

**Performing Arts Committee
25 October 2005**

Chairman's Report

1 Apologies and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Joanna Baker (as Acting Chair) welcomed Rab Noakes as the new Vice Chair of the Committee. The Acting Chair also explained that she felt that in her position as an employee of a major CFO, although she had chaired this meeting, she did not think it appropriate for her to chair all or part of the next one.

2 Cultural Commission update

- 2.1 Graham Berry (Chief Executive) gave a short update on the Cultural Commission report and the recent debate in parliament. He emphasised that the Minister had indicated she wanted less bureaucracy and said that after discussions with SE officials we had been advised that a cultural policy statement was scheduled by mid December covering:-

- actions they are going to take
- issues they would like to pilot or test, e.g. national box office
- a third more discursive and consultative section.

- 2.2 Key issues to be looked at would be:-

- national collections (galleries, libraries, archives) and how they could work more collaboratively
- national companies and a criteria for what could be regarded as national
- development work.

- 2.3 Graham confirmed that we would be working closely with the Scottish Executive between now and the publication of this policy statement.

3 Six Monthly Review Against 2005/06 Business Plan

- 3.1 Caroline Docherty (Head of Planning and Research) explained that the 6 Monthly Review was an internal document which allowed us to give more emphasis on evidence and targets. She pointed out that it was felt that this was a good time to such a Review as it allowed us to identify what Committees and Council need by way of reports. She therefore welcomed feedback on the report and what kind of information would be helpful.

- 3.2 The individual artform departments then gave short presentations highlighting:-

- Key achievements
- Any slippage against the objectives
- Any generic issues which will impact on their planning scenarios

4 Strategic Review

- 4.1 Jim Tough (Head of Arts) explained the background to the Review and how it had evolved from the national network discussions to 20:20 vision.



- 4.2 It was pointed out that the Cultural Commission had put forward the concept of optimum scenario growth and that Council had already confirmed that the status quo was not an option. We therefore preparing optimum, standstill and reduced funding scenarios.
- 4.3 Morag Arnot (Head of Planning and Communications) distributed information packs to Committee members containing:-
- key assessment criteria
 - assessment template which officers will use to assess their organisations
 - a copy of the application pack issued to organisations
 - Process Timeline highlighted
- 4.4 The role of committees was focused on and it was explained that a portfolio of evidence had been built up. This was based on a quality framework which maps the CFO applications. This uses officer's expertise and judgement built over a number of years, is cross referencing against evidence and measured against our corporate aims. Lead officer would then assess whether the individual CFOs before departmental head makes recommendations as to whether they are essential important or partial within their scenarios. Committees would then receive the optimum, standstill and reduced scenarios and a spreadsheet with the impact of these scenarios on the different CFOs
- 4.5 It was explained that cross council department, e.g. Audience Development, Education and Capital were also preparing scenarios as well as the artforms. It was possibly that there might only be one document encompassing Audience Development, Education and Capital. It was explained that the role of Committee was in deciding whether the scenario was coherent and whether they agree with the placement of the various CFOs. This, in turn, might result in a change in relationship with some of these CFOs.
- 4.6 Points of discussion:
- A question was raised about what the mechanism would be used for cutting or losing CFOs and it was explained that the decision about whether to change funding for a CFO would be a decision for Council. Any concerns raised by Committees about these decisions would be taken to Council.
 - Council decisions would be based on the three equally balanced corporate aims. However, Council members are not as informed as Committee members and bring different knowledge and expertise. They therefore need to rely on good guidance from Committees and on having the knowledge that the process has been properly interrogated. Council need information from Committees and officers to allow them to make reasoned decisions.
 - The timeline in relation to the Scottish Executive was asked about. It was explained that the CSR has been put back until 2007. A public document, launched by the Chairman and giving our optimum scenario as a detailed business case would be produced at the end of November as we want to publish it before the Scottish Executive make their statement. This will give us the opportunity to make a strong, evidence based and realistic case. We will be giving clear cases of standstill and reduced scenarios and the Council are prepared to make hard decisions.



- The December Council meeting may coincide with the Executive announcement, but we work closely with the Executive and they know exactly what we are doing.
- It was agreed that the sector also had to buy into the process and it was explained that when we publicly launch the optimum scenario the CFOs will have been kept informed and will be invited to the public launch. We had also been speaking to COSLA and VOCAL and there might be issues that are not SAC's areas of activity (e.g. dance and health, the active schools co-ordinators programme) which could be for local authorities.
- Committee were asked if they were satisfied that their role was clear. The Chair pointed out that it was a lot of work in a short timescale and that it would be complex to manage.
- The Chair asked what would happen if a member of the committee or the committee as a whole disagreed with the scenario assessment and it was confirmed that this was something the committee could do.
- It was reiterated that it was essential that Council was satisfied that the committees had interrogated the scenarios and the officers. It was pointed out that scenarios could be coherent but the committee could still disagree with them.
- A CD Rom containing the applications from all CFOs for each committee would be sent out to all members next week. The CD should be treated as confidential. And it was possible that CFOs might lobby individual members of Committee who are asked that they do not get into discussion with CFOS but refer them to SAC.
- The possibility raised by the Creative Arts Committee for a longer meeting, possibly a whole day, to give time to interrogate paper work and scenarios was raised and it was agreed that this would be explored.
- Committee will be kept informed of what is going on and feed back from Committee on any of the issues was welcomed. It was agreed that a full complement of Committee would be highly desirable at the next meeting and all efforts should be made to encourage them to attend.

5 Equalities

- 5.1 Jim Tough (Head of Arts) explained that the paper was given for information to show some of the policy developments which had taken place over the last few years.
- 5.2 Committee enquired into the involvement of Specialist Advisors in input into this work and Jim explained that we had a sight impaired specialist adviser who visits galleries. A question was raised about what arts and disability training there was available for organisations and it was explained that we had organised this for staff and were looking at what core funded organisations do in the future.
- 5.3 We were also looking at the possibility of a dedicated officer for arts and disability.