

Report To: Performance Scrutiny

Date of Meeting: 19 May 2011

Lead Member: Councillor Pauline Dobbs, Lead Member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Arwyn Jones, Lead officer: Libraries, Archives & Arts

Report Author: Philip Hughes, Director Ruthin Craft Centre
Arwyn Jones, Lead officer: Libraries, Archives & Arts

Title: Ruthin Craft Centre

1. What is the report about?

To update members on the Ruthin Craft Centre and provide information on its financial position in going forward.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Scrutiny Members requested a presentation on the Council's future funding proposals for the Ruthin Craft Centre and information on the measures taken to improve the offer available at the gateway to the Centre and its Interpretation Centre. Particular reference was made to the exemplary Exhibitions programme in the main gallery, but the Committee also requested further clarity on certain aspects of the Ruthin Craft Centre, namely the Interpretation Centre and the garden. This report seeks to address those issues.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Scrutiny Members note the increased level of ACW investment in Denbighshire via the Ruthin Craft Centre, as a centre for excellence for the presentation of contemporary applied arts in Wales.

4. Report details

Redevelopment of the Ruthin Craft Centre

Ruthin Craft Centre was successfully re-launched in 2008 following a £4.4m capital redevelopment programme. The project was delivered on time and within budget, and overall feedback from funders and stakeholders is that it has surpassed expectations. The architectural design attracted several awards, and is an attraction in itself. Many different groups visit to look at the building, eg on May 7th the North West of England Branch of the Twentieth Century Society are visiting (50+ people) for a talk on the centre and tea in the restaurant.

5. Following its recent Investment Review of funding for the arts, the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) has now confirmed its uplift grant of £400,000 per annum to the Ruthin Craft Centre for three years from April 2011.

The ACW funding recognises Ruthin Craft Centre as a strategically important centre for the crafts in Wales, acknowledging that:

“From its inception in 1982 as a small multi-functional craft centre, Ruthin Craft Centre has grown to be a major venue for contemporary applied arts with a national and international reputation. The £4.4m capital re-development and its re-launch in July 2008 has enabled the Centre to confirm its position as the flagship for the applied arts in Wales. Arguably, it can also claim to be one of the most important exhibition spaces for craft in the UK.”

Exhibitions

6. The venue has rapidly gained an excellent profile for the presentation of national and international exhibitions, such as:
 - a. **Treasures of the 21st Century**, the Contemporary Silver exhibition from Goldsmiths’ Hall, London which attracted 21,670 visitors
 - b. **Smile**, the popular summer exhibition exploring humour, attracted 22,760 visitors

Ruthin Craft Centre’s exhibitions continue to attract substantial visitors into Denbighshire, and several of the exhibitions are currently on tour are at venues throughout the UK. **Silverstruck** is now showing at the National Museum Cardiff, **Smile** continues its well publicised UK tour at Harley Gallery, Nottingham shire, **Anni Albers Design Pioneer** is at the Meed Gallery in Warwick, following on from its showing with **Influenced by...** at Dovecot in Edinburgh, and **The Curious World of Becky Adams** is on show at the Mission Gallery Swansea;

Education Officer

7. With the aid of Arts Council Beacon funding, the appointment of an Education Officer has ensured that a range of education projects are being delivered with funding from a variety of sources (including the Princes Trust Start programme, ACW, Engage and the Open University). The education programme is diverse with projects ranging from Primary and Secondary Schools workshops to student masterclasses and specialist study days. **Raising the Bar** is an innovative project involving 6th form pupils from 5 Denbighshire Secondary Schools, and **Lost in Art** elicited significant praise from the Engage collaboration working with people with dementia.

Studios

8. The 6 Studios are now full, two of which are delivering externally funded projects: the Cauldrons and Furnaces, a Cultural Olympiad project (to mid 2012) and Laura Thomas, an ACW funded Creative Wales Ambassador in Residence (to end of 2011). Ruthin Craft Centre has also gained a further ACW funded Creative Wales Ambassador in Residence for Eleri Mills (ACW’s only award this year).

Grounds

9. The grounds are enjoyed by many – several families picnicking on the grass and under the shade provided by the established trees over recent good weather, with particularly good comments received about the delightful courtyard blossom (Magnolia and Cherry) display in late March and early April, and this in spite of the extremely harsh winter that has affected some of the periwinkle beds in the car park. Visitor feedback on the courtyard and general grounds are unanimously positive.

Cultural Gateway and Tourist Information Point (TIP)

10. The Ruthin Craft Centre Cultural Gateway looks at the culture of Wales through films by artists, in addition to providing information leaflets about Denbighshire and North Wales through the Tourist Information Point. Funding for the previously staffed Tourist Information Centre (TIC) was withdrawn in 2006, whilst the TIP offers a free telephone to the staffed TICs at Llangollen and Rhyl, and North Wales Tourism's List of Approved Accommodation is regularly updated and available in the TIP.

Visit Wales funded the Cultural Gateway as part of the Centre's re-development to show artists' films about North Wales. The next film, in collaboration with the National Library Aberystwyth (one of the two other 'Gateways' in Wales), will be launched later this year, once funding to produce the film is finalised. Short excerpts from the films are shown on the RCC website — the full artists films are only viewable by visiting the Cultural Gateway at Ruthin Craft Centre.

Revenue Funding and Arts Council of Wales investment

11. Denbighshire contributed £94,000 (16%) revenue funding to the Ruthin Craft Centre in 2010/11 – which covers NNDR and contributes to some of the staffing costs, with an additional £10,000 to fund the Cultural Gateway / Tourist Information Point. All other staffing and running costs, including the exhibition and education programme costs, are externally funded by the Arts Council of Wales and others. For example, Ruthin Craft Centre successfully levered £150,000 funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation over a three-year period, and is proactive in generating income and securing funding on an ongoing basis.
12. In moving forward, the Arts Council of Wales's (ACW) principal goal is that the £400,000 funding for the Ruthin Craft Centre from 2011/12 onwards should allow the organisation to thrive, not merely survive. For ACW, key to this is ensuring that the full 'value' of next year's investment is realised: they have set out their requirements in a new monitoring framework and Ruthin Craft Centre reports to ACW through that process.

Denbighshire's Efficiency Agenda

13. Denbighshire's Efficiency Plan has identified year on year reductions for the Ruthin Craft Centre, with the 2011/12 budget reduced by £20,000. Discussions are taking place with the Arts Council of Wales regarding the impact of this, and future budget reductions, on the level of the ACW annual revenue funding for the Ruthin Craft Centre. This will need careful

management, respecting the Arts Council of Wales's significant prior investment into Denbighshire to develop this major new facility.

Centre of Excellence

14. Ruthin Craft Centre has come to be recognised as a centre of excellence. The gallery holds a unique place in Wales as the only space that solely dedicates its programme to the presentation of contemporary applied arts. Its continued success is attributed to the visionary approach of a small team of staff who research, curate and cultivate creative partnerships. The Centre's presence on the international scene is an asset for Wales, and the touring exhibition is renowned across the gallery sector.

Extract from The Arts Council of Wales' Annual Review 2009

15. "The centre has made a significant contribution to the development of craft in Wales. Its director has led the organisation to success through a clear artistic vision and a commitment to best practice. Professionalism runs across the whole of their activities from retail to publishing, touring and curating. Their professional network is impressive and the level of collaborations goes well beyond what would be expected of a regional centre. They have managed to capture the imagination of people and created an established brand that is recognised and appeals to audiences, artists and curators nationwide."

16. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Ruthin Craft Centre contributes to the regeneration priority by attracting in the region of 90,000 visitors into Denbighshire each year. It also provides employment, directly and indirectly, through the Café, the Studios, etc, to approximately 30 individuals.

17. What consultations have been carried out?

The Arts Council of Wales (ACW) have been consulted regarding Denbighshire's efficiency agenda.

18. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The Arts Council of Wales, as the major stakeholder, is anxious that its uplift grant in 2011/12 is utilised to deliver a quality exhibition programme rather than to provide an opportunity for the hosting authority to reduce its financial contribution. Ruthin Craft Centre is confident that it can deliver its approved programme in 2011/12, despite the £20,000 reduction in Denbighshire's financial contribution placing additional pressures on the Centre's financial turnover and income generation capacity. However, the Arts Council of Wales has implied that further reduction in revenue funding by the host authority could jeopardise the ACW funding in future years. The impact of grant reductions and/or withdrawal will need careful consideration at the next Service Challenge and budget rounds.

19. Power to make the Decision

No decision required.

Report To: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 May 2011

Report Author: Democratic Services Manager

Title: Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 This report is the first report to the Committee as a new Scrutiny committee structure is being introduced in May 2011. It contains the forward work programme inherited by the Committee from the previous scrutiny committees (appendix 1), together with issues which are relevant to the Committee's business.
- 1.2 The latest Cabinet forward work programme will be circulated during the week beginning 16 May.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Committee reviews its forward work programme at every ordinary meeting. The new Performance, Partnerships and Communities Scrutiny Committees have 'themed' remits which can mean that a particular topic might be suitable for the remit of more than one of the Scrutiny Committees. The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Group would be able to assist in the allocation of topics in the event of uncertainty or dispute.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

- (a) Considers the Work Programme for the Performance Scrutiny Committee as contained in Appendix 1 and approves or amends as necessary;
- (b) Confirms that a maximum of 4 report items plus the Committee's work programme report will generally be considered acceptable for a single meeting; and
- (c) Endorses the continued use of the 'proposal form' (appendix 2) in order to provide members with relevant information about the contents and purpose of reports suggested by officers to deliver a member-led agenda.

4. Report details.

4.1 Committee members are recommended to review the issues listed in the draft forward work programme (appendix 1) for future meetings, taking into consideration:-

- Relevance to the Committee's / Council's / community priorities
- Meeting workload
- Timeliness
- Outcomes
- Key issues and information to be included
- Officers and / or lead Cabinet members who should be invited
- Questions to be put to officers / lead Cabinet members.

4.2 By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda. The Committee is recommended to consider no more than 4 report items (plus the Committee's forward work programme) at any one meeting. The Performance Scrutiny Committee is also requested to confirm the continued use of the 'proposal form' previously endorsed by all of the Scrutiny Committees. The form is an effective way to provide members with relevant information about the contents and purpose of reports suggested by officers to deliver a member-led agenda.

4.3 The Council's constitution advises that the Performance Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference are as follows.

Scrutinising the performance of the Council and the achievement of its objectives, including:

- Budget and corporate financial matters
- Performance management
- Financial performance of schools
- Corporate plan
- Corporate policies
- Capital programme
- Information and communications technology
- Health and safety
- Equalities, complaints and communications strategy and the Welsh language policy

4.4 With the new 'themed' scrutiny committees any given topic (including some of the above) may be eligible for consideration by more than one scrutiny committee. The allocation of those topics should be made after considering whether the matters under consideration are largely performance, partnership or community issues.

4.5 The constitution states that where a matter overlaps between two or more Scrutiny Committees, this will not limit the area of responsibility of either committee, but the Chairs and Vice Chairs Group should agree on a programme of work to avoid duplication.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The maintenance of a coordinated work programme assists the Council in monitoring and reviewing issues, and the Scrutiny Committee's role extends to scrutinising and reviewing the development, implementation and outcomes of the corporate priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Services may need to allocate officer time to assist the Committee in the activities identified in the forward work programme.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

Members of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Group were consulted on the initial allocation of reports inherited from the previous committees.

8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are no identifiable risks resulting from reviewing the forward work programme.

9. Power to make the Decision

The Constitution of Denbighshire County Council requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work.

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Note: Items entered in italics have not been approved for submission by the Committee. Such reports are listed here for information, pending formal approval.

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
30 June	1				
8 September	1 Performance Appraisals in Schools [may form part of wider QPR report] (Co-opted members required)	To review the effectiveness of the staff performance appraisal system in schools	Evaluation of the effectiveness / recommendations for improvements	Karen Evans	December 2010
20 October	1 Scala Business Plan Update (representatives of the Scala Board invited to attend) (Part II)	To monitor the progress of the Scala Co Ltd in delivering its business plan and to update members on the progress made in resolving issues relating to the building	(i) effective scrutiny of the progress made by the Scala Co Ltd in delivering its business plan; and (ii) identification of any potential risks and measures to mitigate against future risks	Jamie Groves/Alistair McNab	February 2011
	2 Llangollen Royal International Pavilion and Site (Part II)	To scrutinise the progress made in resolving liability issues and securing a viable future for the asset	An evaluation of the short and medium term financial plans for the site will enable an assessment to be made of site's overall sustainability and the identification of additional works/costs that may be necessary to enhance the venue's contribution to the regeneration priority	Jamie Groves	February 2011

Meeting		Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
1 December	1	Adult and Business Services Restructure	To inform the Committee of the progress to date with respect of the Service restructuring exercise	An evaluation of the impact of the new structure in terms of the planned outcomes and the benefits to the Service and service users	Neil Ayling/Sue Wright	March 2011
	2	Asset Management Action Plan	Monitoring the progress of complying with recommendation 9 (outstanding recommendation) of the Action Plan	Full compliance with the WAO recommendations in respect on land and buildings management	Paul McGrady	April 2011
12 January 2012						
23 February						
5 April						
17 May (provisionally)						

Meeting	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
External Examinations and Teacher Assessments 2010 – 2011 (Co-opted members required)	To review the performance of schools	Scrutiny of performance leading to recommendations for improvement	Julian Molloy	January 2011
Progress regarding the delegation of budgets and services to schools (Co-opted members required)	To review the delegation of funds and implications	Scrutinise the Council's level of delegation and impact on service delivery / schools	Carly Wilson	March 2011

Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author	Date Entered
Information (circulation April/May 2011)	Clwyd Pension Fund	A summary of the recommendations made by the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission following its review of public service pension provision and their consequential implications for the Clwyd Pension Fund (Local Government Pension Scheme)	Philip Latham/Kath Meacock	January 2011
Information	Establishment of a Foundation Modern Apprenticeship Scheme	To update the Committee on the establishment of a foundation level modern apprenticeship scheme within the Council and to inform members of the progress being made in assisting children in care and care leavers to	Vicky Allen	March 2009

		access work opportunities, gain skills for employment and achieve better outcomes and expectations		
Regular Information report to be submitted every 12 weeks (next due April/May 2011)	Children's Services Performance Monitoring	To update the Committee on the performance of Children's Services against those PIs and outcome measures which are registering as 'red' and 'amber'. To scrutinise and evaluate the referral and assessment process within the Service to ensure that it is improving outcomes for children and families	Leighton Rees/Craig MacLeod	July 2010 (rescheduled Jan 2011)
Information Report September 2011	Evaluation of the impact of the use of the additional resources given to schools in 2010 / 2011 (circulate to the Co-opted members)	To evaluate whether the anticipated outcomes from the projects and activities in schools that were awarded additional funding were achieved. This report follows from the Committee's review in September 2010.	Carly Tobin / Karen Evans	Sept 2010
Information October 2011	Corporate Energy Efficiency	(i) Information on the Council's progress with respect to energy efficiency; and (ii) emerging proposals for increasing energy efficiency through investment via the Authority's capital programme	Helen Burkhalter/Robert Jones/Paul McGrady	April 2011
Information December 2011	The 2011 AS level examination results / transformation agenda (circulate to the Co-opted members)	Information to help ascertain the impact of the transformation of post 16 education and training in Denbighshire on those results	John Gambles	November 2010
Information February 2012	Housing Stock Refurbishment Update	Progress update on the Council's WQHS Refurbishment Programme to include expected completion dates for the final phase, tenant satisfaction rates and	Peter McHugh/Siôn R Evans	April 2011

		whether the whole programme was contained within budget. Details also to be provided of the rolling programme of future refurbishment/updating work on the Council's housing stock		
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12/05/2011

Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
30 June	16 June	8 September	25 August	October	6 October

Performance Scrutiny Work Programme.doc

PROPOSAL FORM FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEES		
NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
DATE OF MEETING / TIMESCALE FOR CONSIDERATION		
TITLE OF REPORT		
P U R P O S E	1. Why is the report being proposed? (see also the checklist overleaf)	
	2. What issues are to be scrutinised?	
	3. Is it necessary/desirable for witnesses to attend e.g. lead members, officers/external experts?	
	4. What will the committee achieve by considering the report?	
	5. Score the topic from 0 – 4 on aims & priorities and impact (see overleaf)*	Aims & Priorities
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS		
REPORTING PATH – what is the next step? Are Scrutiny’s recommendations to be reported elsewhere?		
AUTHOR		

Please complete the following checklist:

	Yes	No
Is the topic already being addressed satisfactorily?		
Is Scrutiny likely to result in service improvements or other measurable benefits?		
Does the topic concern a poor performing service or a high budgetary commitment?		
Are there adequate resources / realistic possibility of adequate resources to achieve the objective(s)?		
Is the Scrutiny activity timely, i.e. will scrutiny be able to recommend changes to the service delivery, policy, strategy, etc?		
Is the topic linked to corporate or scrutiny aims and priorities?		
Has the topic been identified as a risk in the Joint Risk Assessment / is it subject to an external auditor report?		

*The following table is to be used to guide the scores given:

Score	Aims & Priorities	Impact
0	No links to corporate/scrutiny aims and priorities	No potential benefits
1	No links to corporate/scrutiny aims and priorities but a subject of high public concern	Minor potential benefits affecting only one ward/customer/client group
2	Some evidence of links, but indirect	Minor benefits to two groups/moderate benefits to one
3	Good evidence linking the topic to both aims and priorities	Moderate benefits to more than one group/substantial benefits to one
4	Strong evidence linking both aims and priorities, and has a high level of public concern	Substantial community-wide benefits

SCORING

Aims & Priorities

4	Possible topic for Scrutiny – to be timetabled appropriately	Priority topic for Scrutiny – for urgent consideration
3		
2	Reject topic for Scrutiny – topic to be circulated to members for information purposes	Possible topic for Scrutiny – to be timetabled appropriately
1		

0 1 2 3 4

Impact

Report To: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 May 2011

**Lead Officer &
Report Author: Head of Internal Audit & Risk Management**

Title: Corporate Risk Register

1. What is the report about?

This report provides details of the latest Corporate Risk Register

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide Members with information on the Council's current corporate risks

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members consider the Corporate Risk Register and decide whether the Committee should receive further reports from the relevant Head of Service on the management of specific risks.

4. Report details

We normally develop the Council's Corporate Risk Register from the risk registers produced by each service and by Corporate Executive Team (CET). However, we have not fully completed this process during 2010/11, as CET is to review its strategic risk register as part of a corporate review of risk management that is about to commence.

Therefore, the Corporate Risk Register attached to this report only contains those key risks identified by services. We will bring it fully up to date over the next couple of months following the completion of the risk management review.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Robust and effective risk management contributes to good corporate governance and service delivery that will contribute to the delivery of all corporate priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There will inevitably be a cost attached to managing risks, but this is part of day-to-day management as services build the actions into their business planning process.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

We have discussed the Corporate Risk Register with CET and the Chairs of Scrutiny Group, as well as presenting this same report to Lifelong Learning Scrutiny in April 2011.

8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Risks and actions are included in the Corporate Risk Register. The Internal Audit Strategy for 2011/12 will ensure that all high risks are reviewed to ensure that they are being managed effectively.

9. Power to make the Decision

N/A