

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee  
**DATE:** 8 July 2010  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Adults & Community  
**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of Pantomime Tender  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To report the results of the tendering process for the seasonal pantomime at The Brindley 2010/11.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Members of the Executive Board Sub Committee approve the following recommendations:**

- 1 The contract is awarded to New Pantomime Productions Ltd. for the sum of £84,000;**
- 2. The tendering process to provide pantomimes at The Brindley, for up to three years, from 2011–14 is started with immediate effect.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In March 2010 an advertisement was placed for expressions of interest in providing the seasonal pantomime at The Brindley to run from December 2010 to January 2011.

3.2 From this advertisement seven pre qualification questionnaires were returned. Of these two were from organisations who were not production companies. Two other applicants had no experience of producing pantomimes. Of the remaining three applicants two companies failed the financial checks and were therefore disqualified from tendering. As such, this left New Pantomimes Production Ltd the only company meeting the criteria.

3.3 The seasonal pantomime is the largest and most popular production staged at The Brindley. It attracts The Brindley's biggest audience and covers costs through ticket sales and bar/catering income. In order to ensure that a pantomime takes place this year it was decided to invite the remaining company to tender. To provide a cost comparison and be confident that value for money was being achieved two other comparator's were used: -

- The cost of last year's pantomime that had the same number of performances. In this case the tender submitted is some £6,000 lower than the cost of the previous year's production.
- Two writers/performance directors were invited to submit a proposal to stage a pantomime as a joint production with The Brindley. The initial cost estimate was £116,350. This figure was later reduced but was still higher than the tendered figure. Discussions failed to secure a fixed price.

3.4 The process of achieving comparisons was discussed with legal services. Given the imperative to provide a pantomime this year the course of action undertaken was seen as a pragmatic solution to ensure that the tender was competitive and provided value for money.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

#### 5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The staging of a pantomime production requires a long lead in time. The process was seen through on the original timetable to ensure a pantomime could be staged this year.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.