

## ITEM 6

### THEATRE AND INVESTIGATIONS PANEL

20 MARCH 2000

#### NOTE ON ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY NATIONAL LOTTERY APPLICATION THROUGH THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

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Following extensive discussion with Arts Council Lottery officers throughout 1999, an Advance Notice Form was submitted for the Milton Keynes Theatre and Gallery in autumn 1999. The form notified the Arts Council of the Council's intention to apply for additional supplementary funding in excess of £1million. Southern Arts was also notified about the Council's intention to apply for a further award as it plays a key role in assessing applications within its region. A project number has been consigned to the Council prior to submission of the application in April 2000.

Further meetings with Arts Council officers have taken place during 2000. Although interested and supportive of the success of the new theatre and gallery, officers have stated that the Arts Council is unable to meet all the demand that there is for capital investment. Notably, it is moving into a new phase of capital Lottery funding and will launch a new Capital Programme 2 in autumn 2000. It has agreed a completion plan for its earlier Capital Programme 1, in which Milton Keynes Theatre and Gallery is located, which sets out projects they intend to reserve funds for. Naturally, as an already completed project with over £20 million already awarded, Milton Keynes Theatre and Gallery does not appear on this list.

However, officers have continued to be helpful and supportive to the Council in its endeavours to remedy the overspend issue on the project. They are not allowed under the Lottery rules to give advice, but they have given guidance to us on the procedure for a further supplementary application. The application comprises a detailed form and an extensive amount of reports and supporting information is **Annexed**.

The application will be submitted in April 2000, once all the final facts and figures on the project are available to the Council. An independent external assessor (or possibly two assessors, one for the theatre and one for the gallery) will be appointed in April to undertake a thorough and detailed assessment of the application and project over the subsequent 6 weeks. The assessor's independent report is submitted to the Council for comment and factual correction prior to its submission to Lottery officers at the Arts Council.

Officers then draft their recommendations to the Lottery Panel that takes place in June 2000.

Arts Council officers have indicated that a three-way financial partnership approach to the application will strengthen the Council's case i.e. that both the Council and English Partnerships demonstrate their unequivocal commitment to the project through additional funding packages.

The outstanding success of the project to date, its continuing financial viability, and the profound and deep sense of ownership of the project locally, are all considered to be extremely positive factors by Lottery officers in making the case for additional funding.

In undertaking the application process, it is vital that the Project Director is available to contribute to the Lottery assessment visits and meetings and to assist in the drafting of additional information required by the Arts Council.