

## **PROGRESS REPORT FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE REVIEW OF THE COURTYARD**

**Report By: Director of Adult and Community Services**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To consider the position on the Courtyard's response to the findings of the Committee's review of their operations and activities.

### **Financial Implications**

2. There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

### **Background**

3. The Community Services Scrutiny Committee has undertaken a significant review of the Courtyard's operation and activities. An initial review was completed in January, 2005 and generated a number of recommendations. A further review was undertaken in 2006 to review progress since the initial review.
4. The Courtyard were presented with the recommendations from the second review in June, 2006. It was agreed that the Courtyard would respond to the Council's Cabinet and that Cabinet would then agree a number of recommendations which would be monitored by the Committee.
5. In order to respond properly to the issues raised by the review the Courtyard Board agreed to bring in independent expertise to review the whole operation of the Trust.
6. Clarie Middleton, an Arts Management Consultant and Producer has been undertaking a piece of work on behalf of the Board reviewing the Trusts entire operation. Her detailed review has looked at the Courtyard's programming and audience profile, its staffing arrangements, trading arrangements, education and community activities, marketing and audience development, partnerships and its internal management finance, planning and communication arrangements.
7. A thorough and detailed piece of work has been completed which is supported by detailed three year budget proposals which if adopted by the Courtyard Board should see the Courtyard's financial position significantly strengthened.
8. The Courtyard's management and staff have been consulted. It is anticipated that the Courtyard Board will adopt the recommendations with an action plan at their next meeting.

9. Given the timetable for undertaking this independent consultancy work, it has not been possible for the Courtyard to develop its full response to the review for consideration at this meeting.
10. It is proposed that following adoption of the proposals by the Courtyard Board the Courtyard will finalise their response to the Committee's recommendations and that a report and presentation will be made at the earliest available opportunity to the Council's Cabinet on the establishment of the new administration and that the Community Services Scrutiny Committee will then review progress in implementing the emerging recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT**            **the current position on the Courtyard's response to the review be noted.**