

CULTURE & LEISURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

14th October 2008

A PLACE TO PLAY – A REVIEW OF MUSIC VENUES IN SUNDERLAND

REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

**Strategic Priority : Healthy City, Learning City
Corporate Improvement Objectives: CIO1 & CIO3**

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 This report provides Members of the Culture and Leisure Review Committee with a brief introduction and update on the progress in relation to the policy review on music venues in Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Culture and Leisure Review Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16th September 2008 Members agreed to the terms of reference and scope of the policy review project.

3. Current position

- 3.1 As part of the research into the policy review, and to provide some of the evidence base on which the committees recommendations will be founded, it is proposed to invite a variety of music performers to the review committee over the coming months to perform and more importantly share their experiences of music performance in Sunderland.
- 3.2 One of the objectives of the review is to identify the major barriers to music performance and rehearsal. Inviting performers from a range of musical styles to the review committee will allow members to hear first hand the experiences of these performers in relation to the Sunderland music scene.
- 3.3 Members will be able to find out from performers what makes a good venue, what it is like playing in Sunderland and through the knowledge of experienced performers, who have played extensively across the region, be able to draw comparisons with other areas.

4. Music Performers

- 4.1 To ensure a sound evidence base it is proposed to invite a variety of musical performers to the committee to provide a cross section of music styles and, more importantly, the experiences these groups have

had of performing in Sunderland and other parts of the region. This will also allow Members to gain an understanding of the differing barriers that can be presented by the nature of different musical performing styles.

- 4.2 It is proposed that the following groups are invited to the committee during 08/09:

November 08	The Cornshed Sisters An acoustic folk trio who perform around the Sunderland area
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December 08	Bishop Wearmouth Choir
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January 09	Jazz Ensemble An ensemble from the University Big Band.
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5. Timetable for the Review

- 5.1 Also attached for Members information is a draft timetable for the policy review which outlines the various activities and evidence gathering that will be undertaken throughout the review process.
- 5.2 Members of the review committee will be invited to attend the various focus groups and visits that are to be undertaken as part of the policy review and will be kept informed of all review activities as and when they are arranged.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Members may wish to give consideration to any particular aspects of music performance that they would like to ask the performers in relation to the policy review work.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the Committee note the comments provided and that the evidence gathered is submitted and used as part of the research for the policy review on Sunderland venues.
- 7.2 That the Committee note the timetable for the policy review.

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