Participation Programme both introducing new audiences to the theatres and making FCTT opportunities as accessible as possible to all. 25,890 people took part in 252 Learning and Participation events. Reflecting this success and continued growth, the staff team has expanded to include a Learning and Participation Co-ordinator; and a team member dedicated to delivering the new Forget-Me-Not dementia-friendly communities programme.
- 3.7 Relaxed Performances continue to ensure young audiences can express themselves freely and move about; where the house lights are left partially up; and the sound and production levels are taken down to create a relaxing environment for everyone. With the on-going success of these performances, in 2016 the programme will include opportunities for older people.
- 3.8 Relaxed Performance events in 2015/16 included the first ever by Scottish Ballet during their run of Cinderella, and the King's Theatre Panto where over 1,500 children with moderate to complex additional support needs were able to go to the theatre and enjoy a family Christmas show.
- 3.9 The Theatres and Studio attracted footfall of 423,735 in 2015/16, and the majority of attendees (69%) were from EH postcodes.
- 3.10 Further details of the Trust's extensive and successful programmes and projects are provided in the appended FCTT Annual Review 2015/16.

Measures of success

- 4.1 The Festival City Theatres Trust contributes effectively to the delivery of the Council's outcomes.
- 4.2 The Services and Funding Agreement ensures performance reporting requirements are monitored and met.
- 4.3 Success is also measured against the following objectives within the Culture Plan;

- 4.3.1 Ensure that everyone has access to world class cultural provision;
- 4.3.2 Encourage the highest standards of creativity and excellence in all aspects of cultural activity;
- 4.3.3 Support greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive all year round;
- 4.3.4 Articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally, nationally and internationally;

Financial impact

- 5.1 FCTT is a Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisation and 2015/16 is the first year of a three year commitment of a grant of £105,000 per annum supporting drama and dance. The Council awarded a grant of £769,576 to the FCTT in 2015/16.
- 5.2 Support by FCTT Patrons, Friends and Donors was positive in 2015/16. This included growth of 12% in the Friends programme providing over £120,000 of subscription income to the Trust; and fundraising income up by over 40% on 2014/15.
- 5.3 During 2015/16, the FCTT has been able to carry forward a surplus of £180,102 to 2016/17; and to meet their reserves target of £352,656 a year ahead of schedule.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 This report is required under the Council's governance arrangements for Council Companies. The required annual assurance review (2015/16) was completed at the end of May 2016. There are no risk, policy or compliance implications arising from this report.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Accessible (also known as relaxed) performances for children with additional learning needs are an established part of the Trust's Learning and Participation offer. The Trust is now developing programmes for older people and people living with dementia.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The FCTT's Head of Creativity and Diversity continues as a member of the Desire Lines Peer Representative Group and is a member of the Culture Plan Task Group. The Chief Executive is an active member of the city's Cultural Venues Group.

Background reading/external references

[FCTT Annual Review 2015/16](#)

Reports to the Culture and Sport Committee on [19 August 2014](#), [16 December 2014](#) and [18 August 2015](#).

Festival City Theatres Trust [website](#).

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Links

Coalition pledges	<p>P24 Maintain and embrace support for our world-famous festivals and events</p> <p>P25 Introduce a “living wage” (currently set at £7.20) for Council employees, encourage its adoption by Council subsidiaries and contractors and its wider development</p> <p>P31 Maintain our city’s reputation as the cultural capital of the world by continuing to support and invest in our cultural infrastructure</p> <p>P40 Work with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and other stakeholders to conserve the city’s built heritage</p>
Council priorities	<p>CP2 Improved health and wellbeing: reduced inequalities</p> <p>CP6 A creative, cultural capital</p> <p>CP9 An attractive city</p> <p>CP12 A built environment to match our ambition</p>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>SO1 Edinburgh’s economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all</p> <p>SO3 Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential</p>

