

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Town Centres</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>RERF - Westgate Chambers</b>
4.	<b>Programme Area:</b>	<b>Environment and Development Services</b>

### 5. **Summary**

This report seeks approval of allocation of £10,000 RERF revenue funding to support the leasing and refurbishment of Westgate Chamber for use by ROAR as studio and rehearsal space.

### 6. **Recommendations**

**That £10,000 of RERF revenue be approved to fund the leasing and refurbishment of space within Westgate Chambers.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance's (ROAR) focus is on securing premises, central to Rotherham Town Centre, from where mixed Arts and Community engagement programmes can be delivered and to where the community can access ROAR's and ROAR members' services. The site selected is Westgate Chambers, on the top floor of Westgate Buildings.

ROAR intends to lease this space and refurbish it to be able to rent out space for a variety of purposes for:

- Up to 10 low cost Studio spaces for visual artists, as work space. Potentially workspaces may support retail outlets in Imperial Buildings. This will act both as incubator space and development space to support the growth of local creative businesses.
- Flexible workspace to support local creative businesses in the delivery of projects or regular classes E.g. Saturday morning painting class.
- Dedicated rehearsal space for both professional and community performance projects.
- Workshop space for community visual arts and craft projects.
- Supported office space, including hot desking, for local arts organisations, ROAR members and local professional and aspiring artists.

In addition the space would be a base for ROAR to pursue developmental and other projects to generate income for the organisation, e.g. management of networks, management of public art projects and events.

ROAR have been awarded £50,000 from the People's Millions for funding towards this project, this was awarded through a popular vote. However, this funding is conditional on match funding being secured, which is being sought from RERF and must be confirmed by the end of March 2011.

ROAR are also applying to Arts Council England Grants for £60,000 towards the continuation of the Chief Executive post in ROAR and have been encouraged to apply to the National Portfolio scheme to become Rotherham's first Regularly Funded Organisation, and are applying for £210,000 over three years from 2012 – 2015 to continue the work of the business and move it to a position of sustainability.

## 8. Finance

Revenue		10,000	-		10,000
<b>TOTAL RERF</b>		<b>10,000</b>	-	-	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Other Funding Sources</b>					
People's Millions		50,000			50,000
Arts Council of England			60,000		60,000
Earned income			12,750	25,500	38,250
					-
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDING</b>		<b>50,000</b>	<b>72,750</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>148,250</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>60,000</b>	<b>72,750</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>158,250</b>

There is currently £89,032 of revenue money available under the RERF programme, sufficient to fund this project. A further revenue allocation of £75,000 has also been approved for 2011/12

#### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There are the usual risks associated with construction work. This will be mitigated against through ongoing project management arrangements.

#### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The project will contribute to the following priorities of the Rotherham Community Strategy:-

- Promote business start ups, growth and inward investment
- Revitalise the town centre
- Encourage more widespread participation in, and enjoyment of, culture and sport

#### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

The recent Rotherham Open Arts Festival run by ROAR member company, Rotherham Culture Company, in the temporary events and exhibition space in the Old Market adjacent to Westgate Chambers attracted 3500 in audiences. 424 new young people attended these workshops throughout September with a total of 1946 attendances overall. Many comments were in favour of further work and permanent space of this kind.

RMBC Finance have been consulted on the project

A copy of the full RERF application form for this project is available on request.

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