

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE CABINET BOARD

Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee
5th September 2019

REPORT OF HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION
ANDREW THOMAS

MATTER: FOR INFORMATION

WARDS AFFECTED: Pontardawe

PONTARDAWE ARTS CENTRE BUSINESS PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members on the progress made to date on the delivery of the Pontardawe Arts Centre business plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Appended as Appendix 1, are the action plan priorities. The appendices details progress to date against each of the identified priorities.
- 2.2 As the attached action plans update shows, the Arts Centre achieved a £31k net subsidy reduction against a target of £20k. There has been a significant shift in the programming philosophy at the centre, whilst still delivering on the Arts Council for Wales grant conditions, the Centre has adopted a more commercial approach to programming. There has also been a significant uplift in the bar trading position, this is down to a complete review of the operation, and a proactive approach to linking potential bar profit to events programmed at the centre.

3. Background

- 3.1 The business plan for Pontardawe Arts Centre was approved by Members at the Education Skills and Culture Board on the 29th November 2018.

- 3.2 The business plan seeks to explore commercial opportunities to generate income that will contribute to a reduction in the operating subsidy, and meeting targets within the forward financial plan.
- 3.3 The business plan recognised the addition of a new cinema is key to sustaining the future of Pontardawe Arts Centre. This development would consolidate the existing audiences and also widens the appeal to new audiences, especially young people, within the community.
- 3.4 The Head of Transformation was granted authority to engage with the Arts Council for Wales to secure a capital grant towards the cost of a new cinema development.

4. Financial Impact

The business plan seeks to reduce the current level of subsidy that Pontardawe Arts Centre receives and to support a more sustainable business model for the Council. Financial target for a reduced subsidy was achieved in 2018-19

5. Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes.

6. Valleys Communities Impacts

There is no implications as this report is for monitoring / information purposes.

7. Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce issues associated with this report.

8. Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

9. Risk Management

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

11 Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

12 Recommendation

The report is for Information only.

13. Reasons for Proposed Decision

The report is for Information only.

11. Implementation of Decision

The report is for Information only.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1: Pontardawe Arts Centre Business Plan action plan update.

13. List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

Paul Walker,
Operations Coordinator

☎ 01639 861107

✉ p.walker@npt.gov.uk