

File

**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

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<b>Report Originator</b>	Valerie Hitchman Head of Community Services	Fwd Plan Ref No: A04/107	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	20.4.05.	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary Report – Community Theatre at Kettering Leisure Village</b>		

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide an opportunity for representations to be made to the committee on the community theatre proposal for KLV, the details of which will be considered later on this agenda as an exempt item.

**2. BACKGROUND**

At the Executive Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> February it was agreed, in principle, to support the creation of a community theatre in Kettering through a redevelopment of the small ancillary hall at Kettering Leisure Village (KLV). This was subject to a number of conditions including the submission and agreement of a business plan for the new facility.

A separate report considering the business plan is contained at item 11b on this agenda (as an exempt item of business).

Members have expressed a desire to expedite a decision on this project. Against this background, the timescale against which this report has been prepared is shown below:

- a. First meeting of project team on 25<sup>th</sup> February.
- b. Receipt of final project plan on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The project team has met on three occasions and, between this, there have been frequent meetings and communications with officers about financial projections, pre-planning application discussions and heads of terms.
- c. 12<sup>th</sup> April the final report of the Best Value Review of Leisure Culture and Sport Task and Finish Group was accepted by the Policy and Improvement Committee.

A number of issues have emerged during this process, and effectively given this timescale and Members' desire to progress this project, this report (together with the exempt report at item 11b) has been prepared with a considerable degree of urgency.

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#### 4. THEATRE PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the theatre auditorium be constructed in the existing ancillary hall with a capacity of 600 seats, plus a small studio theatre of 110 seats. There would need to be a planning application for this conversion. This would improve the asset at KLV.

#### 5. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

The theatre users group has given evidence to the Best Value Leisure, Culture and Sport Task and Finish Group and to the Local Strategic Partnership Culture Panel which has supported the need a for community theatre to replace the McKinlay theatre when it closes as part of the upgrading of the Tresham Institute.

The project plan for the development of this facility at KLV includes consultation with local residents, Theatre Users Group, users of KLV and ward councillors.

#### 6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

To provide opportunities for local people to enjoy the professional arts in their own communities, and to become involved in arts activities at a local level. The proposal contributes to action 1C1 of the Corporate Priorities 2005/06 which is to modernise service provision for all sections of the community, working in partnership with other service providers.

#### 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the committee considers any representations made by members of the public prior to the consideration of exempt report 11b.

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Background Papers:

Previous Reports/Minutes:

**Title of Document:**

**Best Value Review of Leisure, Culture and Sport  
Executive 16<sup>th</sup> February 2005 Ref:A04/009**

**Best Value Review of Leisure Culture and Sport – final report of the Task and Finish  
Group**

**Policy and Improvement Committee 12 April 2005 :**

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