

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 1 May 2018
Report Subject	Theatr Clwyd Revised Board of Governors Model
Report Author	Chief Officer (Strategic Programmes) and Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates Council on the progress of the work of Theatr Clwyd and presents the revised model for the Theatre Board of Governors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To approve and recommend to Cabinet the proposals for the Theatr Clwyd Board of Governors as outlined in this report.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSALS
1.01	<p>Over the past three years the Council has supported Theatr Clwyd to make significant changes to revise its business model and plan and improve its operations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointing a new Artistic Director and Executive Director; • Implementing a new and more modern workforce structure for the operation of a production house theatre; • Agreeing with Trade Unions a revised <i>House Agreement</i> covering workforce terms and conditions; • A feasibility study for a full renovation of the Theatre.

1.02	<p>This has enabled a number of significant achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has managed to reduce the base funding by £350,000 (35%) from £1m, following an earlier 5% reduction. • The Theatre has managed to maintain and grow the number of productions it produces by cutting and sharing production costs. • Connections with local community are closer with a range of community projects and youth work including the successful 'Justice in a Day' programme working with young people and schools. • Income from ticket and secondary sales has increased. • The level of quality of productions has been recognised with success in winning four prizes at the Welsh Theatre Awards. • The range of arts and creative activity available on site has increased with the closer connection and ultimately integration of both the Arts Development and Music Service.
1.03	<p>The next step in continuing the development of the Theatre is to refresh the Board and update its terms of reference. The new Board will be a combination of Councillor representation and co-opted members with the skills and expertise needed for this next phase of the theatre.</p>
1.04	<p>Discussions have taken place with the current Board Members, Group Leaders, the Portfolio Holder and lead officers. There is a consensus on the way forward as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board be made up of a maximum of thirteen 'members'; • That seven members are Elected Members of the Council; • That the current Elected Member representatives are given the opportunity to continue; • That any vacancies for these seven are filled by Elected Members with the appropriate skills by agreement with the Chief Executive, Leader and Group Leaders (there is currently one vacancy and one nomination has been received following an update with Group Leaders); • That a maximum of five co-opted members are recruited externally with a range of appropriate skills and that these appointments are ratified by Cabinet; • That a sixth co-opted member is selected by the Theatre Clwyd Trust - a charity and part of the Theatre Clwyd structure; and • That a revised terms of reference that regularises and updates the role of the Board of Governors is brought to a coming Cabinet for approval and inclusion within the Council Constitution.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Discussions have taken place with the Board, the Leader, Group Leaders the Portfolio Holder and lead officers.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	There is a risk that the Board does not effectively govern the operation of the Theatre. This will be mitigated by: ensuring the annual Business Plan is brought to Cabinet with regular progress updates; that Board members are recruited on the skills they bring to the Board; that appropriate training and development is provided to the Board where needed; that evaluation of the progress of the Board is undertaken.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None Contact Officer: Ian Bancroft, Chief Officer (Strategic Programmes) Telephone: 01352 704180 E-mail: ian.bancroft@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Theatr Clwyd – A production house Theatre managed by Flintshire County Council with the operation governed by the Theatr Clwyd Board of Governors.