

Title of Report:	Riverside Theatre Service Contract Review
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15th October 2019
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Cultural Services Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£96,750 (£35,833 already committed and £60,917 proposed)
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	Riverside Theatre
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: August 2016 (CAH strategy, of which this project forms a part)
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date: n/a
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 2019
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date: 2019
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to further consider the report provided to Committee in June 2019 reviewing Council's service contract with the Riverside Theatre which expired on 31st July 2019.

2.0 Background

At the Leisure Development meeting on 11 June 2019, members considered a report to review Council's current service contract with the Riverside Theatre - 1 August 2017 - 31 July 2019. The legacy contract had operated in line with the University's accounting period of June to July.

The report presented by the Head of Community & Culture had detailed the legacy and current arrangement with the Riverside Theatre and presented information on how the theatre had performed in relation to the targets which had been set to assist council to deliver on its Cultural Strategy 2016-21.

Riverside Theatre is owned and managed by the Ulster University and is located in Coleraine. Riverside Theatre accounts for an average of **47%** of the total number of arts centre based activities funded by Council through its own dedicated arts venues and through the funding it provides to the theatre.

Similar activities are provided in terms of external hires, music events, drama, dance, talks and literary events, however Riverside has been specifically designed and marketed as the only operating professional theatre venue within the Borough, seating up to 360. The theatre can facilitate an orchestra pit in the centre of the auditorium for up to twenty players.

The unique nature of the Riverside theatre facility is described by the University as *'unique, in a Northern Ireland context, by having both a totally variable stage and seating facility..... Overall, Riverside's main auditorium can be configured and used in up to six different ways - hence our claim to uniqueness in an NI context.'*

In contrast, Council's facilities are designed as multi- functional spaces and do not have the same capacity in terms of design and available formatting. Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre uses a 238 seat auditorium for a variety of activities, however its stage is limited in terms of capacity. Flowerfield has a 150 seater auditorium and specialises in musical provision.

The recommendation of the report had been that subject to satisfactory annual performance reviews and Council budget setting process, Council continue to support Ulster University's Riverside Theatre to the sum of £107,500 p.a. through a service based contract. This would be for a period not exceeding two years to coincide with the duration of Council's Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy and in order to maintain the operation of the only professional, bespoke theatre venue within the Borough.

There were a number of queries by members in relation to the targets which the Riverside Theatre had exceeded in 2019-20 and it was suggested that the original targets should be increased or the budget reduced. Members also queried the governance structures in place as the Management Committee hadn't met for some time.

It had been agreed that a decision be deferred and that the Riverside Theatre be invited to present at the Leisure and Development meeting in August. Arrangements would also be made to enable members to visit the theatre in advance of the August meeting

Roseanne Sturgeon, Theatre Manager and Amanda Castray, Director of Campus Life, attended the Leisure & Development meeting on 13 August. Their Presentation and Annual Report which was made available and subsequently circulated at the meeting are attached as **Annex A and B** respectively.

It was reported at the meeting that the Riverside Theatre has gone through a period of transition and that a meeting of the Management Committee had been arranged for 3rd September to review the Terms of Reference.

3.0 Financial position

In terms of finance, the latest set of accounts 2018-19 which had just been finalised, has since been forwarded to Council and are attached as **Annex C** for members' consideration.

The budget associated with the theatre was £304,512 in the 2019 period with additional 'non attributed' estates, marketing and other support costs of £57,929 provided by the university. These costs are broadly in line with the operating expenses associated with Council's arts centres per annum.

The accounts demonstrate that in 2018/2019, Council made a contribution of circa 35% towards the direct revenue costs of the theatre and a contribution of 36% in 2017/18, with a trading deficit shown in the operation of the theatre of £324 in 2018/19 and £1,179 in 2017/18.

The University has invested £115,000 over the last two years in capital works and have shown additional support cost from their Finance/ P&C/ Campus Life / Marketing which they state is not charged as a cost directly to the theatre.

Additionally the accounts include provision of a development fund for the theatre of £56,406 in 2018/19. University staff have confirmed that this fund is used to 'upgrade the venues technical infrastructure and equipment'.

4.0 Budget Review in year savings

As part of the in-year savings review requested of service areas, the sub-committee established as part of the special council meeting on the 11th September agreed to an in year reduction of 10% in 2019/20 to budget of £107,500 for the theatre.

The committee also considered that further savings may be considered by the relevant committee moving forward in light of the budgetary pressures facing council services.

Council budget for 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 included £107,500 of funding towards Riverside Theatre.

The contract expired on the 31st July 2019 resulting in an outstanding payment to the University of £35,833 for period 1st April – 31st July inclusive from council's 2019/20 budget.

Taking into consideration the 10% (£10,750) reduction in budget for 19/20 agreed through council's efficiency process, the outstanding balance due to the University towards Riverside Theatre for the period 1st August to 31st March would be £60,917.

5.0 Recommendation

Following on from the report presented to the Leisure & Development meeting on 11th June, presentation by representatives from the Riverside Theatre on 13th August, and additional Council decision in October to apply an in year reduction of 10% of the annual budget, members are requested to consider the following:

- i) 'Council provide financial support Ulster University's Riverside Theatre to the sum of £60,917 for the period of 1st August 2019 to 31st March 2020 through a service based contract in order to maintain the operation of the only professional, bespoke theatre venue within the Borough.**
- ii) That Council consider the funding for the Riverside Theatre for the remaining period of Council's Cultural Strategy (2020-21), subject to Council's rate setting process.**

Riverside Theatre Annual Report 2018/19

**A civic asset delivering value for
the community**

Riverside
THEATRE

50 YEARS
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Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Riverside
THEATRE

Our History

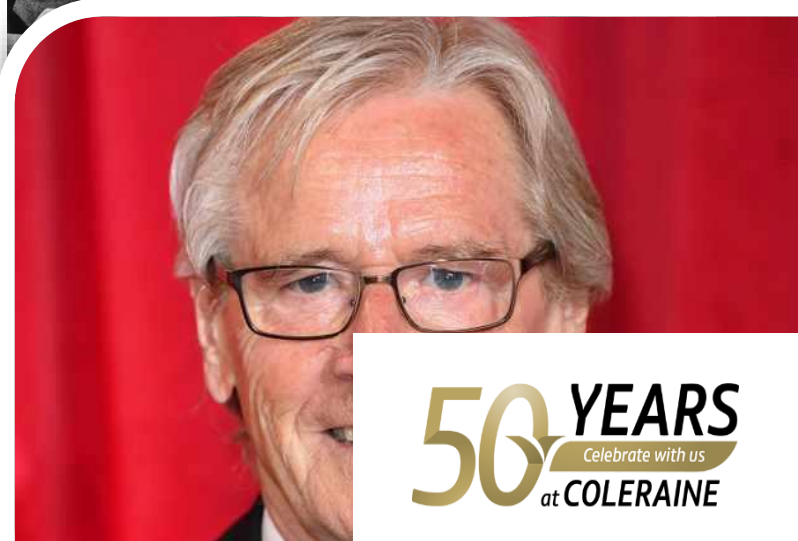
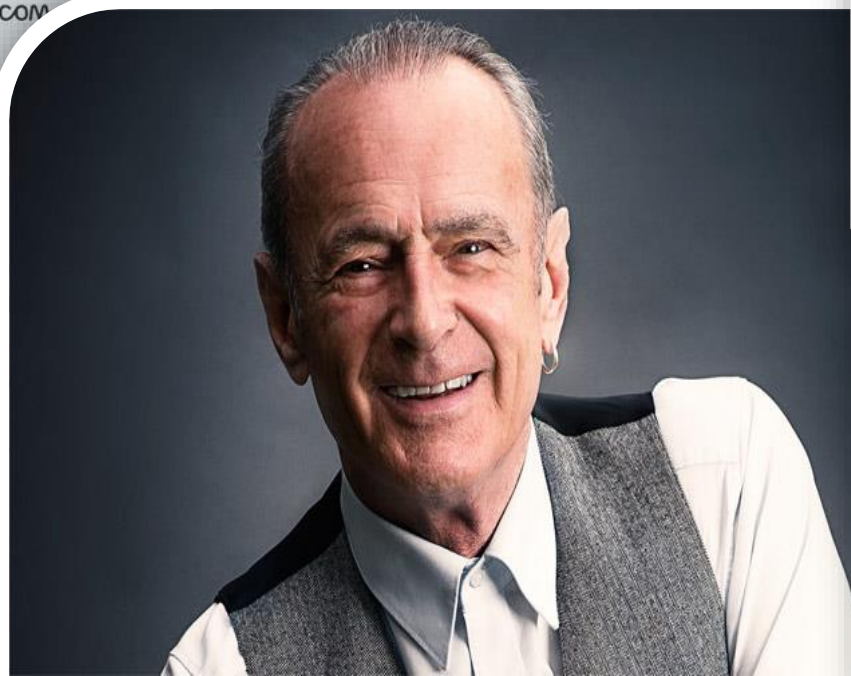
Celebrating over 40 years of service to the local community as the borough's only dedicated professional performing arts venue.

- A shared space to enrich all lives in the local community, inspiring innovation and nurturing creative talent.
- Many of today's hottest stars of Irish, British and International stage, screen and television began their careers in the Riverside from the Seventies onwards.
- Civic asset based at Ulster University for the benefit of the region

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Celebrate with us
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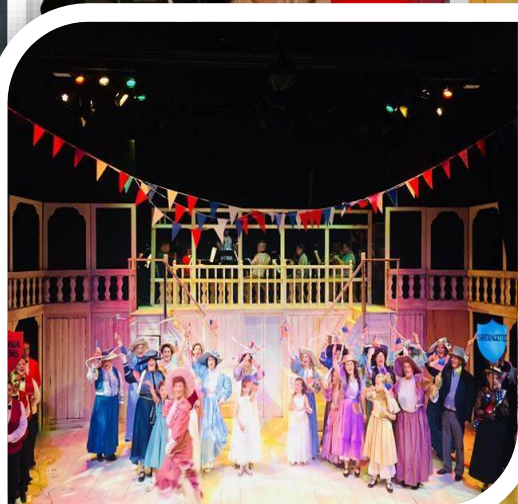
50 YEARS
Celebrate with us
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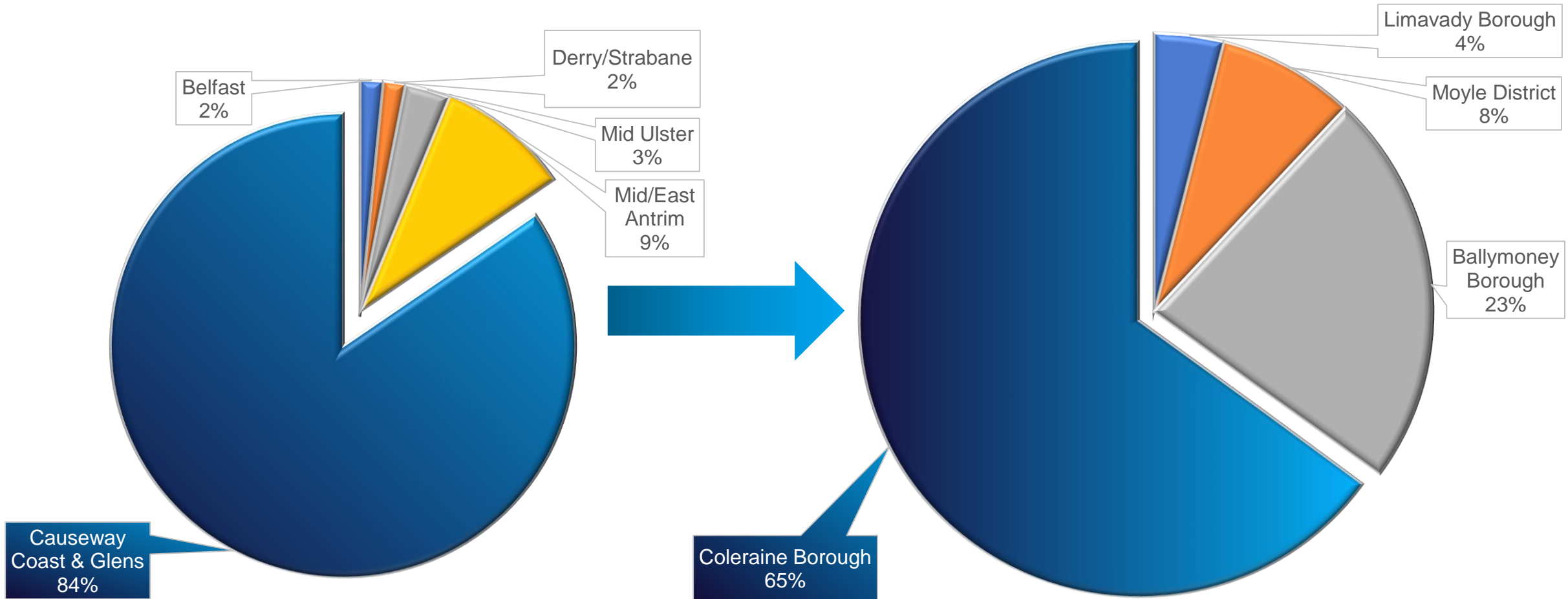
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Our Impact

- **30,000** people attended **144** events, **100** workshops & **4** exhibitions in 18-19.
- **Employment**, internships and volunteering opportunities for 6 permanent and casual staff, 7 placements from local schools and 50 community volunteers.
- **5,000** people experienced events and workshops for **FREE** at Riverside in 2018-19 as part of the outreach programme surrounding 50 years of the Ulster University campus in Coleraine.
- Work produced by **local community groups** accounted for **44% (12,500)** of our annual audience figures.
- Attendance recorded through Box Office from some **90 schools and community groups** to our events and workshops last year.



Community Reach



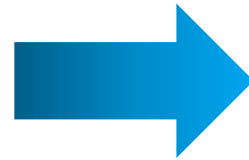
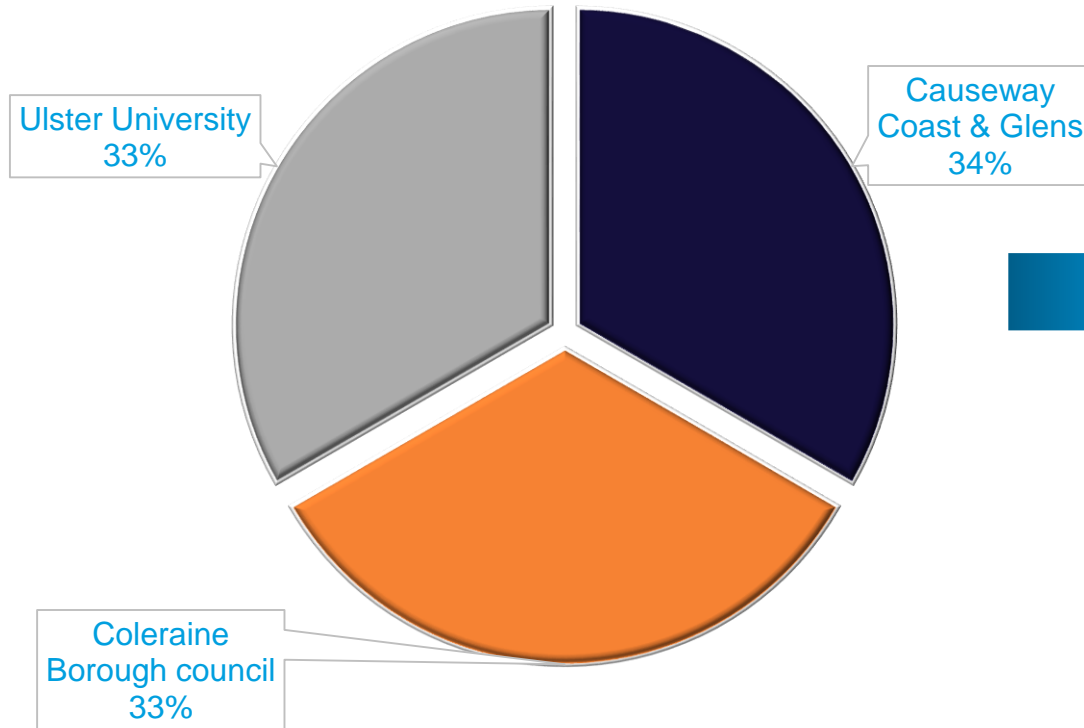
Community participation 2018 - 19

Attendance from some **90** schools and community groups

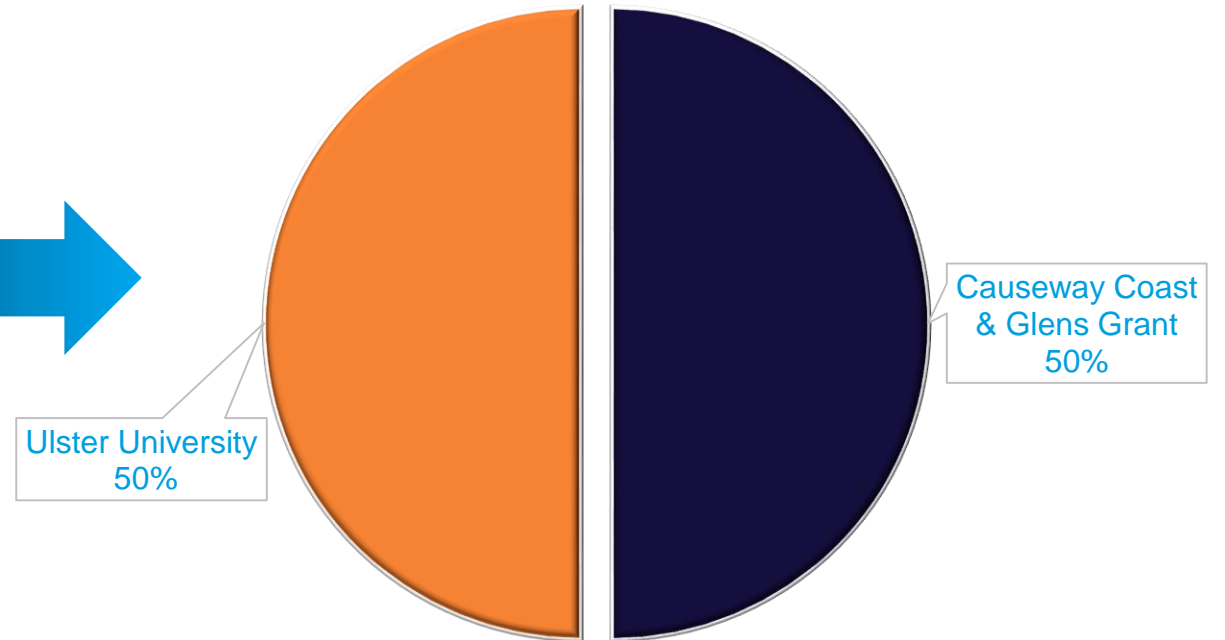
- Aghanloo (Limavady) Women's Institute
- Agherton Parish Church
- All Sorts Youth Club, Coleraine
- Armoy PS
- Ballymoney HS
- Ballysally Primary School
- Bushmills Women's Institute
- Carhill PS
- Castlerock Cubs/Scouts
- Castlerock Playgroup
- Castlerock Senior Citizens Club
- Causeway Sports Club
- Clough Nursery
- Cloughmills Early Years Group
- Coleraine Grammar
- Cookstown Junior Choir
- DH Christie PS
- Dominican College
- Dunclug College, Ballymena
- Dunluce HS
- Garvagh Women's Institute
- Goran PS
- Harpers Hill PS
- Kells & Connor (Ballymena) Women's Inst
- Kildress Mother's Union (Cookstown)
- Kilowen PS
- Kilrea PS
- Kilrea Women's Institute
- Limavady Grammar
- Limavady HS
- Loreto Grammar
- Macosquin Women's Institute
- Mountfern Centre, Coleraine
- North Coast Integrated
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- Pomeroy (Dungannon) Women's Institute
- Portglenone Women's Institute
- Portstewart PS
- Roseyards Presbyterian Church (Dervock)
- Sandel Centre
- St Johns PS
- St Malachy's Primary School
- St Olcans PS
- St Patricks Rasharkin
- St Pius X College
- St. Patrick's Still Active Club, Ballymena
- St. Swithins, Magherafelt Mother's Union
- U3A
- Womens Aid

Funding

Previous



2019-20



What we delivered

CCG Strategic Objective	Target	Outcome
<p>To ensure that both local ratepayers and visitors to the area have continuous access to high quality, accessible, inclusive and affordable cultural services.</p>	<p>Riverside Theatre Programme – 60 Public Events/ Performances to at least 11,676 participants – ticketed and non-ticketed</p>	<p>Riverside presented 144 public events / performances to 25, 710 participants/ attendees.</p>
	<p>26 creative workshops, including those targeted at young people with at least 950 participants.</p>	<p>Delivered 100 creative workshops predominantly targeted at children and young people involving 2927 participants.</p>
	<p>4 public exhibitions, including launch events.</p>	<p>Hosted 4 visual art exhibitions including launch events.</p>
	<p>At least 3 joint programming initiatives with council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 years at Ulster - civic celebration • Widening access through an extended creative education and outreach programme for children & young people • 148th Open event – 19th Hole at the Riverside.

Vision for the Future

1. Widening Access and increasing Participation
2. Supporting Emerging Talent
3. Increasing Public Engagement
4. Strengthening our partnership with Causeway Coast & Glens – diversifying collaboration across new departments
5. Exploiting the opportunities of Cultural Tourism in the area.



Riverside
THEATRE

50 YEARS
Celebrate with us
at **COLERAINE**



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

**Thank you for
your support**

Questions?

Riverside THEATRE

Annual Report

1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019



Produced by: Roseanne Sturgeon (Theatre Manager)

Riverside Theatre
Ulster University
Cromore Road
Coleraine
BT 52 1SA
www.riversidetheatre.org.uk



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Introduction

The Riverside Theatre is Northern Ireland's oldest operating theatre outside of Belfast, celebrating its fortieth birthday in 2017. Commissioned by the New University of Ulster (now Ulster University) as a major project during the 1970s, which was at the height of The Troubles, a turbulent period in Northern Ireland's history. At that time, there were no other theatres open and operating outside of Belfast city centre. Many of today's hottest stars of Irish, British and International stage, screen and television began their careers in the Riverside from the Seventies onwards, including our very own James Nesbitt, Conleth Hill and Bronagh Waugh.

Set on the busy Ulster University campus in Coleraine, the theatre serves the wide reaching Causeway Coast & Glens community with audiences from all over the borough. It's geographically stunning location includes UNESCO World Heritage site, the Giant's Causeway, and attracts substantial visitors and tourists into the area annually and to the theatre, the Riverside records attendance from all eleven local authority areas in Northern Ireland and beyond as a result.

The Riverside Theatre is the only dedicated professional performing arts venue in the borough. An intimate 270 – 350 seat auditorium offering a vast annual programme, for children and adults, of comedy, dance, music, drama, participatory workshops and art exhibitions. The Riverside remains consistent in its aim to enhance the lives of the local community it serves through the delivery of quality arts and cultural experiences. The Riverside helps promote the following for all the people in the Causeway Coast & Glens area:

1. A Thriving Economy

Inspiring innovation and imagination in a new generation of entrepreneur's through a creative education and outreach programme.

2. A Healthy Safe Community

Promoting good mental health and well-being by offering a safe space for community participants to socialise relax and learn. Enabling self-expression within its participants, developing their ability to communicate thoughts and feelings to others, improving relationships and therefore improving the community around us.

3. A Sustainable Accessible Environment

Providing networks and programmes that enable meaningful connections for all participants.



Executive Summary

2018 – 2019 was a hugely significant year for the Riverside Theatre – after celebrating forty years of service to the local community – the venue was now a centrepiece in facilitating a large civic outreach programme of activity celebrating 50 years of the Ulster University Coleraine’s impact in the local area.

Despite ongoing economic and political upheaval and significant cuts to public sector arts funding. Demand for professional arts and cultural experiences was high as most events were at full capacity throughout the year. A full programme was offered in dance, theatre, visual arts, literature, music and a range of cross art form events aided by additional funding sourced from the University, Widening Access department and Garfield Weston Trust. (See Appendix 1 for full breakdown).



Across the year, Riverside presented **144 public events / performances** to **25, 820 participants/ attendees**, delivered **100 creative workshops** predominantly attended by children and young people involving **2927 participants** and **hosted 4 visual art exhibitions including launch events** – enjoyed by audiences/ participants **from all 11 local authority areas in Northern Ireland**. (See Appendix 2 for full postcode analysis).

The venue also provided employment for a permanent **staff team of 6 (5 fulltime, 1 part-time)**, **6 casual student employees**, **7 placement students from the University and local secondary schools** and **50 community volunteers**. (See Appendix 3 for a breakdown of what Riverside programmes and who books the venue)



Contributing to a Healthy Safe Community

A shared space for the community to create, contribute to society, be inspired and make friends.

- **Work produced by local community groups accounted for 44% (12,500) of our annual audience figures.**
- **Attendance recorded through Box Office from some 90 schools and community groups to our events and workshops last year.**
- **95% of customer feedback forms rate Riverside services as Excellent.**



The Riverside Theatre provides the local area with a professional and safe space to promote and support positive relationships aimed to enhance the wellbeing of its local citizens through quality arts and cultural experiences and services.

2018-19 once again show-cased the abundance of local talent through amazing productions from local performing arts groups such as – Ballywillan Drama Group / Portrush Musical Society / performing arts students from Northern Regional College / Victoria Lagan Dance and Drama / Dominic Graham Dance School and the Kelly Neill Dance Company. Committed local groups who avail of the venues services year on year bringing huge casts and crews of hundreds of performers and back stage staff.

The Truva café opened in Riverside in September 2018 too – offering fresh, healthy Mediterranean inspired catering (with a specialism in Vegetarian and Vegan options) to help provide exceptional customer service and experience for its patrons.



Testimonial from Portrush Musical Society's Director Kerry Dunn

'The Riverside Theatre has been the theatrical home of musical theatre for Portrush Music Society (PMS) for over 40 years. Our first production in the Riverside's professional space was in 1978 - My Fair Lady, directed and encouraged by Des Cranston – a lecturer at the New University of Ulster. It certainly was a very exciting venture and set the wonderful tradition to continue for Portrush Music Society for many years to come.'

The Riverside Theatre staff have been very generous hosts to PMS over the years and for that we are grateful for all their professional advice, time and patience. The support from the theatre and its locality has been essential to raise our production values, which has enabled Portrush Music Society to become one of the top successful award winning amateur society in both Ireland and in the United Kingdom.

Portrush Music Society is a registered charity and is a cross community group for all ages and gender. We are all local people of the borough, local folk who share a common interest - to perform and be creative.

The Riverside Theatre space is really important to us - and has also been an essential platform for many of our young members and performers to fall in love with the theatre and to follow their own dreams, studying to achieve professional jobs in theatre, film and media.'



Testimonial from Ballywillan Drama Group Director Brian Logan



THE BALLYWILLAN DRAMA GROUP
PORTRUSH

9 Magheraboy Court
Portrush
BT56 8GN

Dear Sirs

Ballywillan Drama Group are an amateur and inter-denominational group affiliated to the Church of Ireland, Portrush. The group was formed in 1954 and since 2002 have been presenting their shows in the Riverside Theatre, Coleraine.

There are approximately 130 theatrical societies in the island of Ireland who perform musical theatre and Ballywillan Drama Group are one of the most successful of them and have garnered many prestigious awards over the years.

Each January/February they stage a musical which normally runs for sixteen to eighteen performances over three weeks, regularly playing to capacity audiences. In April of each year they also stage a smaller musical or play for a week.

The Riverside Theatre is integral to Ballywillan's operation – without this regional professional theatre they would, in all probability, cease to exist. It would be impractical and impossible to stage such large scale shows in, say, one of the borough's town halls with their small stages, lack of facilities and poor technical equipment. However, the town halls are perfectly adequate for local pantomimes, concerts, etc.

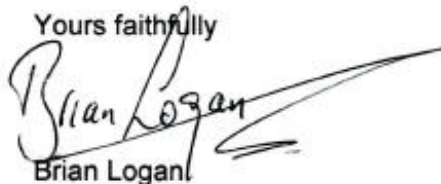


Apart from local audiences coming to see Ballywillan's shows in the Riverside, they also attract audiences from all over Northern Ireland (and, indeed, the South). This introduces potential new audiences to the Riverside on a regular basis.

Apart from Ballywillan Drama Group many other local amateur groups use the Riverside – be they drama groups, musical theatre groups, college and school theatre societies, dance groups, dance schools and youth theatre schools. Without the wonderful facilities and experienced technical staff of the Riverside where would they all go?

The Riverside Theatre is a much loved and respected regional theatre, used by many and visited by many thousands who come and see a rich and varied mix of professional, semi-professional and amateur productions each year. It is a wonderful facility to have in the area and one that the Causeway Coast and Glens Council should be proud of.

Yours faithfully



Brian Logan

Artistic Director

Ballywillan Drama Group

Portrush

Celebrating Civic Identity through arts & culture

Increasing opportunities for participation in well-being initiatives to increase access to culture, arts and heritage for all.

- **c. 5,000 people experienced events and workshops for FREE at Riverside in 2018-19 as part of the outreach programme surrounding 50 years of the Ulster University campus in Coleraine.**

In 2018 –19 the Riverside acted as a primary partner with Ulster University and Causeway Coast & Glens Council to organise a wide range of free community events for the borough. Riverside facilitated key civic events and celebrations for the local community. It offered many free, accessible and inclusive creative and learning experiences for its citizens including; a community choir, guest talk by Maria Costello to support the NW 200 programme, hosting launch for the Super Cup NI event and staging a large free family fun open day and heritage day and walking tours.



Karise Hutchinson, Provost of the Coleraine campus commented:

“As Northern Ireland’s civic university, Ulster University is proud of its role in the local community.

The Coleraine campus is a space for everyone to use and enjoy. So many local groups are already using our facilities but we want to do more and are actively encouraging everyone in the area to come along and discover everything our campus has to offer.”



Widening Access & Employment

- The Riverside Theatre is committed to widening access and inclusivity in all of their outreach activity – in 2018-19 40% of the senior RYT enrolment was subsidised by Ulster University's Widening Access department offering free bursary places to young people from less affluent/ disadvantaged backgrounds.
- In 2018-19 Riverside piloted a new creative writing project offering 6 free workshops to 180 children, including a celebratory event for children, parents and teachers to attend seeing their stories and illustrations worked up into an exhibition on the and meet patron Glenn Patterson.
- 360 local post primary young people took part in a uniquely devised interactive theatre game on campus
- The venue provided employment for a permanent staff team of 6 (5 fulltime, 1 part-time), 6 casual student employees, 7 placement students from the University and local secondary schools and 50 community volunteers.



The Riverside Theatre's education and outreach programme aims to offer opportunities and experiences that give our children and young people the very best start in life. Promoting equality of access offering both free and heavily subsidised events and activities for children of all ages ranging from Early Year and Nursery school to post primary school.

Riverside Youth Theatre



Back in September 2018, the Riverside Youth Theatre embarked on a 20-week performing arts course engaging primary children 4 – 11 years old and post-primary young people 12 – 17 years old. The project formed part of a creative outreach programme of events planned at the Riverside with the Provost to mark the 50-year celebrations of the Coleraine campus designed to integrate the local community with the University in a joint celebration of civic pride.

Our participant feedback continually illustrates the positive influences from drama, theatre and the performing arts, especially for children and young people. The benefits are physical, emotional, social, and they help to develop a healthy appreciation of culture and the arts. Being creative and learning to make creative choices help young people to be better at thinking of new ideas, allowing them to view the world around them in new ways. Einstein said, *“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”* Riverside Youth Theatre aims to develop the next generation of *‘big thinkers’* by instilling:

- Self-Confidence
- Imagination
- Empathy
- Cooperation
- Concentration
- Communication Skills
- Emotional Outlet
- Physical Fitness
- Memory
- Appreciation for Arts and Culture.

The group of young people at first started out on a fact finding mission, including site visits and workshops with local historians and professional education facilitators to learn more about the Mountsandel and North Coast Armada Connection heritage in the local area. This fact finding was then taken into the rehearsal room with our professional drama facilitators to devise two new unique pieces of historical fiction showcased to the public at the end of March. The sessions allowed the young people to learn about the world of theatre and the rich history of their local community whilst exploring performing arts techniques in devising improvisation, choreography, stagecraft, writing, directing and costume/ set-design.



Fighting Words Coleraine

In autumn 2018, the Riverside piloted a new creative writing project called Fighting Words. Offering **FREE creative writing workshops for school groups**.

At a Fighting Words workshop, the group set out on a story-making journey with trained volunteer mentors, working at first collaboratively and then individually to create brand-new tales. All participants leave as published writers with their own storybook.

Fighting Words is a sister organisation of Fighting Words (Dublin), inspired by 826 Valencia in San Francisco and part of a growing network of creative writing centres around the world. Its patrons are the acclaimed writers Glenn Patterson, Lucy Caldwell, Paul Muldoon, Roddy Doyle, Nick Hornby, and Dave Eggers. The project's aim is, in Glenn Patterson's words, to *'empower children and young people to become the authors of their own lives'*. All Fighting Words workshops take place outside a classroom setting, helping to *'de-school'* the creative writing experience. Fighting Words exists to respect and amplify the voices and imaginations of all our young people, and works tirelessly to empower them through the art of story telling.



Participant Feedback:

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS:

Ciara Beattie – 1st Year Psychology:



'Volunteering at Fighting Words creative writing workshops greatly increased my confidence. As a First Year student attending a university with thousands of students it is easy to feel intimidated and self-conscious. However, I was able to meet other students from the university through volunteering at the Riverside Theatre as it is on our campus. It was great to meet students from other courses who shared

similar experiences to me. The workshops also helped me develop my listening and organisational skills as for every session we had a scribe and a typist who listened attentively to the children while they were creating their stories and bookmakers who were responsible for putting each and every unique story together. Additionally, it was nice meeting people within the community who also volunteered, and I enjoyed interacting with children in such a fun and creative way. I would definitely love to volunteer with Fighting Words, and at the Riverside Theatre, again.'

U3A VOLUNTEER:

Heather Poole (Retired Head teacher)

'I thoroughly enjoyed working with Fighting Words. Met really lovely people and really enjoyed working at the theatre, I think that was a very special place for the children to meet and work. I was really surprised at the quality of the work produced overall, there were some absolutely brilliant stories. The children were totally engaged in the project and I heard one boy say "this is better than school work" not realising that he was working very hard.

The most rewarding sessions I had were with some polish children with English as a second language. One little boy whose English was very weak was able to tell me the continuation of a story

which I wrote for him and he then copied this and read it back to me, I know his teacher was very surprised at what he was able to produce.

Overall the fact that the children had so many adult mentors to help them was a real bonus as teachers in classroom situations do not have that type of support. Also the 'quality' of the mentors was very good.

I think it's an excellent project and so important as the way the curriculum is geared it means the creative arts tend to have less importance and time paid to them due to pressure of tests etc. It would be disastrous for our society to lose the creativity that the arts provide. I would be happy to volunteer for mentoring for any future project as I really enjoyed the experience.'

TEACHERS:

Darrell Coyles – St Malachy's P6

- In your opinion, what was the most effective part of the workshop?

"The way all of the children have the opportunities to write. The delivery of the workshop allowed the children to be as creative as possible breaking down any barriers to their learning."

- How do you think the children have benefitted from the workshop, in terms of their overall development?

"Every child had the chance to be involved, all the children worked extremely hard and produced fantastic pieces of writing. I will be using these techniques in class."

- What could be done to improve the workshop?

"More workshops!"

PUPILS:

Children's responses:

"If you have a big enough imagination you can do big things"

"Always believe in your story, even if it's not true – imagine in your head the whole world of the story"

"The best part was writing out our story. It inspired me ["inspired me"] to go home, get my laptop out and writing my own story. I got about 6 chapters finished"



A Degree of Danger:

In 2018 Ulster University, The Riverside Theatre and Big Telly Theatre Company embarked on a co-production entitled A Degree of Danger. Designed to engage the local community with the University in an extremely unique way and raise the aspirations and inspire the possibilities on their doorstep for local children from less affluent backgrounds – supported by the Ulster University Flexible education department.



This was an immersive theatre experience where the audiences were more akin to 'players', with a cover story to maintain and a mission to complete. Divided into teams of 10 – local secondary school children were given clues and led by professional actors around different locations on campus to solve the mystery of a missing student.

This project was part of a special creative outreach programme for the local community as part of the 50-year anniversary celebrations on the Ulster University Coleraine campus this year.

Testimonial from Philip Turbitt – Outreach Officer - Centre for Flexible Education, re feedback from participants:

'The pupils have said they really enjoyed the experience of the event and being involved throughout, seeing what the University had to offer academically and extra-curricular, seeing the University up close in a fun action-packed adventure instead of sitting in a room listening to people and being involved within the role play, hearing what degrees were available on their doorstep. The limo was definitely a big hit too and pupils would definitely like to do similar events again.'

'Teachers have said their pupils are still talking about it, that it was great for them and their pupils to get to physically see around the campus in such a unique way, that pupils who disengage within the classroom really shone throughout the immersive experience on the day and that the pupils really related to the event on the day.'



Student Placements, Internships, Employment & Volunteering:



The venue provided employment for a permanent **staff team of six (5 x fulltime, 1 x part-time)**, **6 casual student employees**, **7 placement students from the University and local secondary schools** and **50 community volunteers**.

Appendix 1

Breakdown of events and workshops 1/04/19 – 31/03/19

Date	Events / Participatory Workshops	Genre	Audience/ Participants
10th April	The Exam/ UUSU	Drama	42
11th April	The Exam/ UUSU	Drama	55
12th April	Super Cup Launch	Sports	60
13th April	Chamber Philharmonic	Music	37
19th April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	274
20th April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	274
23rd April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	230
24th April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	277
25th April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	277
26th April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	276
27th April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	277
28th April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	276



28th April	Les Miserables	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	273
30th April	Theatre NI Meeting	Industry	10
1st May (2 x workshops)	Baby Daddy - Replay Theatre Co.	Early Years	20
3rd May	Albert Lee	Music	138
10th May	Oliver! / NRC	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	156
11th May	Oliver! / NRC	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	136
12th May	Oliver! / NRC	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	208
16th May	An audience with Maria Costello / NW200	Sports	94
19th May	Simon & Garfunkel	Music	95
22nd May	Blame Game / BBC TV	TV/ Comedy	277
23rd May	Shawn Jones event	Music	30
25th May	Stars of Country	Music	132
26th May	Neil Delamere	Comedy	269
30th May (1 workshop)	Community Choir	Music	50
1st June	North by North Exhibition Launch	Visual Arts	10
1st June	Kaz Hawkins	Music	238
2nd June	Irish Video Game Orchestra	Music	164
6th June (1 workshop)	Community Choir	Music	50
8th June	Hollywood to Broadway	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	78
9th June	Mr Hullabaloo	Family	54

14th June	Etoile Dance School	Dance/ Community	165
15th June	Etoile Dance School	Dance/ Community	198
16th June	Eva Cassidy	Music	139
20th June (1 workshop)	Community Choir	Music	50
21st June	Victoria Lagan Drama Dance	Dance/ Community	175
22nd June	Victoria Lagan Drama Dance	Dance/ Community	252
27th June	Maggie Yer Ma	Drama/ Comedy	246
28th June	Encore & Friends	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	179
29th June	Frank Ferguson Literary readings	Literary	15
30th June	Ho Wedding Service	Wedding	70
14th July	Goldilocks	Family	87
16th - 20th July (5 days/ workshops)	Tiny Dancers Summer Camp (5-8 yrs)	Children & Young People	6
25th July - 4th Aug (10 days/ workshops)	Musical Theatre Summer School (8-18 years)	Children & Young People	65
4th Aug	Showcase - Ben Levy	Children & Young People	192
6- 10th August (5 days/ workshops)	New Horizon Conference	Conference	270
13th - 17th August (5 days/ workshops)	Mini Movers Summer Camp (5-8 years)	Children & Young People	12
18th August	Belvoir Players - Sink or Swim	Drama	109

3rd September	History of the Troubles	Drama/ Comedy	271
8th September	UU Coleraine at 50 Alumni event	Industry	30
13th September	Dominic Graham	Dance/ Community	91
14th September	Dominic Graham	Dance/ Community	148
15th September	Dominic Graham	Dance/ Community	200
17th September (6 workshops)	UU Welcome Week Talks & Tours	Industry	900
20th September	Patrick Sanders Exhibition Launch	Visual Arts	20
21st September	Talking Heads	Drama	84
22nd September (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 1st session	Children & Young People	50
22nd September (1 workshop)	In Your Space Circus workshop	Family	28
22nd September	Pirates Got Talent show	Family	63
22nd September	UU Community Open Day	Family/ Community	500
22nd September	Cash Returns	Music	267
28th September (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
28th September	PMS/Hello Dolly	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	117
29th September	PMS/Hello Dolly	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	219
1st October	PMS/Hello Dolly	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	207



2nd October	PMS/Hello Dolly	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	186
3rd October	PMS/Hello Dolly	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	216
4th October	PMS/Hello Dolly	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	246
5th October	PMS/Hello Dolly	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	248
6th October	PMS/Hello Dolly	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	253
6th October (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
10th October	Jane Eyre	Drama/ Theatre	79
13th October	Adult Drama Workshop	Drama/ Theatre	13
13th October (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
	The Illegals	Music	232
17th October	Cracks	Drama/ Theatre	135
18th October	Juggling Scientist - Schools / Maths Week	STEM/ Circus	261
	Brendan Quinn	Music	71
19th October	Celtic Soul	Music	73
20th October	Teddys Seaside Holiday	Family	40
	The Secret Garden	Family	29

20th October (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
	Heritage Day & Tours		100
22nd October	PGCE group	Other / Uni	87
23rd October	Not About Heroes	Drama	49
24th October	Shane Todd	Comedy	242
25th October	The Story of William	Drama	8
26th October	American Country Legends	Music	157
27th October	Alice in Wonderland Tea Party C21	Family	28
27th October (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
	Adrian Knight	Variety	57
31st October	Frankenstein	Drama	34
1st November	Jive Aces	Music/ Dance	106
2nd November	Tommy Makem	Music	36
3rd November	Bjorn Identity	Music	285
3rd November (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
5th November	Fighting Words Schools Workshop	Creative writing	27
	Fighting Words Schools Workshop	Creative writing	26
6th November	Fighting Words Schools Workshop	Creative writing	31
7th November	Fighting Words Schools Workshop	Creative writing	26
8th November	Myras Story	Drama	98

10th November	Tony Wright	Music/ Book Launch	46
10th November (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
12th November	Fighting Words Schools Workshop	Creative writing	25
13th November	Fighting Words Schools Workshop	Creative writing	23
16th November	Kelly Neill Dance	Community/ Dance	272
16th November	Eostre Awakens Exhibition Launch	Visual Arts	60
17th November	Kelly Neill Dance	Community/ Dance	269
17th November (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
20th November	The Everly Bros	Music	95
21st November	A Degree of Danger x 3 schools sessions	Interactive Theatre	155
	Jimmy Buckley	Music	161
22nd November	A Degree of Danger x 3 schools sessions	Interactive Theatre	160
23rd November	Oh What a Night	Music	161
24th November	The Indians	Music	107
24th November (3 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
6th December	Peter Pan	Pantomime	216
7th December	Peter Pan	Pantomime	238
	Peter Pan	Pantomime	121
8th December	Peter Pan	Pantomime	276

	Peter Pan	Pantomime	167
12th December	Mermaids Lagoon (Nursery group)	Early Years Xmas experience	26
	Colin Geddis/ Micky Bartlett	Comedy	156
13th December	Peter Pan	Pantomime	258
14th December	Peter Pan	Pantomime	243
	Peter Pan	Pantomime	123
15th December	Peter Pan	Pantomime	268
	Peter Pan	Pantomime	261
18th December	Victoria Lagan Drama Dance	Dance/ Community	256
19th December	Victoria Lagan Drama Dance	Dance/ Community	258
20th December	Country Christmas	Music	91
15th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	271
16th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	272
17th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	271
18th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	271
19th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	276
	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	271

22nd January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	275
23rd January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	274
24th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	272
25th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	273
26th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	274
26th January (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	275
29th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	274
30th January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	275
31st January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	273
1st February	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	274
2nd February	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	273

2nd February (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Musical Theatre/ Amateur	274
7th February	The Suitcase	Drama	179
8th February	Patrick Feeny	Music	174
9th February	Jake Okane	Comedy	293
9th February (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
13th February	Manny Man	Drama	17
14th February	Neil Delamere	Comedy	333
15th February	David Meade	Variety	271
16th February	Frank Carson - Rebel With out a Pause	Drama	93
16th February (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
19th February	Is That Too Hot	Drama	56
21st February	Give My Head Peace	Comedy	275
22nd February	Give My Head Peace	Comedy	276
23rd February	Fly Me to the Moon	Music	166
23rd February (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
26th February	Indian Tour Group	Tour Operator Conference	260
27th February	Trials of Oscar wilde	Drama	35
28th February	Colin Murphy	Comedy	206
1st March	Bagatelle	Music	265

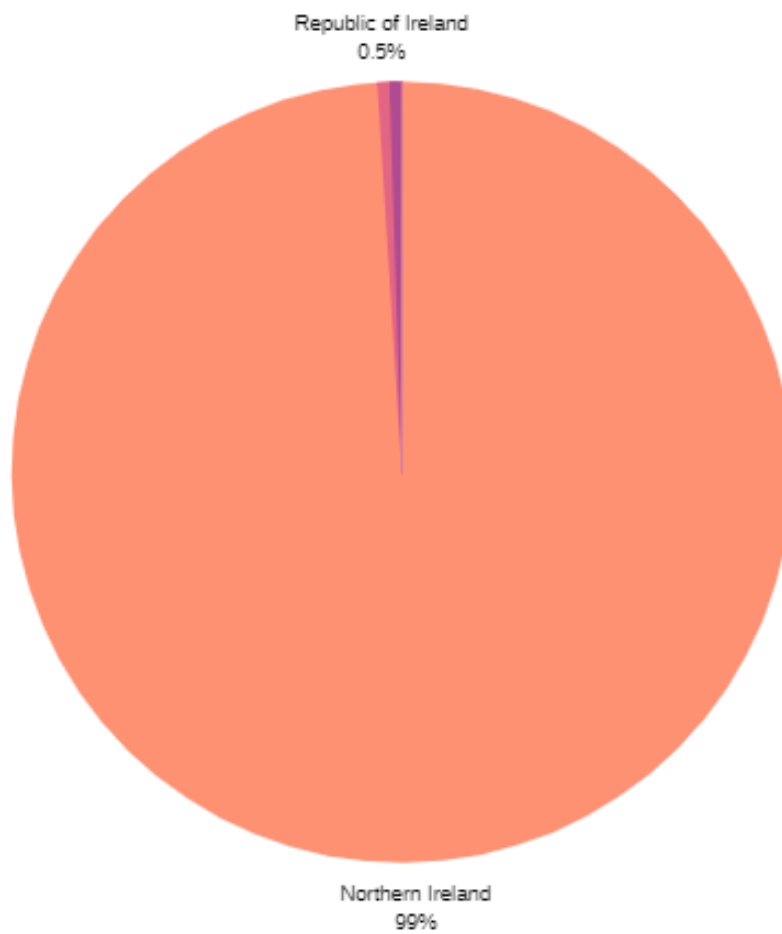
2nd March	Adult Drama Workshop	Drama	14
2nd March (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
	Roly Daniels	Music	162
5th March	UUSU CASS Heart of the City	Drama	28
6th March	UUSU CASS Heart of the City	Drama	35
8th March	Freak Show	Drama	89
9th March	Freak Show	Drama	41
9th March (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
14th March	What the Story Rory	Comedy	187
15th March	Book Club of Witterington	Variety/ Community	192
16th March (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
22nd March	Elvis Spectacular	Music	175
23rd March	Beauty Queen of Ileenane	Drama	213
23rd March (2 workshops)	Riverside Youth Theatre Minis/ Midis/ Seniors - 2nd session	Children & Young People	50
25th March	Lead 2 Grow	Conference	260
28th March	Ballymoney PhotoGraphic Exhibition Launch	Visual Arts	20
29th March	Rock n Roll Years	Music	247
30th March	Youth Theatre Showcase	Children & Young People	134
		TOTAL:	<u>28747</u>

Appendix 2:

Postcode Analysis

Where do our Audiences come from?

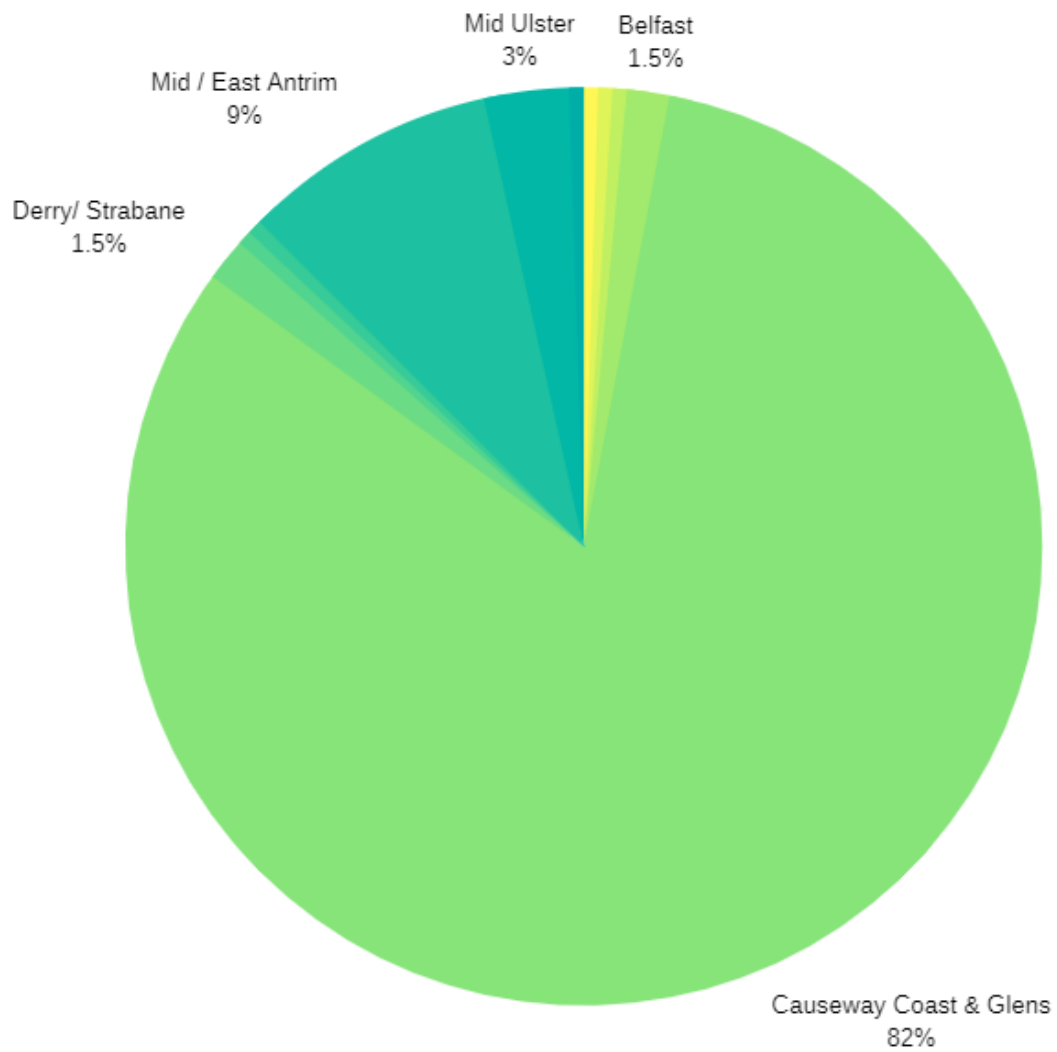
Overview:



Nb. The remaining 0.5% of the bookings are from the rest of the UK (Scotland and England).



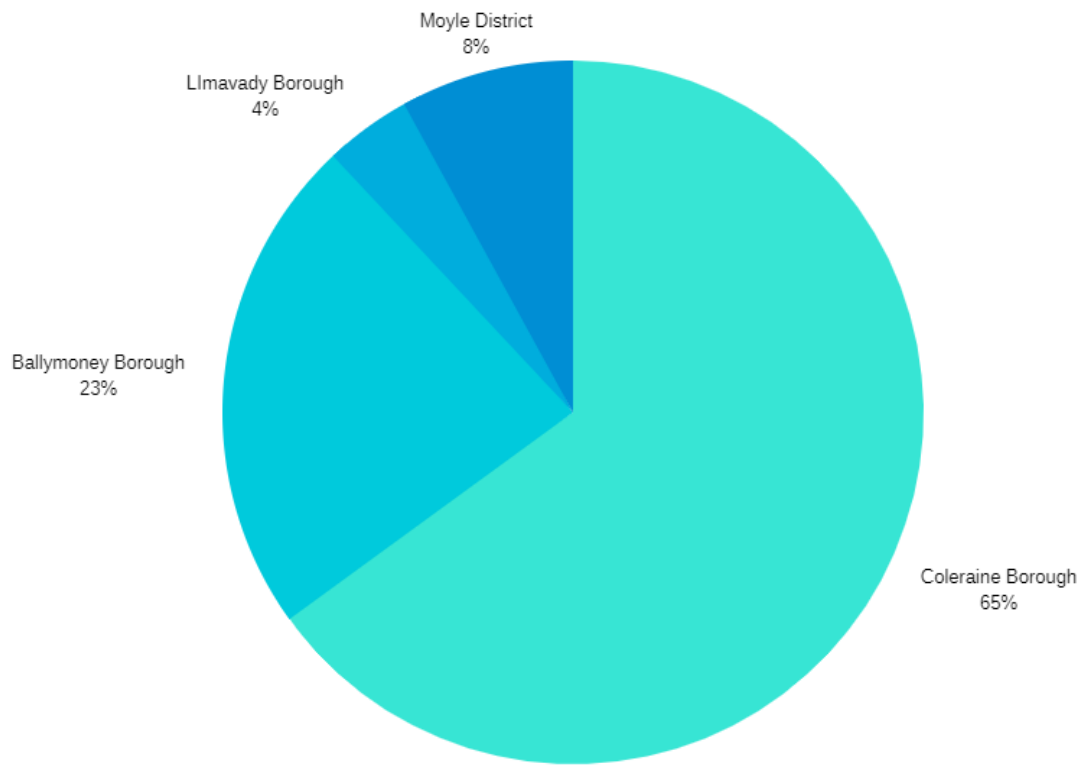
Breakdown by local authority areas in Northern Ireland:



Nb. All other local authority areas account for 0.5% of the bookings.



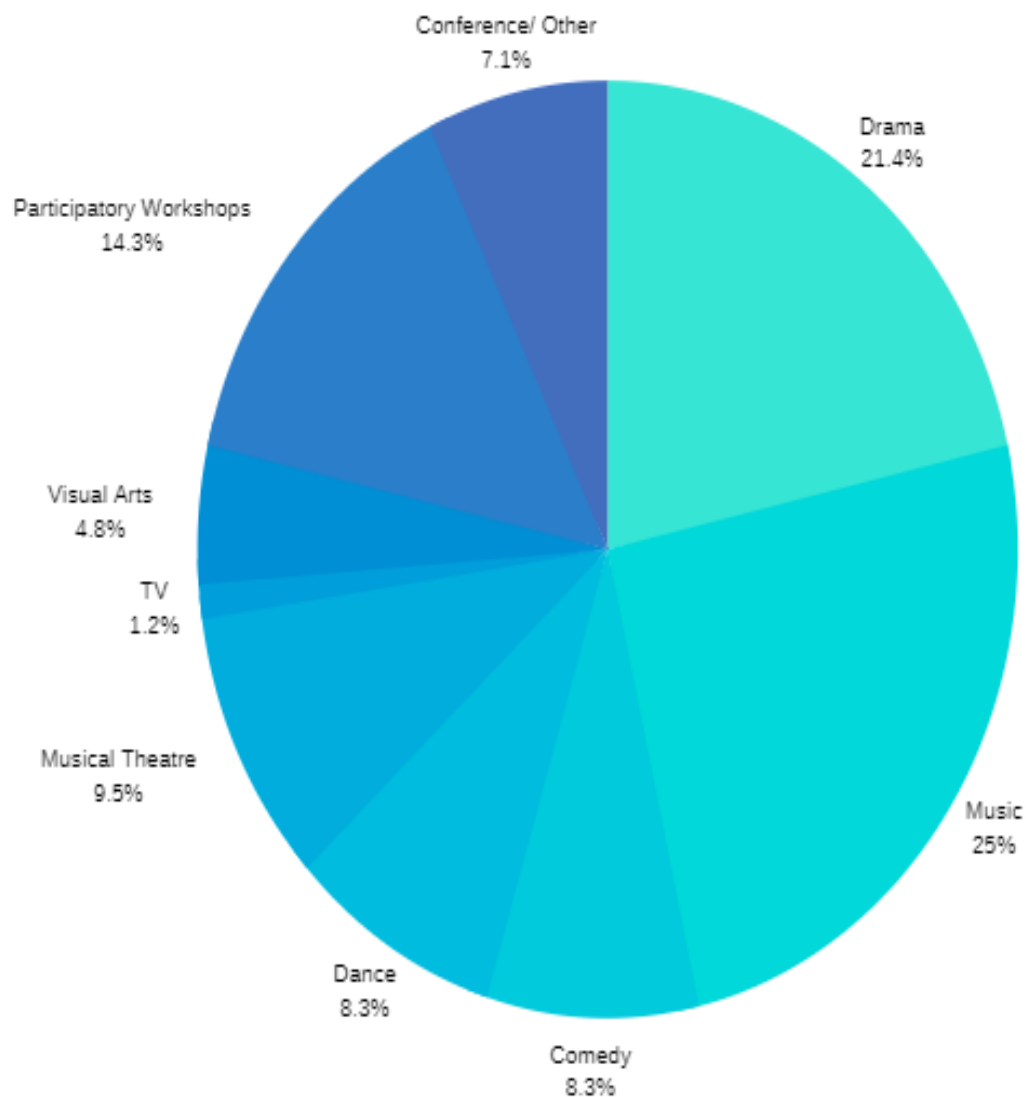
Breakdown by postcodes in the Causeway Coast & Glens council areas:



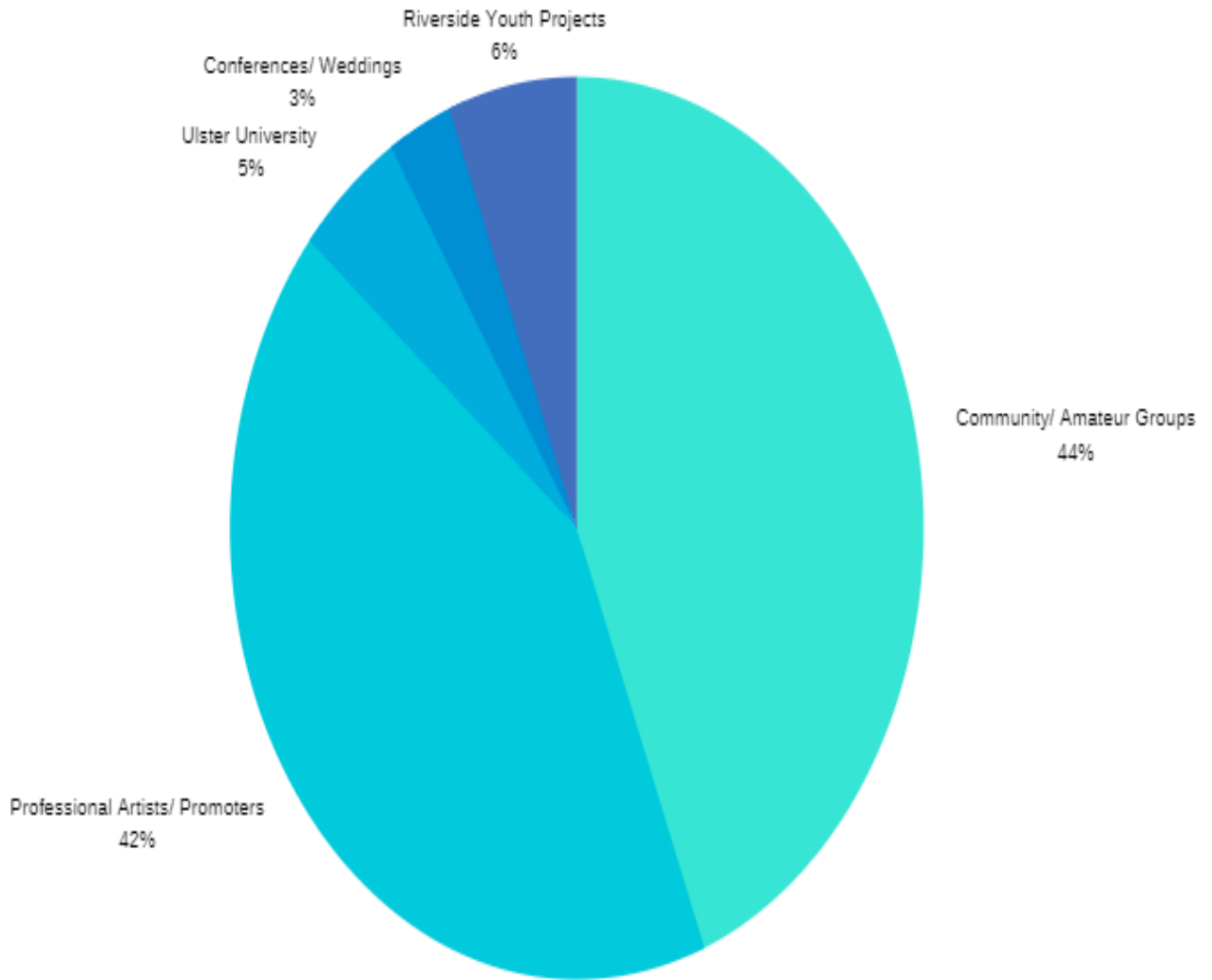
Appendix 3:

What Riverside programmes and who books the venue?

The diversity of events the Riverside Theatre programmes:



Who hires the Riverside Theatre and the % of annual audience their events account for?



RIVERSIDE THEATRE

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

	1819 Actuals £	1718 Actual £
INCOME		
Funding Sources:		
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	107,500	107,500
Ulster University	108,000	107,500
	<u>215,500</u>	<u>215,000</u>
Core Theatre Activity:		
Profit on Split Shows and guarantees	Note 1 24,717	24,311
Theatre Hires and associated charges and box office	40,355	34,161
Profit on bar sales	Note 2 18,099	13,256
Rental income	3,744	5,187
Other Income (charge for postage/gift vouchers/hospitality income)	2,603	1,700
	<u>89,517</u>	<u>78,615</u>
Youth Work:		
Youth Theatre receipts	4,837	19,682
Bursaries from UU	1,600	
Youth Theatre payments	(7,266)	(18,999)
	<u>(829)</u>	<u>683</u>
Total income	304,188	294,298
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs	214,645	178,444
Marketing	7,344	14,546
Printing and Stationery	3,144	2,158
Travel	971	185
Hospitality	365	0
Heat, Light, Water and Power	27,293	27,679
Telephone	886	906
Repairs & Maintenance	8,487	18,388
System Maintenance	7,242	7,039
Cleaning, Portering and Security	22,273	20,020
Legal and professional services	2,340	3,756
Performing Rights Society	1,375	5,458
Credit Card Charges	3,769	3,254
Credit Card Charge Income	(6,810)	(5,430)
Postage	1,113	290
Equipment and Furniture	9,447	18,178
Miscellaneous Expenses	629	605
Total expenditure	304,512	295,476
Trading Deficit	(324)	(1,179)

Note 1

Ticket sales net of development fund	139,410
Third party box office expenses	(114,694)
	<u>24,716</u>

Note 2

Bar income	32,736
Bar expenses	(14,637)
	<u>18,099</u>

2. OTHER COSTS NOT CHARGED TO THE THEATRE

Support cost from Finance/ P&C/ Campus Life / Marketing	42,929	35,689
Estates costs for capital works	15,000	100,000
Additional cost covered by Ulster University	57,929	135,689

3. ADDITIONAL RESERVES

Development fund		
Opening balance	42,985	24,877
Income through ticket sales	17,933	18,108
Approved expenditure	(4,512)	0
Closing Balance	<u>56,406</u>	<u>42,985</u>

Garfield Western Trust		
Garfield Western Trust	18,437	
Garfield spend	(12,201)	
	<u>6,236</u>	