

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



Tuesday, 27 October 2009

at 10.00 am

**in Committee Room C,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

Councillor V Tumilty, Cabinet Member responsible for Culture, Leisure and Tourism will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

No items

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

2.1 Donation / Relocation Of Town Hall Theatre Cinema Projector –
Director of Child and Adult Services

2.2 Library Annual Staff Training Day – Director of Child and Adult Services

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

No items

4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
27th October 2009



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: DONATION / RELOCATION OF TOWN HALL
THEATRE CINEMA PROJECTOR

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the Portfolio Holder's approval for the donation / relocation of the Town Hall Theatre's 35 mm cinema projector

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The following report provides:

- An overview of current developments in cinema technology
- The reasons why the projector in the Town Hall Theatre is no longer being used
- Details of our proposal that this piece of equipment be removed from the Town Hall Theatre and donated to another local authority in the Tees Valley – Darlington Borough Council.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Strategic Arts & Events is within the portfolio holders remit.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Meeting 27 October 2009.

6. DECISION REQUIRED

The portfolio holder is requested to approve this proposal.

Report of Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: DONATION /RELOCATION OF TOWN HALL
THEATRE CINEMA PROJECTOR

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Portfolio Holder's approval for the donation / relocation of the Town Hall Theatre's 35 mm cinema projector

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Revolutionary changes in the field of cinema, and the equipment used to enable public exhibitions of films, are an historic and well known part of the mediums development. First there was sound. Then came colour. But now the arrival of digitisation is making redundant the equipment needed to show large reels of fragile 35 mm film. This is also leading to the erosion of the craft skill required to project 35 mm films, as the 'traditional' craftspeople (the 'projectionists'), retire or pass away.
- 2.2 Since the mid 1990's there has been a full size, professional, 35 mm projector located in a projection room above the upper rows of seats in the Town Hall Theatre balcony.
- 2.3 The introduction of a film projector into the Town Hall Theatre in the early 1990's (purchased second hand from Leeds) offered the ability for regular film rights at the Theatre to compensate for the loss of the towns last commercial cinema in 1981.
- 2.4 However this equipment has not been used since 2001, shortly after the opening of the popular Vue Cinema in the Marina.

3. REASONS FOR CESSATION OF USE

- 3.1 This ending of the projectors regular and sustained use is partly due to market developments, with alternatives such as the Vue Cinema offering wider, digitised choices to the public.
- 3.2 This is also due to the cost implication of keeping in place professional projection staff, since this craft skill now seems to have been lost in Hartlepool. That is – it is no longer possible to find and engage locally based projectionists. It is also increasingly difficult to source modern films in the 35 mm format.

4. DETAILS OF PROPOSED SCHEME

- 4.1 The Town Hall Theatre projector remains unused and dominates the space it occupies. This thus precludes its use for other purposes. At the same time certain neighbouring Local Authorities (specifically Darlington Borough Council) still run cinema programmes using 35 mm at Darlington Arts Centre.
- 4.2 Following 'in principle discussion with the arts manager' for Darlington, the willingness to provide a safe and useful home for the projector has been expressed.
- 4.3 The space thus released will be used as a technicians workshop and storage space for theatre technical equipment. This would offer the means of improving further the Theatre Technicians' efficiency whilst potentially reducing maintenance costs by providing a safer space for equipment storage.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no cost implications to this proposal since the only monetary value the projector has is as 'scrap' and Darlington Borough Council will pay for any removal and transportation costs.
- 5.2 There may also be efficiencies realised in the Technicians working patterns and improved storage and maintenance of equipment.

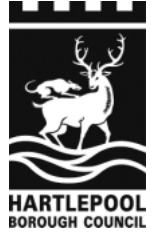
6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The portfolio holder is requested to approve this proposal.

CONTACT OFFICER: Stephen Cashman, Strategic Arts Manager

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
27 October 2009



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: LIBRARY ANNUAL STAFF TRAINING DAY

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio of the proposed Staff training day for library staff and to seek his approval for this to take place

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Background
Purpose of the training day
Impact on services

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Portfolio Holder is required to ensure the Council provides a comprehensive and efficient library service

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio – 27 October 2009

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the staff training day.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: LIBRARY ANNUAL STAFF TRAINING DAY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the Library Staff training day, which is proposed to take place on 19 November 2009

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Library Transformational Plan, approved by Cabinet in June 2008 proposed a five year programme of developments in library service provision in line with the Council Business Transformation Programme. To assist this process, the Plan required a staff training day for all library staff to be held annually throughout the period.

2.2 As most library staff work directly with the public it is necessary to close library services for one day to provide a whole day's training with all staff together. To minimise impact it is proposed to hold the training day on Thursday November 19th. This is because a number of branches close for half a day on a Thursday and therefore disruption would be minimised. Last year there was an attempt to deliver the staff training day as two half days, with half the staff attending either a morning or afternoon session.

2.3 This allowed the Central Library to remain open. However this was found to be less than satisfactory as an effective training day. The overwhelming feedback indicated the need for a single whole day event with all staff together.

2.4 Appropriate advanced publicity will be provided to inform the public of the closure of services on November 19th. We believe any disruption will be compensated for with improved long term services resulting from the training day.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All costs will be met by Workforce Development

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the Portfolio Holder approves the Staff Training Day on 19 November 2009

CONTACT OFFICER: Graham Jarritt, Borough Librarian

Background Papers:

- Libraries Transformational Programme, Cabinet Report, 09/06/2008