

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet – 7 December 2010

Report of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Festivals Working Group

Accountable member	Cabinet Member for Sport and Culture, Councillor Andrew McKinlay
Accountable officer	Strategic Director, Grahame Lewis
Accountable scrutiny committee	Social & Community and Economic & Business Improvement
Ward(s) affected	All
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	Both Social & Community and Economy & Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered the report of the working group (Appendix 1) and approved that the recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet. The specific comments of each O&S Committee are set out in Appendix 2 and 3 (to follow).
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A report be considered by Cabinet which outlines how a more flexible and sustainable future use of Imperial and Montpellier Gardens can be developed.2. A further review is undertaken of the existing Town Hall catering arrangements to ensure greater flexibility of use by Cheltenham Festivals. The original contract has been extended until August 2012.3. Cabinet ensures that Cheltenham Festivals are clear about the on-going financial impact regarding the use of their newly acquired Tessitura box office system.4. A joint strategic cultural plan for the town is developed as part of the 2011/2012 Corporate & Community Planning process.5. Cabinet consider delaying any reduction to the grant until 2012 as part of the budget setting process, following a request by Cheltenham Festivals.6. That appropriate monitoring arrangements are put in place which can be assessed by Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny at regular intervals in the future as set out in 4.5.

Financial implications	<p>The current level of funding, built into the Medium Term Financial Strategy is £109,200 per annum. Support in kind of approximately £150,000 per annum is also provided to Cheltenham Festivals.</p> <p>The financial impact of Cheltenham Festivals purchasing their own box office system will need to be considered as part of the 2011/12 budgets. Future levels of funding will always be subject to the annual budget setting process and satisfactory performance.</p> <p>Contact officer: Sarah Didcote, Group Accountant Sarah.didcote@cheltenham.gov.uk 01242 264123</p>
Legal implications	<p>The current grant agreement with Cheltenham Festivals expires on 31 March 2011. Any grant funding beyond that date will be the subject of an appropriate legal agreement, based on the Community Investment Grant format. The agreement can include any monitoring arrangements and performance indicators as required by the Council.</p> <p>Contact officer: Nicolas Wheatley Nicolas.wheatley@tewkesbury.gov.uk 01684 272695</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>The further review of the Town Hall catering arrangements to ensure greater flexibility of use by Cheltenham Festivals may result in human resources impacts; however these will become clearer as the review progresses. Trade Union engagement at an early stage is recommended. Cheltenham Festivals took over the running of their own payroll in April 2010. A particular employment arrangement exists which continues to work well for both CBC and CF and is not proposed to cease or change, however the arrangement need to be considered and clarified for the longer term in particular with regard to any future financial implications.</p> <p>Contact officer: Amanda Attfield, Assistant Director Human Resources & Organisational Development Amanda.attfield@cheltenham.gov.uk 01242 264186</p>
Key risks	
Corporate and community plan Implications	<p>Enhancing and protecting our environment. Strengthening our economy. Enhancing the provision of arts and culture.</p>
Environmental and climate change implications	<p>Re-designing the open spaces in both Imperial and Montpellier Gardens to provide greater flexibility for future CF use, and at the same time enhancing the quality of the gardens for general public use will require sensitive consideration of the full range of environmental and climate change issues. This will also be an ideal opportunity to consider the wider question of sustainable planning. Full engagement and consultation with the local community and stakeholders regarding potential design solutions will be a key component of the exercise.</p>