

Recommendations of the Courtyard Review Group

20. Recommendations

20.1 The Review has highlighted the wide variety and high standard of work undertaken by The Courtyard and the valuable contribution it makes to the local community and to arts provision within the County. The organisation has made significant improvements over recent years and now has the potential to move forward on a more secure commercial footing. Since opening, The Courtyard has made substantial progress and the venue has tremendous opportunity for the future. The following recommendations are made by the Review Group:

20.2 The Council's financial contribution to The Courtyard should not be exempt from any efficiency savings being made within the Policy & Community Directorate.

20.3 The Education Directorate are invited to assess the benefits provided by The Courtyard to their service area and consider contributing a higher level of funding which is more representative of the value of service received in order to reduce the current onus on the Policy & Community Directorate.

20.4 The suggestions for additional income generation measures and improving financial viability contained in this report are considered and actioned by The Courtyard where they are considered financially prudent.

20.5 The Courtyard is offered an interim 1-year funding agreement from March 2005, while proposals for additional income generation and improved financial viability are progressed.

20.6 The Courtyard be invited to report back to the Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee in November 2005 to provide an update on the organisation's financial position and progress on addressing the suggestions and recommendations raised in this report.

20.7 On receipt of a satisfactory report, The Courtyard is offered a 5-year commissioning agreement in April 2006.

20.8 At the end of the 1-year agreement if the recommendations have not been satisfactorily addressed, then a further 1-year period should be considered, to give The Courtyard further time to demonstrate its proposals for improved financial viability.