

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 14 November 2017

Festival City Theatres Trust Company Performance Report 2016/17

Item number	9.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	C46

Executive Summary

This is the fourth annual performance report prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement process adopted in 2013/14.

The Festival City Theatres Trust, responsible for the programming and management of both the King's and Festival Theatres, and the Studio at the Festival Theatre, has had a successful year, with positive growth in programming, income and attendances.

Festival City Theatres Trust Company Performance Report 2016/17

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Culture and Communities Committee notes the positive performance of the Festival City Theatres Trust during 2016/17.

2. Background

- 2.1 This is the fourth annual performance report prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement process adopted in 2013/14.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The Festival City Theatres Trust (FCTT) reports on its performance to Council Monitoring Officers as required by the Services and Funding Agreement on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.
- 3.2 The Services and Funding Agreement for 2016/17 was aligned to Council Pledges and had 25 Targets aligned to five key performance headings.

These were:

- leadership;
- resources and sustainability;
- communications and responding to feedback;
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Access; and
- facilitation, partnership, developing and promoting joint working.

FCTT performed well against all of the targets.

- 3.3 The programme continues to reflect work by international and national theatre and dance companies, alongside performances and participation activities by local non-professional groups across the three venues.

3.4 2016/17 programme examples included:

- the Mary Poppins musical (a show from Cameron Macintosh in a co-production with Disney Productions);
- Christmas programming demonstrated appeal across ages and interests with the successful King's Pantomime, Scottish Ballet's 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'Too many Penguins?' in the Studio;
- the continued and growing partnerships with the city's festivals included the Fringe, Film and Children's Festivals amongst others, as well as festivals such as Luminare and the Jazz and Blues Festival;
- the Opera programme continued to flourish with Scottish Opera's 'The Marriage of Figaro' and Opera North's 'Billy Budd';
- dance is well represented with Rambert and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater amongst others;
- both the Festival and King's Theatres also hosted a strong drama programme including the return of the National Theatre's 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' and at the King's a diverse programme included 'A Tale of Two Cities' and a debut production of 'The Broons'.

3.5 The Learning and Participation programme continues to go from strength to strength working across four key areas of:

- working in schools;
- overcoming barriers to access;
- supporting emerging talent; and
- encouraging public engagement.

3.6 The Forget Me Not programme (a project to make the theatres dementia-friendly) delivered 168 events and engaged over 3,000 participants. Events included the first dementia-friendly performance of a major touring musical, 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang', the UK's first dementia-friendly opera – a special performance of 'The Marriage of Figaro', and the world première of 'Curious Shoes', a bespoke piece of theatre for people living with dementia.

3.7 The first 'Awfey Huge Variety Show' took place on the Festival Theatre main stage. This was a show created and performed by the children of Edinburgh's special schools.

3.8 The Attic Collective was launched, a new theatre company for young people in Scotland. The 18 company members participated in a rigorous selection and audition process, which began with over 350 applicants, and delivered their first production in January 2017.

- 3.9 The three year 'Start' project ended this year. The programme gave primary school children who are new to theatre an inspiring free programme of visits to professional shows, workshops to develop new skills, support to create their own work and the opportunity to share their work on Scotland's biggest stage.
- 3.10 The theatres programme also received very positive reviews and press coverage with four and five star reviews for their top ten performing shows. A link to the online FCTT Annual Review is provided at point ten in this report.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The FCTT contributes effectively to the delivery of the Council's Business Plan.
- 4.2 The Services and Funding Agreement ensures performance reporting requirements are monitored and met.
- 4.3 Success is also measured against the following objectives within the Culture Plan:
- ensure that everyone has access to world class cultural provision;
 - encourage the highest standards of creativity and excellence in all aspects of cultural activity;
 - support greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive all year round; and
 - articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally, nationally and internationally.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 FCTT is a Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisation and 2016/17 is the second year of a three year commitment of a grant of £105,000 per annum supporting drama and dance. The Council awarded a grant of £646,489 to FCTT in 2016/17.
- 5.2 FCTT ticket income was increased by 25% to total ticket income over 155 shows of £9.9M.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 This report is required under the Council's governance arrangements for Council Companies. There are no risk, policy or compliance implications arising from this report.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 FCTT actively promotes access to services for different equalities groups; provides data on the level of use of services by equalities groups; provides evidence of quality analysis relating to equality groups.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

9. Consultation and engagement

None

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 FCTT website [Home | edtheatres.com](http://edtheatres.com)
- 10.2 FCTT Annual review 2016/17 [About us | edtheatres.com](http://edtheatres.com)
- 10.3 Previous Committee Reports:
- 10.4 Culture and Sport Committee Item 7.5 on 19 August 2014 [Culture and Sport Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)
- 10.5 Culture and Sport Committee Item 7.6 on 16 December 2014 [Culture and Sport Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)
- 10.6 Culture and Sport Committee Item 7.2 on 18 August 2015 [Culture and Sport Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)
- 10.7 Culture and Sport Committee Item 7.2 on 23 August 2016 [Culture and Sport Committee | The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Lindsay A Robertson, Service Manager, Cultural Strategy

E-mail: lindsay.robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 6719

11. Appendices

None