

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 23 March 2009
REPORT ON: Scottish Dance Theatre - Revenue Support 2009-2010
REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities
REPORT NO: 183-2009

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of revenue funding to Scottish Dance Theatre, 2009-2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the level of grant funding amounting to £23,614 as set out in the report.

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 2009-2010 and set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The terms and conditions of the grant will be contained within a Service Level Agreement 2009/2010, between Dundee City Council and Scottish Dance Theatre.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Review of 2008-2009

Scottish Dance Theatre (SDT) has largely achieved its business targets for 2008/09, undertaking more workshops/education work in Dundee than predicted and two more performances in Dundee than predicted. Attendances at performances in Dundee were 731 more than estimated and attendance at education work in Dundee 1236 more than predicted. The SDT Interactive school matinee events have again been very successful and this half lecture demonstration/half performance model, with an associated workshop programme, is now an established part of SDT's work. It also enables the company to take its work to smaller scale venues in the Highlands.

Caroline Bowditch, SDT's Dance Agent for Change has forged ahead with her aim of breaking new artistic ground within mainstream dance and, working locally and nationally through key partnerships, is building on increasing access to dance that includes people with disabilities.

The company is now touring with a short duet created by Caroline and apprentice dancer, Tom Pritchard – "The Long and the Short of it" - in the company's main repertoire of work. The company has created two new works in 2008/09 – "A Visitation" by renowned Norwegian choreographer, Ina Christel Johannessen and "I Thought I Heard Somebody Calling" by Artistic Director, Janet Smith. The company has attracted significant positive media coverage both locally and nationally throughout the year.

In January this year SDT Artistic Director Janet Smith won the Jane Attenborough Dance UK Industry Award 2008, which honours an individual, working in dance in the UK, who has made an outstanding contribution to the artform and who, through their

knowledge, skill and generosity, has had a significant effect on dance.

In 2008 SDT performed a full programme of work at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to great critical acclaim, including 4 5* reviews, and welcomed several VIP guests to see the performance including the Director General of UNESCO, who was visiting Scotland for the first time, and a delegation of 12 Cultural Attaches from all over the world. The company toured during the year, undertaking a total of 51 performances in small Highland venues as well as large scale venues such as Edinburgh Festival Theatre and His Majesty's in Aberdeen. The company performed along with the Scottish Ensemble at the McManus Fundraising Dinner in Dundee and ran a week long choreographic residency in collaboration with DCA which culminated in a performance in the gallery. The company has undertaken a very successful week long residency with the students of the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance at Dundee College and hosted professional dancers from around the world to take class with the company at the Rep. The company were invited to perform in Dusseldorf at the International Tanzmesse, a high profile dance event and also performed at the European Dance Festival in Cyprus and at the Athens International Dance Festival.

SDT undertook a programme of classes and sessions for adults and young people in Dundee as well as a running a programme of workshops in Scotland and outwith Scotland related to the company's performance tour. The SDT Youth Company went to Dublin to perform at the Irish Youth Festival and also at Go Dance 09 in Glasgow Theatre Royal. Led by Caroline, the company has run several integrated workshops, including sessions at the MacKinnon Centre in Dundee and Kingspark School. SDT's Creative Learning Strategy has been finalised. A highlight of the year was SDT's Great Big October Dance Show which saw over 130 young people from Dundee and surrounding areas coming together to perform on the Rep stage.

During 2008/09 SDT maintained 8 dancers, two apprentices via the London Contemporary Dance School graduate scheme and offered a short apprenticeship to a graduate of the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance. They also offered several placements for Scottish students and school children as well as places for students and professional dancers to join the company class (approximately 200 sessions).

6.2 Major Plans for 2009-2010

In 2009/10 SDT will tour extensively in Scotland and will also tour China and Dubai in Autumn 2009. The company will create two new works premiering in February 2010 - NQR (Not Quite Right) which will be a three day collaboration between SDT's Artistic Director, Janet Smith, independent disabled Australian performance artist and choreographer, Caroline Bowditch who is also currently SDT's Dance Agent for Change and disabled Australian choreographer and director, Marc Brew. There will also be a New Work from choreographers Ben Duke and Raquel Meseguer. The target audience for 2009/10 will be 11,000. In Summer 2009 the company will undertake a two week run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The SDT Dance Agent for Change will continue her work and we will offer a Career Development Fellowship with funding received from the Scottish Arts Council Equalities Career Development fund. SDT Creative Learning will focus on young people aged 10-25 and those who work with them as well as young and gifted students and their teachers. The company will work with the Dundee Dance Partnership during the year to develop dance in Dundee. The company will sustain 20.5 full time job equivalents in 2009/10.

SDT budgets for 2008/09 were reduced -both income and expenditure - as fundraising targets were lowered because the company was unable to appoint a Development Manager. There were no suitable candidates for this post. The company's revenue funding from Scottish Arts Council for 2009/10 will not increase (standstill) so to afford the planned programme of work for next year the company reduced to 8 dancers for the latter half of the current year in order to carry forward a small surplus from this year. Fundraising from trusts and foundations for 2009/10 will be prioritised with SDT working closely with the Dundee Rep Theatre in this

respect.

- 6.3 Scottish Dance theatre sustained 20.5 full time equivalent jobs in Dundee during 2008/09 and predicts that they will achieve 13.8% of SDT income in 2009/10 from non public 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), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head 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
10 MARCH 2009**

Scottish Dance Theatre**Appendix 1**

	Projected Outturn 2008-2009	Projected Budget 2009-10 (Estimate)
<u>Expenditure</u>	£	£
Wages	586,295	643,250
Fees	53,101	69,930
Production Costs	177,078	186,300
Marketing	59,538	39,150
Education	20,875	21,903
Overheads	119,424	155,656
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	1,016,311	1,116,189
<u>Income</u>		
Performance/Box Office	59,327	58,400
Foreign Touring	14,184	18,000
Miscellaneous Income	19,500	20,724
Dance Studio Income	0	500
Sub Total	93,011	97,624
<u>Grants</u>		
SAC Annual	808,000	808,000
SAC Project	26,165	63,835
SAC Project - Career Development	0	16,000
Dundee City Council	23,322	23,788
Angus Council		2,000
Dance Studio - Release of deferred income	26,469	26,469
Sub Total	883,956	940,092
Sponsorship	14,800	54,500
Education	21,223	24,883
Total Income	1,012,990	1,117,099
Surplus/(Deficit)	-3,321	910
Balance Brought Forward	13,722	10,401
Balance Carried Forward	10,401	11,311

***Carrying forward to 2009/10 in order to afford planned programme of work.**