

AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE – YEAR 5 CONTRACT REVIEW

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To advise the scrutiny committee of the outcome of the 5 year review of the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre contract.
- 1.2 Cabinet considered information including the detailed confidential report from Artservice Ltd at their meeting on 1 September 2015 and agreed on new financial terms and other proposals for the management and operation of the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre by the Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG). The new arrangements will become effective from October 2016.
- 1.3 The Cabinet Member for Resources, Finance and Compliance has agreed to delay implementation of the new terms / contract conditions with ATG until it has been reported to the scrutiny committee at this meeting.

2 Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the new financial terms and other proposals that have been agreed for the management and operation of the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre by the Ambassador Theatre Group, as set out in the Cabinet report.
- 2.2 Indicate any comments that it wishes the Cabinet Member to take into consideration in finalising the new terms / contract conditions with the Ambassador Theatre Group.

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 The report attached as an Appendix to this report was submitted to Cabinet on 1 September, 2015. The five year review of the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre (AWT) contract with the Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) has been conducted in accordance with the provisions of the current 15 year contract. The contract commenced in October 2010 and included a six year funding agreement which terminates on 9 October 2016 and a formal contract review in year 5. The existing contract remains in force until October 2025.
- 3.2 The Council engaged the services of a theatre consultant to help with the review and to provide independent expert advice regarding the options and opportunities. Artservice Ltd were commissioned to review the original submission, evaluate what had been delivered and comment on the options and a suggested course of action. The detailed confidential report from Artservice was considered by Cabinet as part of their deliberations and is attached as a confidential Appendix to the scrutiny agenda.
- 3.3 The principal reason for bringing this report to the scrutiny committee is to inform Members on the future direction for the management and operation of the theatre, prior to the required contract documentation being updated with the Ambassador Theatre Group.