

Title of Report: Alley Autumn/Winter Programme	Officer Presenting: Head of Culture Author: Arts & Culture Manager
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To inform Members of proposed adjustments to the Alley Autumn/Winter 2020 Programme.

2 Background

- 2.1 Council officers have completed risk assessments and compiled Safe Systems of Work for the Alley Theatre accounting for government Covid-19 guidelines. This exercise has determined the requirement for a significant reduction in seating capacity within the main auditorium amongst other adjustments. Given that these restrictions will be in place for some time the Alley Venue Manager has been in close contact with promoters, artists and performing arts groups currently booked into the 2020 autumn/winter programme. The restrictions mean that the programme, as originally conceived, cannot be delivered.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 There is a requirement to postpone or cancel the majority of performances for the autumn/winter period. The Alley is in the process of confirming these arrangements and will contact patrons regarding their ticket purchases over the coming weeks, offering refunds or rebooking as appropriate.
- 3.2 For a number of other acts, the Alley is currently exploring potential alternative means by which the performance can be delivered within the guidelines. This may include adjustments to seating layouts, patron traffic movements or the utilisation of outdoor spaces. The performers themselves will be subject to strict rules regarding the use of the venue for get in, performance and get out.

- 3.3 Indeed, there are a number of local cultural organisations who have recently indicated a desire to perform in the Alley this coming autumn. They have cited that their desire to perform, despite the difficulties, is based on the wellbeing benefits that their performers and audiences will accrue.
- 3.4 Council Officers are keen to facilitate these groups in a way that is safe for both the performers and patrons. These groups are satisfied that they will be subject to strict instructions regarding the utilisation of the Alley as a performance space.
- 3.5 Council Officers will continue to liaise with these groups and compile a revised autumn/winter programme for the Alley. This programme will focus on the reengagement of audiences and performers utilising considered measures in a safe environment.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 The costs of the revised autumn/winter programme have yet to be finalised. Any identified costs will be met from Member approved budgets.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the revision to the proposed Alley autumn/winter programme.

Background Papers

None.