

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 25 April 2011

REPORT ON: Scottish Dance Theatre - Revenue Support 2011-2012

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 100-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek Committee approval for a Service Level Agreement to be extended between Dundee City Council and Scottish Dance Theatre for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

2.1 remits the Director of Leisure & Communities, on behalf of Dundee City Council, to enter into a one year Service Level Agreement with Scottish Dance Theatre, subject to on-going monitoring and evaluation as to its efficiency, economy and effectiveness

2.2 remits the Director of Leisure and Communities to keep these arrangements under review and amend as appropriate.

2.3 approves the Grant Funding amounting to £23,614 for the period 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The funding recommended is £23,614 which sum is provided for in the Leisure and Communities Department's revenue Budget 2011-2012 and set out in Appendix 1.

3.2 The terms and conditions of the grant will be contained within a Service Level Agreement 2011-2012, between Dundee City Council and Scottish Dance Theatre.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Review of 2010-2011

Scottish Dance Theatre (SDT) has largely achieved its business targets for 2010-11 undertaking more performances in Dundee than predicted and more performances in Scotland out with Dundee. Out with Dundee attendances were nearly 2000 more than predicted, partly due to playing to very large audiences on the company's highly successful tour to China and Dubai.

The SDT Interactive, school matinee events have again been very successful and this half lecture demonstration/half performance model, with associated workshop programme enables the company to take its work to smaller scale and less well technically equipped venues such as the Webster Theatre in Arbroath, Perth College, Lochgilphead School. Caroline Bowditch, SDT's Dance Agent for Change has had a significant impact in breaking new artistic ground within mainstream dance and, through key partnerships, increased access to dance for people with disabilities, working locally and nationally. A new two year Lottery funded post as an Associate Director Fellowship and choreographer has allowed director and dancer Marc Brew to be with the company until December 2011.

The post offers Marc an invaluable training opportunity which will help advantage him in a market place where he is currently disadvantaged as a wheelchair user. During 2010-11, as well as touring a new work NQR which features both Marc and Caroline as performers alongside SDT's dancers and cellist, the company has toured 9 other works in repertoire, three of which were created during the year – NQR, The Life and Times of Girl A, and Drift. The company has attracted significant positive media coverage both locally and nationally throughout the year.

In December 2010, February and March 2011 the company ran intensive training sessions for 9 local musicians in order to give them the necessary skills to enable SDT to employ them to play for the daily company training classes. The company is in the process of developing a Disability Equality Scheme with guidance from Creative Scotland.

In 2010 SDT performed two works at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to critical acclaim and also toured to China and Dubai, undertaking a very successful education programme funded by the British Council in China. The company toured during the year to small Scottish venues as well as large scale venues such as Edinburgh Festival Theatre, undertaking a total of 62 performances. The company took part in Dundee City Council's Light Night event in November 2010, performing in Tay Square alongside the SDT Youth Group, creating a festive atmosphere and encouraging enthusiastic audience participation. The dancers ran an informal, multi art-form event, Hoopdash, at the Rep and performed at the Dundee Dance Partnership Are You Dancin' event at the Bonar Hall. The company hosted professional dancers from around the world to take class with the company at the Rep.

SDT undertook a programme of classes and sessions for adults and young people in Dundee and a programme of workshops in Scotland and out with Scotland related to the company's tours. SDT Creative Learning initiated a project bringing together SDT Youth Company with youth companies from Stirling and Aberdeen and performed the resulting dance piece in Dundee, Stirling and at Glasgow Theatre Royal at Go Dance 2011. Led by Caroline, the company has run several integrated workshops, including sessions at the Rep and at Kingspark School. Caroline and an SDT dancer performed a duet at the Fairtrade Tea Dance at the Bonar Hall. SDT continued to develop its education work locally and was a lead partner in the Dundee Dance Partnership Are You Dancin' project in November 2010. The annual Great Big Dance Show was again a highlight of the year and saw over 130 young people from Dundee and surrounding areas coming together to perform on the Rep stage. Following the success of SDT Creative Learning's involvement in the NHS Well Good project the company offered further taster workshops to Dundee schools; the company expanded its involvement in delivery of the Higher Dance programme at local schools and ran a successful Hungry Caterpillar project in Dundee Primary Schools in collaboration with DCC Education Department.

The company nurtured and celebrated emerging talent from within the company offering audiences an engaging evening of shorter works by company members at the Bonar Hall in July 2010 - Under Construction. Some of this work was then performed in Backstage Pass – a very successful alternative evening performance at Dundee Rep in Autumn 2010, taking audiences on a backstage journey behind the scenes - through normally unseen working spaces. Both projects will be repeated in 2011.

SDT is now regarded as a leading arts organization in terms of access and equalities in Scotland. During 2010 the company developed a Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan and a new Board Member has been appointed who chairs an Access and Equalities Sub Committee, with members of this committee from across the organization.

In 2010 SDT also toured to Holland and Italy. The company was invited to perform at the prestigious IETM (international network for contemporary performing arts) event, hosted this year in Glasgow in November 2010; SDT is an active member of RepNet, a network of European dance companies of similar size, remit and ambition.

The company also performed in the City Square as part of the Diabetes Road Show and introduced Meet the Choreographer events, including live streaming and regular lunchtime Open Studio sessions.

During 2010-11 Scottish Dance Theatre maintained 9 dancers, two apprentices via the London Contemporary Dance School graduate scheme and offered several placements for Scottish students and local school children as well as offered places for students and professional dancers to join company class (approximately 200 sessions) and the SDT maintains close links with the students of the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance.

The tough financial climate has impacted upon Scottish Dance in 2010-11, particularly in relation to achieving fundraising and earned income targets and budgets have therefore been adjusted throughout the year. Their Dance Worker left in December 2010 and the company currently cannot afford to replace them. SDT will receive standstill funding from Creative Scotland for the second year running, so there is an imperative for them to be cautious, to consolidate and adapt, without retreating from the company's ambitions.

4.2 **Major Plans for 2011-2012**

The target audience for 2011-12 will be 11,440 with the Scottish Dance Theatre touring over 12 different works in Scotland and at Festivals in Germany, the USA and Denmark. In summer 2011 the company will undertake a week-long run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The company will create a new work for Children, choreographed by Artistic Director, Janet Smith together with other SDT company members. In 2011 they will have a second choreographic workshop performance, Under Construction 2, which supports the creative development of dancers and other artistic staff. SDT will undertake another Backstage Pass performance event and also continue to develop Meet the Choreographer and Open Studio events in Dundee.

New works will be premiering in February 2012 by Israeli choreographer Idan Cohen, Michael Popper or Rachel Lopez de la Nieta.

In 2011-12 SDT will start to develop The Grand - an ambitious 2 year project which culminates in 2013 - that reaches into the communities of Dundee, celebrating dance, gathering dance stories from local people and creating an interactive site-specific performance.

SDT's Dance Agent for Change, Caroline Bowditch will continue her work both locally and nationally, including organising a **Symposium** at Dundee Rep, in partnership with other key Scottish organisations, tracking pathways into professional performing arts careers for disabled people.

Fundraising from trusts and foundations for 2011-12 will be prioritised, particularly for the company's ground breaking work in the field of dance and disability.

4.3 Scottish Dance theatre sustained 22.85 full time equivalent jobs in Dundee during 2010-11 and predicts that they will achieve 97% of their income in 2010-11 from non City Council sources.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
11 APRIL 2011

SCOTTISH DANCE THEATRE

Appendix 1

	Projected Outturn 2010-2011	Projected Budget 2011-12 (Estimate)
Expenditure	£	£
Staff Costs	600,267	590,446
Fees	110,098	100,835
Production Costs	175,543	181,500
Education	21,051	16,800
Other Project Costs	35,864	12,811
Marketing	40,265	34,300
Overheads	116,816	128,676
Total Expenditure	1,099,904	1,065,368
Income		
Performance-Box Office	61,739	56,400
Sponsors - fundraising	9,260	55,800
Foreign Tour Income	18,440	8,500
Miscellaneous	32,953	19,685
Education Income	36,050	31,865
Sub Total Income	158,442	172,250
Grants		
Creative Scotland Annual	808,000	808,000
Creative Scotland Special	63,181	38,000
Dundee City Council Annual Revenue	23,614	23,614
Released Deferred Income	32,163	32,163
Sub Total Grants	926,958	901,777
 Total Income	 1,085,400	 1,074,027
 Surplus/Deficit	 (14,504)	 8,659