



Executive
19 August 2013

**Report from the Strategic Director of
Environment and Neighbourhoods**

For Action

Wards Affected: ALL

Tricycle Theatre Grant

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the services provided by the Tricycle Theatre through a Service Level Agreement, linked to a grant from the Council, the benefits to Brent residents of the partnership and recent performance levels. In January 2012 the Executive decided that grants to the voluntary sector would be for three years and this report proposes moving the grant to the Tricycle to a similar arrangement using a stepped approach.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Executive notes the productive partnership to date between the council and the Tricycle Theatre and its benefits to Brent residents.
- 2.2 That the Executive approves an initial two year grant cycle to run from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2015 for the Tricycle Theatre worth £198,000 per annum and to a three year grant cycle thereafter.
- 2.3 That the Executive agrees that the grant to the Tricycle Theatre will be managed through a Service Level Agreement and is dependent on delivery of agreed performance targets set by the council.

3.0 DETAILS

- 3.1 Brent's Cultural Strategy 2010-15 aims to
- Enhance cultural vibrancy
 - Increase participation
 - Raise the profile of culture
 - Encourage young people to take part
 - Develop public spaces
 - Make the most of London 2012 and other major events
 - Support the cultural economy
 - Promote health and well-being.

- 3.2 To support delivery of these objectives, Brent Council delivers arts and cultural activity across the borough, encouraging local talent and bringing artists and performers of national quality into Brent. The cultural programme at the Civic Centre is an excellent example; authors, artists, actors, dancers and musicians will be inspiring Brent residents and breathing cultural life into our fantastic new building. The same model will be used at the new Willesden Green cultural centre when it opens in 2015.
- 3.3 The Tricycle Theatre opened in Kilburn High Road in 1980. Open 7 days a week, the Tricycle has a unique 235 seat theatre, an independent 300 seat cinema, a bar and café and three rehearsal/creative learning spaces. Over the past 30 years, it has developed an international reputation for presenting plays and performances that reflect the cultural diversity of its community, in particular by Black, Irish, Jewish and Asian writers, as well as for responding to contemporary issues. Over 100,000 visitors a year visit the Tricycle and Kilburn High Road.
- 3.4 In 2012, Indhu Rubasingham took over as the new Artistic Director of the Tricycle. The new Tricycle mission statement reflects her ambition to focus on Brent's diverse population and states:
"The Tricycle views the world through a variety of lenses, bringing unheard voices into the mainstream. It presents high quality and innovative work, which provokes debate and emotionally engages. Located in Brent, the most diverse borough in London, the Tricycle is a local venue with an international vision."
- 3.5 The work between Brent Council and the Tricycle Theatre is a fine example of a partnership to deliver against the Cultural Strategy, with over 13,000 young people from Brent involved in creative learning programmes and a predicted 30,000 Brent residents visiting the theatre and cinema this year. Young people benefit from projects that develop their confidence and skills, increasing employment chances; barriers between communities are broken down through creative expression; refugees tell their stories and the local economy benefits from visitors to the Tricycle and the presence of a high profile cultural asset in the borough.
- 3.6 A new Creative Learning Department has been formed at the Tricycle, dedicated to increasing and maximising opportunities for young people to participate in the theatre and related arts activity. This work will be focused on those who are at risk of social exclusion and who are resident in Brent.
- 3.7 In January 2012 the Executive agreed to grant fund voluntary organisations for three years, subject to performance against agreed criteria. This approach was implemented in 2013/14, with 14 grants to voluntary sector projects agreed by the Executive. Three year grants are common practice for local authorities, enabling both the funded organisation and the authority to plan strategically. Arts Council England, who also fund the Tricycle Theatre, provide a three year settlement. The current Arts Council grant to the Tricycle Theatre is for the three-year period 2012 – 2015. The grant from Brent Council to the Tricycle Theatre didn't move to a three year funding agreement in January 2012. To allow the Tricycle to better manage and deliver the work agreed within the SLA it is proposed to move the grant funding to a three year cycle similar to other voluntary sector organisations in the borough but to initially provide a two year grant to bring the funding cycle in line with that from the Arts Council and to move to three years thereafter.

3.8 In 2012/13 the Tricycle income was £2.9 million. This was made up of:

- 45% earned from box office and related activity
- 40% grant funding (25% Arts Council, 7% Brent 8% small grants from other organisations)
- 15% donations from private sources

The Tricycle Theatre grant from Brent Council is £198,000 per annum (reduced from £218,000 in 2011 as part of the budget reduction exercise). The grant funds a programme of education and social inclusion activities to benefit Brent residents (as set out in paragraph 3.10). The contribution from Brent Council, at 7% of the total is a relatively small sum but crucial to the continuation of the creative development programme which benefits many Brent residents and provides key services to promote community cohesion, in support of the Equality duty.

3.9 The grant is managed through an annual Service Level Agreement (SLA). The Council's Arts Development Team and the Tricycle's Creative Learning Team work closely together to ensure that the work reflects Brent's priorities. Key performance targets are agreed at the beginning of the financial year and each grant payment is dependent on submission of quarterly reports. Regular monitoring meetings are held, which also ensure a close working relationship between the two teams.

3.10 The activities agreed in the 2013/14 SLA, are shown in the table below.

Youth Theatre <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 170 Youth Theatre sessions at the Tricycle for young people aged 11-25• 70 sessions for young people aged 11-18 living on the Press Road housing estate• 30 sessions for young people living on the Lynton Close Traveller site• Week-long festival of young people's work to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">4 performances of new play by professional playwright2 performances of a new play performed by the Youth Theatre as part of the National Theatre's 'Connections' programmeScreenings of young people's films (both professional and made by young people) in the cinema• 3 performances of work created by young people at Brent-organised events outside the Tricycle, including at least two at the new Civic Centre
Professional Theatre – including concessions for Brent residents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 300 theatre performances per year• 8 different productions, at least 3 developed by the Tricycle• 7 visiting productions (25 performances) for child audiences• 4 production-related education programmes for schools per year including information packs for teachers and related workshops.
Activities for Brent schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 400 sessions for organised school groups, including<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 300 sessions with refugee groups and students with English as an additional language○ 60 sessions for mainstream secondary school groups○ 40 sessions for mainstream primary school groups• 10 week-long work experience placements for students 15yrs+• Drama teachers' network providing continuing professional development

Jobs and Skills

- Provide 15 work experience placements a year.
- Provide at least one apprentice starting this year – helping our residents improve their long term chances for work.
- Aim to generate new work opportunities in the creative arts industry for Brent residents.

In the year ahead they have further ambitious plans for Brent's young people – with a festival made by and for young people and further collaboration with schools.

3.11 In 2013-14 the Tricycle will also aim to achieve:

Attendances from across London and the UK at a Tricycle theatre performance	56,100
Attendances from people living in Brent at a Tricycle theatre performance or event	11,960
Attendances from across London at a Tricycle cinema screening or event	51,000
Attendances from people living in Brent at a Tricycle cinema screening or event	17,840
Experiences for young people involved in Creative Learning programmes	18,000
Experiences for young people living in Brent to be involved in Creative Learning programmes	13,500

3.12 The Tricycle Theatre continues to improve. In January 2013 the Arts Council pledged £3.15 million towards a major refurbishment of the theatre, the Tricycle needs to raise another £3million to enable the project to go ahead. The auditorium will be completely refurbished and the front of house areas further developed.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Councils grants £198,000 to the Tricycle, paid in four instalments over the financial year. Under the terms of the Service Level Agreement, each party can give six months notice of termination of the agreement. In line with other grants to the voluntary sector there will be no inflationary increases.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council has powers under s137 Local Government Act 1972 and s1 Localism Act 2011 to make grants to voluntary organisations.

5.2 The decision to award a grant is discretionary. The Council's discretion must not be fettered by previous commitments they may have given and it should make its decision in the light of present circumstances as outlined in the report.

5.3 The Council is bound to act reasonably and must take into account relevant considerations and to ignore irrelevant considerations and should consider its fiduciary duty towards local taxpayers.

- 5.4 As a public authority the council is subject to a specific duty in relation to the Equality Act 2010. Further details regarding this duty are detailed in the Diversity Implications section below.

6.0 DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 In exercising its functions, including a decision to award a discretionary grant, the council has a duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share protected characteristics and those who do not.
- 6.2 The projects and programmes of the Tricycle Theatre and the work between them and the council encourages and provides for young people, breaks down barriers between communities and includes a rich and diverse programme of events reflecting the community it provides for. It fosters good relations across Brent's residents. A good example of this is the 'Minding the Gap' project which is focussed on some of Brent's younger residents experiencing multiple deprivation.
- 6.3 The fundamental focus of the Tricycle programme, as reflected in its vision statement, is for the programmes to mirror the diverse communities in Brent and attract new and diverse audiences. 43% of the 2012/13 audiences were new to the Tricycle.
- 6.4 Recognising that affordability is a key issue for our residents, it is a key focus for the Tricycle and 39% of the audience are given admission concessions: including a concession for Brent residents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

2013/14 Service Level Agreement

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