



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**A virtual meeting of the STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP
will be held on TUESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2022 at 10.00 AM**

**Contact: Hannah Williams - Council Business Unit, Democratic Services
(07385401954)**

LIST OF ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they **must** notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group held on 14th February 2022.

(Pages 3 - 6)

3. WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2023

To receive the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group Draft Work Programme for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

(Pages 7 - 12)

4. ARTS COUNCIL INVESTMENT REVIEW & BUSINESS PLAN

To receive an update in respect of the Arts Council Investment Review and Business Plan.

(Pages 13 - 20)

5. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances is of the opinion should be considered at the Meeting as a matter of urgency.



Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Circulation:-

Members of the Committee:

County Borough Councillors Councillor B Harris (Chair), Councillor A Crimmings (Vice-Chair), Councillor R Lewis, Councillor J Brencher and Councillor D Grehan

Mr A Owen-Hicks – Arts Council Wales

Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Ms C O'Neill, Head of Arts, Culture and Libraries
Mr A Williams, Theatre Operations and Development Manager
Ms A Gould, Theatre Programme and Audience Development Manager
Ms A Hayes, Arts & Creative Industries Manager



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP
Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group held on Monday, 14
February 2022 at 2.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group Members in attendance:-

Councillor R Lewis (Chair)

Councillor A Crimmings Councillor J Brencher
Councillor J Rosser

Co-Opted Members in attendance:-

Ms M Dunning

Officers in attendance:-

Ms C O'Neill, Strategic Arts & Culture Manager
Mr A Williams, Theatre Operations and Development Manager
Mrs S Handy – Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer
Mr N Kelland – Principal Librarian

Guests:-

Ms J Angharad – CEO, Artis Community Cymuned
Mr R Hughes, CEO Awen Cultural Trust

17 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Members to the last meeting of the Strategic Culture & Arts Cabinet Steering Group for the 2021-22 Municipal Year. The Chair noted that Councillor Rosser was retiring and thanked her for all her hard work on the Steering Group.

18 Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors S Rees-Owen and G. Hughes and co-opted member Mr Coppock.

19 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor J. Brencher declared the following personal interest:
"I am a Trustee of the YMCA"

20 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the 27th September 2021 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

21 An update on the progress of the Muni

Mr Richard Hughes, the Chief Executive of Awen Cultural Trust, provided Members with an update in respect of the community asset transfer of the Muni Arts Centre to Awen Cultural Trust.

Members of the Steering Group were informed that in November 2021 the Council were awarded money towards the Muni as part of the Levelling Up Fund application. Members were advised that the Muni is now in stage 3, which is the design part of the process. The delivery phase is aimed for Spring 2022. The focus is currently on 2 areas; accessibility and sustainability. Members were advised that the progress is going very well and that the work is looking to be undertaken over the coming year.

Following the update, thanked Mr Hughes for providing the Steering Group with the overview of the work to date. The Chair referenced the challenges that were faced by the Council with the levelling up fund and noted how pleased he was with the final outcome.

Discussion ensued and a number of Members noted how pleased they were with the progress to date. Councillor Brencher noted how pleased she was that the Muni was going back to its original features and sought clarification as to whether Awen would also be engaging with the YMCA and Pontypridd Town Council. Councillor Brencher also noted how much she would love to sit on the Muni Board and queried there would be an opportunity to do so. Furthermore, Councillor Brencher noted that parking access is critical when designing the Muni.

The Chair noted the importance of community engagement given that the Muni has been closed for some time. It was emphasised that it is important that it is sustainable for the future. Mr Hughes agreed and noted the importance of the work being transparent to the community.

Councillor Brencher noted that lots of different community groups meet in Pontypridd and queried whether there was a list of the groups who are being consulted with on this project. The Chair noted that the wider Pontypridd groups would be the best forum for any group to get involved. The Strategic Arts & Culture Manager noted that there is a Strategic Creative Pontypridd Partnership that has Awen and YMa as its members alongside other members who manage cultural buildings in Pontypridd. For those organisations and individuals beyond buildings, the Artis Creative Conversations network is available to join, with discussions here feeding into the Strategic Creative Pontypridd Partnership via Artis, who co-ordinate the conversations.. These groups share good practice and work collaboratively. It was noted that many residents are collaborating with the Muni project through other ways.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to note the update in respect of the progress of the Muni.

22 **Artis Community Cymuned**

The CEO of Arts Community Cymuned, Jen Angharad, provided Members with a power point presentation in respect of an Arts Community Cymuned / Pontypridd YMCA Collaboration.

The Chair thanked the CEO for providing such a detailed overview. The CEO noted her particular thanks to Ann Hayes and Councillor Brencher.

Discussion ensued and Councillor Rosser noted that she had been involved in the early days of the project and noted how pleasing it was to see the plans come to formation. Councillor Brencher noted that the YMCA has persevered through particularly dark days and noted how exciting it was to see the plans in place today. It was also emphasised that RCT Council deserves a lot of credit as the funding given made the difference between failure and success. A number of Members agreed and passed on their congratulations to RCT Council and noted the value of the work for the local community. The Chair noted that the YMCA is a part of the Council's wider regeneration plans for Pontypridd.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to note the update.

23 **To consider the Arts Council Wales investment application**

The Arts & Culture Manager provided Members with an update on the Arts Council of Wales's Investment Review and the Arts Service's future focus.

Following the overview, Members **RESOLVED** to note the update within the report.

24 **An update on libraries and collections in RCT**

The Principal Librarian provided Members with an overview on libraries and collection in RCT through the use of a power point presentation.

The Chair thanked the officer for providing a detailed overview and noted the wide range of services on offer to the public. The Principal Librarian emphasised the fantastic team of staff and gave praise to them. A number of Members gave praise to the staff, particularly with how well they have adapted to the pandemic.

Discussions ensued and a Member queried what were the Council's plans to link with education going forward. The Member also queried what the plans were in respect of Pontypridd Town Library and the literature festival. The Principal Librarian noted that in respect of school children the service has been encouraging more families to join up. Further, in respect of education, they have been establishing new contacts with schools, however, there can be a lot of regulations surrounding each visit. As Covid restrictions are lifted, it is hoped that more visits will be encouraged. It was also noted that in respect of the school library system, RCT Council will also be creating its own online content. In respect of the literacy festival, the Principal Librarian emphasised that when all restrictions are fully lifted, it will be an opportunity for RCT to co operate with them going forward.

Following the overview, Members **RESOLVED** to note the update on libraries and collections in RCT.

25 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business to report.

26 Chair's Review & Close

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting of the Strategic Culture & Arts Cabinet Steering Group for the 2021-22 Municipal Year. The Chair thanked all Members for their contributions and hard work. The Chair also noted that Councillor Rosser was retiring and wished her every success for the future and thanked her for all her hard work. The Chair also thanked all officers for their hard work and dedication.

This meeting closed at 3.32 pm

**CLLR R LEWIS
CHAIR.**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE & ARTS STEERING GROUP

22ND NOVEMBER 2022

WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

Author: Hannah Williams, Council Business Unit - 07385401954

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Strategic Culture & Arts Steering Group with information on the key issues to be considered in the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members of the Steering Group provide comment as appropriate on the draft work programme (which is attached as Appendix 1 to the report)
- 2.2 Subject to any amendments, the Steering Group approve the draft work programme as a basis, which can be amended to reflect any changing priorities throughout the year.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to ensure that the areas identified as 'Going Forward' are considered by the Steering Group.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In September, 2018, the Strategic Culture & Arts Steering Group held its inaugural meeting, whereby it was agreed to the production of a work programme to provide Members with the opportunity to raise any matters that they would like to consider during the year. It was noted that the work programme would be a fluid document to be amended with changing priorities.

5. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

5.1 The topics identified for consideration over the 2022 – 2023 Municipal Year are:-

5.1.1 November 2022

- Proposed Work Programme; and
- Arts Council Investment Review & Business Plan;

5.1.2 January 2023

- Youth Music Provision (SONIG, Forte, Beacons);
- Altered Images Update;
- Paper on how culture is supporting residents; and
- Production and Co-production Programme

5.1.3 March 2023

- External Funding Update (Families First 1st, ACW IR and Connect & Flourish and Lottery, NHLF, WG);
- WG Cultural Strategy Update; and
- RCT Theatres and Carbon Reduction Plans

5.2 Depending on changing priorities, the dates and topics listed above may be subject to change.

6. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

5.1 The report is for information purposes only.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment including the socio-economic duty is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only. Any implications to equality will be presented within each of the reports outlined within the work programme.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only. Any implications to the Welsh language will be presented within each of the reports outlined within the work programme.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

11.1 The Council is subject to the statutory requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which sets a common vision for the long-term well-being of people and communities through seven national well-being goals and provides a framework for public services to work differently through five sustainable development principles. The principles include thinking about the long-term impact of our actions, seeking to prevent issues from occurring in the first place or from worsening, involving people and communities in decisions made that affect them, working together with other organisations and integrating our work to understand the knock-on effects of what we do.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 The proposed draft work programme is a fluid document, allowing the programme to be amended with changing priorities. The programme is based on factors highlighted within the meetings of the Strategic Culture & Arts Steering Group or other items officers deem appropriate to bring forward for discussion.

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**STARTEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP
DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/23**

NOVEMBER 2022
Draft Work Programme
Arts Council Investment Review & Business Plan
JANUARY 2023
Youth Music Provision (SONIG, Forte, Beacons)
Altered Images Update
How is culture is supporting residents?
Production and Co-production Programme
Membership of the Group
MARCH 2023
External Funding Update (Families First 1st, ACW IR and Connect & Flourish and Lottery, NHLF, WG)
Welsh Government Cultural Strategy Update
RCT Theatres and Carbon Reduction Plans

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

22ND NOVEMBER 2022

REPORT ON RCT THEATRES APPLICATION TO THE ARTS COUNCIL OF WALES INVESTMENT REVIEW 2022 AND THE FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITIES, COUNCILLOR BOB HARRIS

Author(s): Adrian Williams, Interim Strategic Arts & Culture Manager - 01443 570031

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group of RCT Theatres intended application to the Arts Council of Wales Investment Review 2023 and its proposed focus for the future.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group:

- 2.1 Consider the contents of the report and comment on the proposed key priorities.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Arts Council of Wales is due to commence an Investment Review of its Arts Portfolio programme in early 2023. RCT Theatres is currently an Arts Portfolio Wales client and is intending to apply for continued funding to strengthen its engagement work with communities and increase the public value of its theatres in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 3.2 This report provides an opportunity for the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group to consider the Arts Service's proposed application to the Arts Council of Wales Investment Review and the Arts Service's focus for the future.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council has been a member of the Arts Council of Wales Arts Portfolio of annual revenue funded clients since 2010.
- 4.2 RCT Theatres receive revenue funding of approximately £150,000 as presenting venues and a producing company.
- 4.3 The last Investment Review identified the Arts Portfolio Wales clients for the period 2015 to 2020. RCT Theatres were successful in continuing to be recognised as an Arts Portfolio Wales client at that time.
- 4.4 A planned review for 2020 was postponed due to the retirement of the Arts Council's Chief Executive and the Covid-19 pandemic. The review is now scheduled to take place during 2023, following a consultation process that ended on 10th October 2022.
- 4.5 RCT Theatres' Artistic Business Plan for this period outlined the following:
- Vision: We aim to inspire the people living in our communities to become more resilient by being creatively active in the arts and creative industries.
 - Mission: To produce, present and enable participation in high quality artistic work at RCT Theatres by working in partnership with our communities, in order to enhance our standing within the industry at a local, national and international level.
- 4.6 Our proposed objectives were to:
- Present – to enrich people's lives and to increase audiences for the arts by presenting a high quality, balanced, exciting and thought - provoking programme that is accessible and relevant to our communities;
 - Produce – to develop and sustain RCT Theatres as a producer that connects with our communities and helps break down barriers to engagement in the arts;
 - Participate – to enable members of our community and workforce to be creatively active by taking part in arts activity that empowers them to develop and which contributes to their well-being and quality of life;
 - Partnership – to build meaningful, strategic artistic and community partnerships for RCT Theatres that support the development of a dynamic regional Creative Hub to grow the arts infrastructure and develop audiences within RCT and the region.

4.7 These four objectives supported the delivery of the Arts Council of Wales' strategic priorities within its Corporate Plan 2013-2018:

- Make: nurture talent, creativity and capability;
- Reach: encourage more people to enjoy and take part in the arts;
- Sustain: supporting a dynamic and resilient arts sector.

4.8 During 2015-2022, RCT Theatres has focussed on delivering its objectives through:

- Developing the Creative Hub at the Park and Dare Theatre by introducing an Artist in Residence Scheme; supporting artists development through an Arts Associates scheme; co-producing work focused on families, Welsh language and new writing; and developing the new Stiwdio 1 space;
- Focusing on Audience Development through key partnerships with the Arts Services' Arts and Creative Industries Team, Young Carers, Library Service, the Equalities and Diversity Team and schools;
- Involvement in the Rhondda Arts Festival in Treorchy (RAFT) and Love Treorchy events;
- Presenting a programme of professional and community performances;
- Co-ordinating the Take pART participatory programme of weekly workshops, masterclasses and go-see opportunities.

5. ARTS COUNCIL OF WALES INVESTMENT REVIEW

5.1 In 2018 the Arts Council of Wales published its new Corporate Plan, 'For the Benefit of All 2018-2023' which highlights their continued focus on their strategy to 'make', 'reach' and 'sustain'.

5.2 The mission stated in 'For the Benefit of All' is '*Making the arts central to the life and wellbeing of the nation*'.

5.3 The priorities identified by the Arts Council of Wales are:

- Promoting Equalities as the foundation of a clear commitment to reach more widely and deeply into all the communities across Wales.
- Strengthening the Capability and Resilience of the arts, enabling creative talent to thrive.
- Enabling the Arts Council of Wales to work more effectively, collaborating more imaginatively with like-minded partners across Wales.

- 5.4 The public consultation on the Arts Council of Wales' Investment Reviews guidance and application ended on October 10th 2022 - we await their response to this.
- 5.5 Recent updates at meetings with Arts Council of Wales Officers have highlighted the importance of applications evidencing how they support meeting their priorities.
- 5.6 During the consultation period, the Arts Council announced its intention to assess organisations against the following six criteria:
- Creativity
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Welsh Language
 - Climate Justice
 - Nurturing Talent
 - Transformation
- 5.7 The application process will commence in January 2023 and close in April of that year. The outcome of the Investment Review will be announced in September 2023 with indicative funding agreed in principle (pending the Welsh Government's Budget Settlement). The new Arts Portfolio Wales will commence in April 2024.

6. RCT THEATRES: 2023 ONWARDS

6.1 Objectives

- 6.1.1 It is proposed that RCT Theatres' Arts Council of Wales Investment Review application focuses on the following transformational objectives:
- Engage more deeply with our local communities as partners and drivers of positive change;
 - Reposition Park & Dare Theatre, alongside Treorchy Library as a Cultural Hub invested and embedded in its community and with other public, private and third sector partners;
 - Move beyond compliance to creatively effect positive change in relation to climate justice;
 - Through creativity, create opportunity and drive prosperity for those who live and work in Rhondda Cynon Taf;
 - Become the means through which the community can flourish within a thriving cultural democracy;

- Embed equitable thinking, behaviours, and practice into everything we do.
- 6.1.2 These objectives build upon the service's work with Lisa Baxter of The Experience Business following participation in her 'Designing Public Value with Purpose' programme funded by the Arts Council Wales, , supporting arts venues, artist and communities to develop a deeper understanding of their locality and realise the potential of creativity in helping local communities to flourish.
- 6.1.3 These objectives will ensure that the Park & Dare Theatre, and the Cultural Hub, are fully embedded within their communities, are involving audiences and individuals in its decision making, and are seen as exemplars and leaders in their field.
- 6.1.4 In terms of the wider Arts Service and Coliseum Theatre, the service aims to:
- Cultural Hub Development – developing the Park and Dare Theatre's role alongside that of Treorchy Library as the two buildings that form the first Cultural Hub within Rhondda Cynon Taf, as well as exploring further capital development;
 - Community Engagement – as a result of the 'Designing Public Value with Purpose' programme; realising the public value of the Park and Dare Theatre throughout its surrounding communities and taking the learning to consider a community engagement approach relevant for the Coliseum Theatre;
 - Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2024 – co-creating a professional Welsh language offer for the Maes as well as opportunities for all communities to engage with cultural opportunities at RCT Theatres and across the Borough before, during and after the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol's visit to Rhondda Cynon Taf;
 - Responding to the Climate Emergency – working with partners to explore the use of arts and culture in raising awareness of the Climate Emergency, changing behaviour, and fostering a sense of shared ownership amongst residents, communities and businesses;
 - Building Audiences – developing a dialogue with existing and new audiences to co-create opportunities at RCT Theatres performance spaces, particularly at the Park and Dare Theatre and its Stiwdio 1;

- Explore the realisation of capital ambitions for the Coliseum Theatre in the creation of participation space and a flexible seating auditorium.
- The Take pART Participation Programme will continue to provide opportunities within the Park and Dare Theatre and within community settings across RCT.
- The SONIG Youth Music Industries Young Promoters Network will be delivered as part of the participation programme at RCT Theatres, particularly focused on developing engagement with young people through music within the Park and Dare Theatre's Stiwidio 1.
- The Coliseum Theatre's focus will be as a presenting venue, with a programme consisting of RCT Theatres produced and co-produced work, commercial product and community performances due to its space limitations and the demographic of its surrounding communities.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 The report is for information purposes only.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment including the socio-economic duty is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only. Any implications to equality will be presented within each of the reports outlined within the work programme.

9. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only. Any implications to the Welsh language will be presented within each of the reports outlined within the work programme.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 10.1 There are no financial implications aligned to the recommendations in this report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 11.1 There are no legal implications aligned to the recommendations in this report.

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

12.1 As an Arts Portfolio Wales client, we are supported to not only contribute to the delivery of the Arts Council of Wales' priorities but also the Council's corporate priorities, 'Prosperity', 'People' and 'Place'.

12.2 RCT Theatres will be further enabled to contribute to the seven national wellbeing goals, particularly:

- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language;
- A prosperous Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities.

12.3 The programme and our involvement is consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:

- Long-term – enabling us to co-create work, engage with our communities and build audiences that seek to achieve a more resilient and sustainable arts and creative industries provision within the County Borough;
- Prevention – by understanding our community's needs, concerns, opportunities and aspiration, we can provide engagement, participation and performance opportunities that address the early intervention and prevention agenda;
- Integrated – through community engagement work with key partners and contributing more effectively to a range of local, regional and national strategic priorities in an integrated and coherent way;
- Collaboration – through creating and working with our communities in collaboration with key artists and arts organisations whose values align with ours and with whom we can work in partnership to achieve our goals;
- Involvement – developing our creativity and community engagement through consultation, feedback, advisory groups and professional networks.

13. CONCLUSION

13.1 This report informs members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group on RCT Theatres intended application to the Arts Council of Wales' Investment Review 2023 and its proposed focus for the future.

13.2 It is proposed that RCT Theatres Arts Council of Wales Investment Review application focuses on two objectives:

- To Create Art that is ambitious and resonates with individuals & communities in a relevant and sustainable way
 - To engage with individuals and communities so that they can make, co-create and experience art on their own terms
- 13.3 The main focus of the delivery of these two objectives will be at the Creative Hub that is the Park and Dare Theatre and its development as a Cultural Hub alongside Treorchy Library.
- 13.4 Ambitions for the Coliseum Theatre, the key presentation venue, will be explored over the next five years.
- 13.5 The proposed key priorities for RCT Theatres are intended to increase its resilience and sustainability.