

Decision Maker: **RENEWAL AND RECREATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date: Thursday 29 January 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **ARTS IN BROMLEY**

Contact Officer: John Gledhill, Head of Leisure Business Development
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Chief Officer: Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee on 2 September 2014 Members requested that a committee paper be prepared setting out how Arts Services in Bromley are delivered. This report provides Members with an overview of the arts provision within Bromley that is supported by the Council along with other key organisations involved in delivering arts across the Borough.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **The Renewal and Recreation Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the commentary within this report.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Leisure Trust Client – Churchill Theatre Management Fee
 4. Total current budget for this head: £316k
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget for 2014/15
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 0
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 At the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee on 2 September 2014 Members requested that a committee paper be prepared setting out how Arts Services in Bromley are delivered. This would be considered at the PDS Committee meeting in January 2015.

3.2 This report provides an overview of the arts provision within Bromley that is supported by the Council along with other key organisations involved in delivering arts across the Borough.

3.3 Broadly speaking the Council involves itself in the delivery of 'arts' based activities in three key areas:

- i) Mytime Active
- ii) The Churchill Theatre
- iii) Bromley youth Music Trust

Mytime Active

3.4 The responsibility for the delivery of arts development in the Borough was transferred from the Council to Mytime Active (Mytime) at their formation in 2004 with funding provided through their core grant. The current arts activities that Mytime deliver were detailed within their Annual Report (April 2013 to March 2014), which was considered by this Committee on 18th November 2014. This included the acclaimed ArtsTrain and MyFuture projects:

- Arts Train. This is a creative music project designed and developed by Mytime that has been running since 2008. The project introduces new creative music-making opportunities to young people. During 2013/14, the project was successful with external funding bids of over £100k which has enabled the development of new partnerships to broaden the reach and scope of the project, for example delivering a music programme with Bromley's autism charity for young people, CASPA.
- MyFutures. This project is designed to provide quality dance and sports programmes and empower young people to take ownership of their personal, social and community development. Since 2008, Mytime Active has committed resources to the project and in 2013 Mytime attracted an additional £21,000 of funding from Affinity Sutton, and Help a London Child to deliver a range of community arts and sports initiatives within the project.

The Churchill Theatre

3.5 The Council provides funding to the Ambassadors Theatre Group (ATG) of around £316k per annum to manage and operate the Churchill Theatre in Bromley Town Centre which is owned by the Council. The funding provided by the Council supports the performances that take place on the main stage and in the studio area including productions from touring shows and local amateur companies. Additionally around £50k of the funding provided by the Council supports the outreach work delivered through the ATGs Creative Learning Department which includes community based activities and projects, and partnerships with other community and training organisations to deliver local activities and opportunities. The Council is currently tendering the contract for the management and operation of the Churchill Theatre, which will include separate costings for the operation of the main theatre and studio areas, along with a cost for the delivery of the outreach work. A report will be brought the Renewal and Recreation Committee in May 2015 to consider the outcome of the tender process. The new contract, subject to it being awarded, will start in April 2016.

Bromley Youth Music Trust

- 3.6 The Council provides a Music Service through a contract with a charitable company called Bromley Youth Music Trust (BYMT). The Council currently provides a grant to BYMT of £305,650 which BYMT augments with other funding from music tuition fees and an Arts Council Music Grant of current value £366,321. The service's object is to extend the opportunity for all Bromley resident children and young people to learn a musical instrument and participate in musical performance.
- 3.7 Under this contract, BYMT is required to provide a broad based service to all schools, including the special schools and mainstream schools with specialist units to provide individual and group music tuition and opportunities to perform in ensembles ranging from chamber to full orchestra for Bromley resident children and young people. BYMT also provides an instrument hire service
- 3.8 In the Academic Year 2013/14:
- BYMT delivered weekly tuition to 4,500 pupils
 - 2,600 young people participated in a Bromley Schools prom
 - 180 young people received support with their fees for music tuition
 - BYMT organised more than 80 concert performances
 - 559 young people hired a musical instrument from BYMT
- 3.9 Historically the Council has also provided funding of just over £30k a year to Bromley Arts Council, a charity that supports amateur arts groups and societies within the Borough, and provides a programme of events, activities and gallery space at its base Ripley Arts Centre. At the meeting of the Executive on 7th September 2011 it was agreed there would be a reduction of the grant to Bromley Arts Council to zero, phased in over a three year period. As from April 2014, Council funding to Bromley Arts Council ceased.
- 3.10 Support was also provided by the Council to arts organisations through a Cultural Development Officer that worked within Leisure and Culture, who gave advice and support to arts groups and organisations on external funding and grant applications. This post was deleted from April 2014, as a consequence no support is given to voluntary arts organisations based in the borough.
- 3.11 The Bromley Arts Panel, a Member chaired group that met quarterly, contained members from some of the key arts organisations within the Borough. They would consider opportunities and initiatives that would raise the profile of arts within Bromley, share and discuss examples of best practice in the delivery of arts services and activities, and identify suitable initiatives that the Panel may agree to undertake. Whilst the Panel provided an opportunity for networking and discussion the lack of any significant funding opportunities or significant opportunities for joint working meant that the interest in and the membership of the Panel slowly declined. They have not met since the beginning of 2013. It is unlikely now that there will be a demand to restart the Panel up.
- 3.12 There are a number of wider organisations supporting the arts in Bromley such as: The Bromley Creative Community, a self-managed on line community of creative industries; and the Crystal Palace Artists, an artist lead group committed to developing opportunities for visual arts in the Crystal Palace area.

- 3.13 There are also a organisations that work with particular target groups across the Borough such as: Magpie Dance, an inclusive dance company for people with and without learning disabilities; Credo Ceramic Arts, who work with people who have suffered a period of mental illness; and Oxleas NHS Foundation and the Bethlem Royal Hospital, who provide art therapies for people with mental health issues.
- 3.14 In addition there are some significant arts venues across the Borough such as; The Gerald Moore Gallery at Eltham College, which provides gallery space for modern and contemporary art and extensive education programmes, workshops, courses and talks; and the Langley Park Centre for the Performing Arts which is a new 500 plus seat auditorium in the grounds the Langley Park School for Boys providing arts and performance events. There is also Bromley Little Theatre in Bromley town centre, a fully-equipped 113 seat theatre run as a membership club and as a limited company managed by a Board of Directors. It receives no external financial support and relies solely on oncome generated. It presents eleven full-length plays each year as well as 'In The Bar' shows plus Youth Group productions.
- 3.15 These organisations and venues work mainly independently of the Council, determining their own terms of reference, memberships, networking, partnership, and marketing arrangements.

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| Non-Applicable Sections: | Policy, Legal, Personnel, Financial |
| Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer) | |