

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Strategic Commissioning
DATE	6 October 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen Performing Arts - ALEO Annual Report 2020/2021
REPORT NUMBER	COM/21/229
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Craig Innes
REPORT AUTHOR	Craig Innes
TERMS OF REFERENCE	4.4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the annual reporting of Aberdeen Performance Arts (APA) covering financial year 2020/2021.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the Aberdeen Performing Arts ALEO Annual Report appended to this report for the Council's interests.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 APA is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status established as an Arm's Length External Organisation ("ALEO") of the Council in 2004. APA operates the Music Hall, His Majesty's Theatre and The Lemon Tree, as well as managing the Box Office for 20+ venues in the region.
- 3.2 APA operations have obviously been hit hard due the pandemic and this has impacted significantly the programme of events that APA would normally deliver. During a 'normal year' APA delivers a diverse programme of performing arts at small, mid and large scale including touring drama, musical theatre, children's theatre, opera, ballet, dance, comedy and music across the venues. Alongside this programme, APA produces and commissions new work under the banner of Freshly Squeezed Productions, supports and provides a platform for emerging talent in the North-east, runs an associate artist programme in schools and communities, curates two festivals, runs a youth theatre and youth music programme, offers creative learning activity for all ages and abilities and supports the local amateur arts scene. APA is an active member of 'Culture Aberdeen', the city's cultural network and a leading partner in the development of the ten-year cultural strategy and action plan for the city which was endorsed by The Council in 2018. APA also deliver 3 festivals; True North music festival, crime writing festival Granite Noir and Light the Blue, a youth arts festival celebrating the talent and creativity of young people across the region.

3.2 The revised performance template provides an overview of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and what has been achieved against these targets for the financial year 2020/2021. The report provides evidence of APA's delivery against their business plan objectives but also contributions to the City's cultural strategy, the Regional Economic Strategy and the LOIP.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. For 2020/2021 the Council provided core funding of £985,000 to APA.

4.2 APA is a regular funded organisation of Creative Scotland for 2018-21, bringing in £1m over the 3 years of the funding agreement.

4.5 APA has a turnover of over £10m per year, and as one of Scotland's biggest performing arts companies, manages some of the city's most iconic buildings. However the turnover has been significantly impacted during a year when operations were forced to close.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risks reflect the 20/21 reporting period covered and there is ongoing monitoring of the current position through the ALEO Assurance Hub and the financial position reporting to the City Growth & Resources Committee.

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	N/A		
Compliance	N/A		
Operational	APA staff not being supported.	L	The annual report and ALEO hub monitoring process ensures and demonstrates good practice.
	APA providing poor services to customers.	L	The annual report demonstrates to the Committee APA's commitment to customer service.
	Box office services failure, APA provides service to a number of organisations.	L	Any risk is mitigated by effective maintenance of the system.

Financial	Not applicable to this report, funding agreement is set as per the Council annual budget setting process.	N/A	APA financial performance and risk is monitored through service contract manager and ALEO hub assurance framework.
Reputational	Poor performance and programme by APA could impact the Council's reputation.	L	The annual report enables the Committee to review the service performance and note the high level of activity and accolades achieved.
Environment / Climate	APA activity negatively impacts on the Council's environmental priorities.	L	The annual report sets out APA's commitment to environmental good practice and reducing carbon footprint.

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	APA contributes significantly to the Economy of the North East of Scotland and this is articulated in the Business Plan.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Audience development, talent development, succession planning and staff development are articulated in the business plan. APA strives to increase the diversity of its board members.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The Music Hall redevelopment is a key deliverable of the CCMP (City Centre Masterplan) and APA manages three of the city's most iconic venues, and festivals with a growing reputation enhancing the perception of the city. APA are represented on the 365 Events group and the Culture network.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

10. APPENDICES

- **Appendix 1** – Aberdeen Performing Arts ALEO Annual Report 2020/21

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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