

Draft Response to Report of the Task and Finish Group – Arts in Redditch

Chapter 1 Recommendations that could be implemented in the short to medium term.

Recommendation 1

The Arts in Redditch Network, and the benefits to be accrued from membership of the network, should be promoted to local arts groups.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications for either the Council or the Arts in Redditch Network.

Legal implications: There are no legal implications, for either the Council or the network.

***Response:** This recommendation is welcomed, since there is a need to build not just membership, but active participation in the network. The objectives of the network cannot be achieved without that participation, and the support of the Borough Councils Arts Development team, in promoting the benefits of membership and participation, is essential.*

Recommendation 2

The Arts in Redditch Network should maintain a list of existing arts groups in Redditch on their new website.

a) The Council should continue to maintain a link from the local authority's website to the new Arts in Redditch Network website.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications for either the Council or the Arts in Redditch Network.

Legal implications: There are no legal implications, for either the Council or the network.

***Response:** This recommendation is welcomed, and this content, and links to and from other sites, will be central to the specification of the new website.*

Recommendation 3

An online Redditch Arts Map, including an arts trail, outlining the location of public art works and venues in the Borough and linked to an icon on the new information kiosks in the town centre, should be introduced.

Financial Implications: There are no immediate financial implications for the Council.

There are direct financial implications for the Arts in Redditch Network as it has been estimated that it would cost £9,450 to produce the arts map and additional maintenance costs. The group is suggesting that these costs should be met by the Arts in Redditch Network through submitting a funding application to an organisation that provides grants to the arts.

Information kiosks cost approximately £25,000 to install in an outside location. Choose How You Move 2 are intending to fund the introduction of two new kiosks, one of which will be installed outside. The other will be installed in the train station. The funding from Choose How You Move will cover the cost of the implementation, software and the kiosk as well as maintenance costs.

Legal implications: There are no legal implications, for either the Council or the network.

***Response:** We recognise the merits of this recommendation, but in view of the predicted financial implications, it is felt that the Arts Map should be developed as part of a second phase in the development of the new website. In exploring this possibility further, it may be found that the cost of implementing the Arts Map will be less than the estimated cost set out in the recommendation.*

Recommendation 4

Art exhibition space, where local artists can display their work, should be introduced at the Palace Theatre and the Abbey Stadium.

a) The Arts in Redditch Network should promote opportunities to display local artists' work.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications for the Council or for the Arts in Redditch Network.

Legal implications: Redditch Borough Council would need to agree terms and conditions with artists when arranging for artwork to be displayed in the Palace Theatre and Abbey Stadium. Members have been advised that this agreement could be based on an adapted version of the agreements that the Palace Theatre currently makes with arts bodies that hire facilities at the venue.

***Response:** We strongly support this recommendation. Anything that can be done to provide new opportunities for the display of visual arts in the town should be welcomed, and the network can play its part in promoting the use of these venues.*

In terms of the Legal Implications, any agreements used to regulate the display of artworks in RBC premises must be simple, unambiguous and proportionate. In our view, the current Palace Theatre hiring contract is unduly complex, and should not be used as a model for any agreement relating to the display of visual arts.

Recommendation 5

The Council should continue to provide support and advice to any community group aiming to introduce a new arts group in the town.

In addition:

a) action should be taken to increase public awareness of the support and advice provided by the Council to community groups with an interest in the arts; and

b) any new enquiries should be signposted to the Arts in Redditch Network to facilitate the formation of new arts groups.

Financial Implications: There are no additional financial implications for the Council as Officers already provide support and advice to community groups aiming to introduce new arts groups in the town. There are no financial implications for the Arts in Redditch Network.

Legal implications: There are no legal implications, for either the Council or the network.

***Response:** Whilst supporting the intention that lies behind this recommendation, there is some ambiguity regarding the role of RBCs Arts Development team and the network. This is an issue that needs to be discussed and clarified with RBC officers.*

Recommendation 6

The evidence gathered by Members during the course of the review and the information contained in the Arts and Culture Centre Task Group's final report should be taken into account by Officers when producing the new Redditch Arts Strategy.

Financial Implications: There are no additional financial implications for the Council as the Leisure Services team had already committed to producing a new arts strategy for Redditch prior to the launch of the Task Group.

Legal implications: There are no legal implications for the Council.

***Response:** We welcome this recommendation, and the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Borough Council's Arts Strategy.*

Chapter 2 Recommendations that could be implemented in the long-term

Recommendation 7

In an ideal world an arts centre would be established in Redditch by a community group. However, in order for this objective to be achieved the community group needs to be aware of and to address the following barriers:

- a) the extent to which local arts groups would make use of an arts centre;**
- b) the financial costs involved in establishing and maintaining an arts centre;**
- c) funding application requirements;**
- d) creating a sustainable business case;**
- e) legal liability and accountability issues;**
- f) availability of volunteers to operate the centre; and**
- g) management arrangements for the centre.**

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications for the Council. The financial implications of establishing an arts centre for a community group have been detailed in the report for interested stakeholders to note.

Legal Implications: There are no legal implications for the Council. The legal implications of establishing an arts centre for a community group have been detailed in the report for interested stakeholders to note.

***Response:** We have always been mindful of the issues and challenges that need to be overcome in pursuing the development of an Arts Centre in Redditch. We also recognise that this is a long-term aspiration, and in the meantime, we accept the main thrust of the recommendation of this report, namely to focus on developing the Arts Network in the town, to increase participation in and awareness of arts activities by the wider community. This is entirely consistent with the existing constitution of the Arts in Redditch Network.*

Recommendation 8

The Council should provide the following support and advice to any community organisation that aims to establish an arts and culture centre in the town:

- a) guidance on how to complete funding applications for grants;
- b) advice on how to produce a business case; and
- c) signpost groups to relevant expert contacts for further specialist help.

Financial Implications: There would be a financial cost to the Council. Specifically this financial cost would need to cover Officer time involved in providing the support to a community organisation aiming to establish an arts and culture centre in Redditch.

Legal implications: There are no legal implications for the Council.

Response: *We support this recommendation, but see also our response to Recommendation 5.*

Recommendation 9

The 'Creative Redditch' artwork should be prioritised for use on the next bus shelter that is installed in Redditch town centre.

Financial Implications: There would be financial implications for either Redditch Borough Council or the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership. A new bus shelter, involving a number of reinforced panels in a steel frame can cost £2,000 – 4,000.

However, the group is proposing that funding should not be invested in this project until a future date when appropriate budgets are available or a bus shelter in the town centre requires refurbishment work.

Legal implications: There are no legal implications for either the Council or the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.

Response: *We support this recommendation, but given the limited number of bus shelters in the town centre itself, we wonder if the artwork could be used in the Kingfisher Centre bus station, or elsewhere in the Kingfisher Centre? We suggest that this could be explored with the centre management.*

Steering Group

Arts in Redditch Partnership

20th May 2013