



Meeting

CABINET

Date

7 JUNE 2006

agenda item number

**REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & PROPERTY
GRANTS TO ARTS AGENCIES (OVER £50,000) 2006/07**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make a grant of £135,700 to Nottingham Playhouse. Under Regulation D 2.2.2 of the County Council's Financial Regulations, this requires Cabinet approval as a project with expenditure in excess of £50,000.
- 2 The Cabinet Member for Finance and Property is bringing forward this report in accordance with arrangements to undertake the duties and exercise the powers relating to the Culture and Regeneration portfolio for a temporary period made by The Leader under his delegated power at L.1 in the Constitution.

Background

- 3 The Culture and Community Department makes a number of revenue awards to arts agencies that provide substantial and significant arts programmes relevant to the County. These are often in collaboration with other Local Authorities and Arts Council East Midlands.
- 4 One of the applications is in excess of the £50,000 limit and is referred for Cabinet approval. The application is from Nottingham Playhouse.
- 5 Nottingham Playhouse is one of a network of major theatre producers in the region, situated in the major cities of each County. Besides producing regionally-significant plays, they have an extensive outreach and educational role. Funding in support of the Playhouse is in partnership with the City Council, Arts Council East Midlands, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Broxtowe Borough Council and private sponsorships.
- 6 Nottingham Playhouse has had a long and constructive funding relationship with Nottinghamshire County Council, which involves collaborating on events, international projects and educational developments.

Finance

- 7 Nottingham Playhouse for 2005-06, based on standstill level was £168,201.
- 8 The proposed award to Nottingham Playhouse recommended for 2006-07, based on a 20% reduction is £135,700.
- 9 The level of award proposed for 2006/07 reflects budget reductions within the Leisure & Culture revenue budget for grant aid.
- 10 The proposed grant of £135,700 can be met from the budget provision for Arts Grants for which a sum of £249,000 included in 2006/07 revenue budget.

Personnel Implications

- 11 There are no personnel issues arising out of the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- 12 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime & disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are included, they have been described in the text of the report.

Human Rights Implications

- 13 This project extends the involvement of groups, excluded by their age and ability from mainstream creative activity and, therefore, makes a positive impact on extending Human rights to excluded groups.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the approval be given to the revenue award of £135,700 to the Nottingham Playhouse.

COUNCILLOR CHRIS BARON
Cabinet Member for Finance & Property

A16

Legal Services' Comments (KS/11.5.06)

Under the County Council's Financial Regulations, grant to outside bodies over £50,000 must be approved by the Cabinet.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (CC/RWK)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background papers available for inspection

2006/07 Grant applications to Leisure & Culture.