

# **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 15 March 2004**

**REPORT ON: Whitehall Theatre Refurbishment**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts**

**REPORT NO: 205-2004**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the proposed refurbishment of the Whitehall Theatre and its development as a community facility within the cultural sector.

## **2.0 RECOMMEDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that a sum of £50,000 be awarded to the Whitehall Theatre from the Common Good Fund towards the First Phase development of the auditorium.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The projected budget of the proposed works is £225,000. The Whitehall Theatre has been awarded a sum of £50,000 from the Scottish Arts Council. It is anticipated that a sum of £55,000 will be raised from Trusts & Foundations. A sum of £70,000 is available from the Whitehall's own resources. Dundee City Council has been asked to make a contribution of £50,000 to meet the balance. This can be met from the Common Good Fund as follows: Financial year 2004 – 2005, £25,000 and Financial year 2005 – 2006, £25,000.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The grant reflects a positive contribution to the local Agenda 21 theme "access to facilities, services, goods and people is not achieved at the expense of the environment and is accessible to all" and "local needs are met locally".

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Particular consideration is given to applications which prioritise maximum community involvement generating interaction with specific groups, communities and organisations.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 The Whitehall Theatre has been established under the Trust since 1982 and has operated without any significant public sector funding during that period. The Whitehall provides an excellent base for local amateur musical theatre, community and educational projects involving a number of youth groups, and is supported by income generated from commercial and professional shows and performances.
- 6.2 The building, including the auditorium, public areas, stage, changing rooms and rehearsal space has, largely due to the success of the theatre, now reached a stage where a significant upgrading and refurbishment is required to meet the needs of performers and audiences alike and to meet current health and safety legislation and the disabled access that is now required.
- 6.3 To this end the Whitehall has embarked on an ambitious fundraising programme which will require significant input from both the Lottery Fund and the Local Authority over the next few years. To date

the preparation of their development plan has largely depended on voluntary contributions made by professionals on a 'pro bono' basis. This includes significant architectural and financial expertise. If the project is to move forward, successful professional fees will be accrued as part of the overall development costs.

- 6.4 The proposed works will be undertaken during the financial years 2004 –2005 and 2005 – 2006 and will focus on the refurbishment of the auditorium with improvements to heating, lighting, flooring, decoration and new seating being installed.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**STEVE GRIMMOND  
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ARTS  
5 FEBRUARY 2004**