



**Rochford District
Council**

REPORT TITLE:	Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre Working Group
REPORT OF:	Phoebe Barnes, Director Assets & Investments

1 REPORT SUMMARY

- 1.1 To establish a working group for the Mill Hall Arts and Events Centre that will report on a regular basis to the Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.
- 1.2 The Council needs to develop a robust evidenced based decision making framework for the future operations of the Mill Hall Arts and Events Centre. It is proposed that formation of the working group will support in assessing and scrutinizing the evidence to help inform future decision making.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members nominate 5 cross party representatives for the Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre Working Group (MHWG).
- 2.2 That the draft terms of reference attached within Appendix 1 are approved.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At it's meeting held in March 2024, the overview and scrutiny committee resolved the following recommendations
 2. To recommend that a cross-party working group is appointed by the Council at its annual meeting in May 2024 to act as a steering group for matters relating to the Mill Hall Arts and Events Centre, and that officers prepare a proposed terms of reference for this working group to be presented to the annual Council meeting, and that the first meeting of the working group should be held in June 2024.
- 3.2 At it's Annual Council meeting on 21st May 2024, the Council resolved to establish a working group for the Mill Hall Arts and Events Centre and that the Mill Hall working group (MHWG) referred to the Economic Development

Regeneration and Tourism Committee. This committee is to agree the terms of reference and membership of the working group.

- 3.3 The terms of reference are attached in Appendix 1 and govern the remit of the working group. The working group does not have direct decision making responsibilities, instead the working group makes recommendations to the committee, for members to consider and formally resolve as part of a committee report.
- 3.4 Officers will arrange for the working group to meet following resolution on 13th June 2024. Depending on availability of councillors it is expected the first working group will be able to meet by the end of June 2024 as recommended.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No other options have been considered.

4 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 None.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The working group will consider and review any consultations regarding the Mill Hall Arts and Events Centre.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There would be no additional resource implications to establishing a working group.

8 LEGAL & GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 As per 6.03 Working Groups within the constitution, a Committee can form a working group to consider a topic informally and at pace. The membership of the working group will be decided by the Committee, which may include non-committee members and people from outside the Council. Working groups will not be subject to the political balance rules nor will substitutions be allowed as continuity of membership is important. Meetings of the working group will not be held in public and all agendas and minutes will not be publicly available. The working group will report back to the parent Committee with its findings.
- 8.2 The Economic Development, regeneration and tourism committee will be the parent committee of the working group as this committee under it's term of reference has the responsibility for arts, culture and events including Mill Hall Arts and Events Centre.

9 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None are arising specifically to establishing a working group.

10 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None directly to establishing a working group. However the group will consider environment and climate impacts on any future proposal on the Mill Hall Arts and Events Centre.

12 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None to establishing a working group. However the group will consider economic impacts of any future proposals on the Mill Hall Arts and Events Centre.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Mill Hall Working Group (MHWG) terms of reference

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
O&S Committee – The Mill Arts & Events Centre (The Mill Hall) – Outcome of the Community Expression of Interest Process and Future Operating Costs	1/02/2023
The Executive – Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee – The Mill Arts & Events Centre EOI Report	07/03/2023
Full Council – The Mill Arts & Events Centre (The Mill Hall)	07/09/2023
The Executive – Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre Update	19/03/2024
Overview & Scrutiny – Mill Hall Arts & events Centre update	16/04/2024
Annual Council	21/05/2024