
Report of the Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer

To: Member Management Committee

Date: 13 April 2010

Subject: West Yorkshire Playhouse Change to Board Arrangements

Electoral Wards Affected:
City and Hunslet

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1. Purpose

To inform Member Management Committee of the West Yorkshire Playhouse proposal to change its Governance Board, to identify the implication for Leeds City Council and seek recommendations for the newly Constituted Board.

2. Background

West Yorkshire Playhouse have for a number of years been governed by a very large Board. The Board consists of 4 Leeds City Council Members and 15 independent members. The current constitution allows for 25 Board members and there has until recently been a Board of 21).

Their main funder, The Arts Council, has raised concerns about whether a Board this large was fit for purpose and able to discharge their requirements and responsibilities flexibly and quickly in the current restrictive economic climate.

3. Proposal

West Yorkshire Playhouse has worked with various partners, including the Council, to develop governance arrangements which fit the widely respected Nolan principles and the requirements of The Charities Commission. Their newly reconstituted Board will have 11 Members plus a chair.

Leeds City Council is requested to nominate two Councillors to the new Board. The Playhouse has developed a skills matrix and it is hoped the Councillors proposed match the key skills.

4. Consultation

The proposal has been discussed with Councillor Andrew Carter in his position as Leader.

5. Financial and Legal Implications

None.

6. Recommendation

The Member Management Committee recommends two Councillors to take their places on the newly constructed West Yorkshire Playhouse Board.

7. Background Papers

None