



CFO name: Theatre Babel		Reference number (GMS):G200801093	
Lead officer's recommendation			
<p>Theatre Babel (TB)'s main strategic importance is the type of work it produces. Its strengths are consistent good (or better) quality and proven demand for its work, including internationally. TB has a commitment to ensuring access to its production by smaller scale venues, but some of the scale of its work precludes this. This needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis. There is room for development within the area of education.</p> <p>TB's artistic director (who will direct the entire planned programme) is now co-director of Perth Theatre. It is unclear what effect (if any) this will have on TB.</p> <p>TB is reasonably well managed but there are some areas of development (see above).</p> <p>There are no significant risks attached to TB. Under optimum recommend funding at standstill level plus inflation. The case for its proposed additional activity is not robust for either proposed project.</p> <p>Under standstill not recommend for funding. If it is recognised that it is strategically important for good/excellent classics to be available to the public TB is not the only or necessarily the most effective method of delivering this and does not represent the best value for money. Other companies can (and could be incentivised to) produce classics of comparable quality and accessibility, sometimes using the same artists as TB.</p> <p>These include Royal Lyceum, Citizens, Dundee Rep, Arches, benchtours (and project companies, including non-Scottish based.) Additionally, these companies have a more integrated approach to education and in some cases a stronger proven commitment and ability to serve promoters at all scales and across the country.</p>			
Assessment:			Low
Areas of concern:			
Impact of artistic director also working at Perth Theatre—not necessarily a concern but not addressed Clarification of re-constitution of TB required Education			
Development issues:			
Governance (implementation of Board renewal and expansion of expertise); clarification of reconstitution of TB; education; implementation of review of financial reporting; delivery of product to smaller scale and more geographically diverse promoters; implementation of reserves policy			
Lead Officer: Jaine Lumsden		Date: 28 November 2005	
Print name:			

Decision and authorisation			
CFO name: Theatre Babel		Reference number (GMS): G200801093	
Stage 2: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the sector ecosystem			
Category for support		Important	
<p>Theatre Babel fulfils an important role, by touring classic work. However, its reach is not very high in terms of touring outside of the Central Belt on a regular basis to benefit wider audiences in Scotland. I believe that under a standstill scenario, the function of routing mid-scale classics could be undertaken by existing CFOs and hence extending the CFOs capacity to produce and at the same time providing programme for presenting venues and other producing theatres. Therefore it is recommended that core funding for Theatre Babel would discontinue under standstill and reduced scenarios.</p>			
Decision authorised:			
Head of Department David Taylor		Date : 1 December 2005	
Print name:			

Stage 3: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the Corporate Synthesised scenario			
CFO name: Theatre Babel		Reference number (GMS): G200801093	
Category for support		Flexible	
<p>Theatre Babel has a good track record in producing work of quality and has had some success in international touring. However, its essential function is to produce, on average, one classic play a year. It is not judged that its artistic distinctiveness is such that it would clearly fit into the category of artist-led, or as making a major contribution to artform development. However, there is demand for well-produced classic plays and this function could be undertaken by one or more of the Foundation Organisations including Perth Theatre, and discussions on these options should be open with appropriate FOs.</p>			
Recommendation authorised:			
Head of Department		Date 14.2.06	
Print name: David Taylor			

Stage 4: Group Heads			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Theatre Babel		Reference number (GMS): G200801093	
Category for support		Flexible	
<p>Council's review process has concluded that flexible funding will help to achieve a dynamic in the sector that allows the new artists and companies to have an opportunity to develop and present their work. A key criterion in this will always be artistic quality, not at the expense of the audience interest, but to serve the audience with the best and most challenging work. In this context we agree with the proposal for Theatre Babel to move onto flexible funding, but propose transitional funding which would allow the company to explore their options in these circumstances, in particular the potential for a relationship with one of the Foundation Organisations.</p>			
Decision authorised:			
Group Head Print name: Jim Tough		Date 14.02.06	

Stage 5: Creative Arts / Performing Arts Committee			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Theatre Babel		Reference number (GMS): G200801093	
Category for support		Flexible	
<p>Agreed as per Managers/Group Heads recommendations.</p>			
Committee Chair Print name: Jennifer Waterton		Date 06 February 2006	

Stage 6: Council			
Decision			
CFO name: Theatre Babel		Reference number (GMS): G200801093	
Category for support		Flexible (project)	
<p>Approved flexible (project) funding as per Managers/Group Heads and Committee recommendations</p>			
Chairman Print name: Richard Holloway		Date 28 February 2006	

End of Assessment