

CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY			
<b>Report Title</b>	Broadway Theatre Working Group		
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No.	4
<b>Ward</b>	All Wards		
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director of Community Services, Executive Director of Resources & Regeneration		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date:	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2015

## 1. Summary & Purpose

1. This report proposes the establishment of a time limited member led working group to consider the future of the Broadway Theatre.

## 2. Recommendation

That the Constitutional Working Party agrees to recommend to the Council that it establish a time limited member led working group to consider the future of the Broadway Theatre and appoints members to it accordingly.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel agreed at a meeting held on Tuesday 17 February 2015 to refer the proposed saving to the Broadway Theatre to Mayor and Cabinet with a request that consideration be made of the creation of a member led working group to investigate all options for the future of the Broadway Theatre.
- 3.2 The Mayor considered this referral at Mayor & Cabinet on 18 February 2015 and the response agreed was that the Mayor said he believed a member group could be of some value and he would consider the best way to progress the suggestion, as long as any group created began with a complete briefing encompassing the long history of the theatre.
- 3.3 The basis of the savings proposal for the Broadway Theatre was a reduction in the theatre programme and staffing levels. This proposal was in response to the current limitations of the building, growing concerns about managing the current level of operation safely and the need to make savings. The Mayor accepted the savings proposal for the Broadway Theatre and a reduction to the theatre programme until such time as external investment could be found.
- 3.4 The Broadway Theatre is a Grade II listed building, opened in 1932. Improvements to Front of House areas were made 15 years ago, but the auditoria (both the 800-seat main house and the 80-seat studio theatre) and all backstage areas have remained substantially untouched for many decades, resulting in considerable deterioration. An example of this can be seen in the results from water penetration

in the basement and main auditorium ceiling

- 3.5 The Theatre sits at the heart of Catford and will play an essential role in the regeneration of the area. The long term future of the building has been entwined with the emerging plans for Catford over many years. The Council has recognised that this important building is in need of significant investment but until the masterplan for Catford is agreed it has not been possible to bring forward detailed investment plans for the building due to the interdependencies with other buildings and the road network. Work on the Catford Masterplan has significantly progressed and should enable the council to start the first phase of fundraising to address issues with the fabric of the listed building within the next 12 months.

#### **4. Broadway Theatre Working Group**

- 4.1 It is proposed that a proposed that a Broadway Theatre Working Group be established with the following terms of reference and composition:-

“Without prejudice to the remit of the Safer Stronger Select Committee, to explore any proposals for the future of the Broadway Theatre over the course of the municipal year 2015/16.

To make any comments it considers appropriate about those proposals to the Mayor and Cabinet.

The Working Group will consist of 6 members (7 if the councillor outside the majority party wishes to sit on the Group) and will cease to exist at the end of May 2016”.

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 The Council may establish working groups for time limited purposes if it considers it appropriate to do so.

#### **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising.

#### **Background documents and originator**

- Mayor & Cabinet minutes and OSBP Referral 17 February 2015

If there are any queries on this report please contact Liz Dart 02083146115.