

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		26 March 2025	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Kate Walsh (Sustainability Portfolio) and Cllr Kimberley Whitehead (Culture & Arts Portfolio)	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Jane Ellis – Executive Director (Legal & Democratic Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre Working Group	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose the creation of a non-decision making working group to monitor progress in respect of Oswaldtwistle Theatre and to report to Cabinet in respect of the same

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the draft terms of reference of the proposed working group attached as an appendix to this report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 3.1 The Cabinet is committed to progressing the refurbishment of the Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre which is currently in a poor physical condition and closed to the public. Given public interest in the building, Cabinet is keen to promote wide-ranging dialogue about the future of the Civic, harnessing the enthusiasm of local stakeholders to provide an element of external challenge, ideas and oversight.
- 3.2 It is therefore proposed that a non-decision making working group is established as proposed in Appendix 1 which would meet four times a year. The working group would be advisory only and would report to Cabinet. The political groups and external organisations would be invited to nominate members of the working group for approval at the next Cabinet meeting. Those nominated will be advised of the requirement to declare conflicts of interest. As the working group will hopefully play a part in shaping

future management arrangements for the Civic, those nominated for membership will be advised that participation in the working group may prevent them bidding to run the Civic (or be involved in its future management) and from bidding for contracts relating to the proposed repair and refurbishment work.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Cabinet could decide not to create the proposed working group and to monitor progress in respect of the Civic Theatre via existing arrangements, but this would not bring the element of external oversight and challenge.

5. Consultations

5.1 None.

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None assuming the Working Group meets at Council premises so as not to incur administrative expenses. The Working Group will not have a budget and will not make spending decisions.
Legal and human rights implications	None identified. As the Working Group will include people who are neither officers nor elected members, it cannot be decision making. The Working Group will have an advisory role and will report to Cabinet.
Assessment of risk	No specific risks identified.
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	None.

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers

7.1 None.

If the report is public, insert the following paragraph. If the report is exempt, contact Member Services for advice.

8. Freedom of Information

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Appendix

Terms of reference

Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre Working Group

<u>Membership</u>	8 Comprising: Councillors – 5 CHIP – 2 Friends of The Civic – 1
<u>Reports To:</u>	Cabinet

Terms of Reference:

To meet four times a year to:

- monitor progress with the refurbishment of Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre
- receive and consider ideas relating to the refurbishment and future use and management of the Civic Theatre, both from officers of the Council and from external groups and organisations
- report to Cabinet in respect of the above.

The working group will be advisory only and its members will be subject to the Council's requirements in respect of the declaration of interests and of conflicts of interest.