

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	30/05/12
Originator	Principal Arts Officer
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Professional Development - Attendance at Cultural Events & Performances

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Tom Shearer
Designation	Head of Policy Partnerships
Date	31/05/12

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**DATE:**

**BY:** Head of Policy & Partnerships

**SUBJECT:** Professional Development – Attendance at Cultural Events & Performances

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval for the attendance at cultural events as part of the professional development of Arts Service staff.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To approve the use of a proportion of the training budget for attendance at cultural events for the Arts Service staff.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Arts Service staff programme and commission artists and Arts organisations to deliver a range of activities, performances and events at a wide range of venues throughout East Lothian, including the Brunton Theatre.
- 3.2 The artists and Arts organisations that are contracted to deliver work for the Council often perform or exhibit their work outwith the county and it is often necessary for Arts Service staff to view the work before offering contracts for work within East Lothian.
- 3.3 Arts Service staff also have to make judgements about the quality and suitability of artistic work that is offered by artists and Arts organisations. In order to do this competently, it is good practice for the staff to be fully abreast of current practices and new developments within the Arts by attending performances and exhibitions. By attending high quality events and performances of this nature, Arts Service staff are also encouraged to programme and commission work of a high standard for the county.
- 3.4 The nature of the performances that Arts Service staff would view would tend to be dance, theatre or music. Additionally, exhibitions of artists work could cover visual arts, crafts or mixed media.
- 3.5 Attendance at events and performances would be undertaken on an annual basis and the cost of attendance would include items such as entry tickets, travel and, if necessary, accommodation.

- 3.6 It is anticipated that the sum required per annum to be used from the existing training budget to undertake this activity would be to a maximum of £500.
- 3.7 Approval to attend performances and events and budget monitoring would be undertaken through the line manager and would form part of the PRD process.

#### 4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

East Lothian Council supports staff development through the PRD process. By responding to requests to attend artistic events and conferences, this will enable staff to:-

- Broaden their own awareness of current trends and developments.
- Build knowledge, confidence and talents within the staff team.
- Build greater participation for East Lothian residents in high quality Arts experiences.
- Support learning through maximising opportunities through involvement in cultural activities and events.

#### 5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

#### 6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Financial** – Funding for this professional and personal development would be £500 per year and will be funded out of the existing training budget.
- 6.2 **Personnel** - As stated above, approval to attend performances and events would be undertaken through the line manager and would form part of the PRD process.
- 6.3 **Other** – This proposal plays a role in supporting staff to deliver high quality Arts activities for the benefit of East Lothian residents. Arts activities provide invaluable experiences that are enjoyable, entertaining and educational and have a positive impact on the well being of the community.

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Lesley Smith
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Principal Arts Officer
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	Tel: 0131 653 5240 E-Mail: lsmith@eastlothian.gov.uk
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