



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**A virtual meeting of the STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP
will be held on THURSDAY, 13TH JULY, 2023 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 17th January 2023.

(Pages 3 - 6)

**3. STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP WORK
PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

To receive the draft Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group Work Programme for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year.

(Pages 7 - 12)

4. RCT THEATRES AND CARBON REDUCTION PLANS

To receive information in respect of the RCT Theatres' Carbon Reduction measures.

(Pages 13 - 18)

5. PRODUCTION AND CO-PRODUCTION PROGRAMME OF THE ARTS SERVICE

To receive the Production and Co-production Programme of the Arts Service.

(Pages 19 - 30)

6. 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 (Deputy Chair), Councillor R Lewis, Councillor J Brencher and Councillor D Grehan

Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Ms C O'Neill, Strategic Arts & Culture Manager
Mr A Williams, Theatre Operations and Development Manager
Ms A Gould, Theatre Programme and Audience Development Manager
Ms A Hayes, Arts & Creative Industries Manager
Ms A Friel, Graduate Officer
Mr A Owen-Hicks, Arts Council Wales

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh



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 Tuesday, 17 January 2023 at 10.00 am.

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

Councillor B Harris (Chair)

Councillor A Crimmings Councillor R Lewis
Councillor J Brencher

Officers in attendance:-

Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Ms C O'Neill, Strategic Arts & Culture Manager
Mr A Williams, Theatre Operations and Development Manager
Ms A Hayes, Arts & Creative Industries Manager
Mr N Kelland, Principal Librarian
Ms A Friel, Graduate Officer
Mr A Owen-Hicks, Arts Council Wales

6 Welcome and Apology

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and an apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor D. Grehan.

7 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of interest made pertaining to the agenda.

8 Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Strategic Culture and Art Steering Group held on 22nd November 2022.

9 Youth Music Provision

The Arts and Creative Industries Manager provided the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group with a detailed update on Youth Music provision within the Arts Service.

The officer drew Members' attention to Section 5 of the report, which outlined several projects for young people between the ages of 8 and 25 which aimed to

raise self-esteem and develop resilience.

The Chair thanked the officer for the comprehensive report and drew attention to the valuable benefits noted such as youth self-esteem, well-being and resilience. The Chair praised the Young Promoters Network and the opportunities for young people to excel.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure spoke positive of the information provided and noted the value of such projects and programmes in providing young people with the opportunity to engage with others and learn new skills. The Cabinet Member welcomed the joint working relationship between the Arts Service and YEPS and spoke of the importance of young people acquiring new skills and employment opportunities, in addition to gaining confidence and partaking in professional showcases.

Another Member echoed previous comments and emphasised the health and wellbeing benefit of the programmes.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation & Welsh Language praised the initiatives and felt that the benefits to young people, in terms of employment and health and wellbeing, were visible across the County Borough. The Cabinet Member spoke of the pressures on young people, schools and families as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and was of the view that the report was an example of best practice which should be shared.

The Arts Council of Wales representative suggested that the report should be shared with the new Portfolio Manager for Arts and Young People as an example of best practice.

The Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group **RESOLVED:**

1. To consider the contents of the report and comment on the information provided.

10 'Altered Images' Heritage Project

The Principal Librarian provided the Steering Group with information on the 'Altered Images' project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) grant and led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Library Service.

Members were provided with the progress of the project, which provided the opportunity to rebuild capacity within Rhondda Cynon Taf and the community in relation to heritage; and sought to engage with a wide range of partners and individuals across the Borough.

The Chair thanked the officer for the comprehensive report and emphasised the importance of heritage and the need to celebrate the array of well-known personalities from RCT.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation & Welsh Language also spoke of his excitement about the project and agreed that RCT was blessed with both industrial and pre-industrial history. The Cabinet Member commented that the exploration of history was key in terms of a sense of community and belonging and was pleased to note the engagement of several volunteers, as detailed within the report.

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Another Member also spoke positive of the Heritage Project and suggested that officers engage with the newly appointed curator at Pontypridd Museum to further enhance the delivery of activities across the Borough.

Members **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the contents of the report regarding the project, progress, and next steps.

11 Membership of the Group

The Interim Strategic Arts & Culture Manager provided Members with the proposed changes to the membership of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group, in line with the priorities of the Arts Council of Wales Investment Review 2023.

The officer drew Members' attention to Section 6 of the report, where it was proposed that:

- A member of the borough's Citizens' Panel, RCT Wide Youth Forum and Older People Advisory Group be invited to join the Steering Group, with consideration given to the ways in which additional community representation can be sought in the future;
- An external arts professional was to be recruited, following the resignation of the co-opted member who undertook this role; and
- That following the future development of a Community Panel, the Chair of the panel also become a member of the Steering Group.

The officer emphasised that discussions regarding membership were in early stages and that the above-mentioned Community Panel was yet to be established.

The Chair thanked the officer for the update and stated that community engagement was paramount

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure took the opportunity to thank the Independent Member of the Group, who had recently resigned from the role and commented that his involvement brought healthy interaction and challenge. The Cabinet Member agreed with the Chair's comments in respect of engagement and welcomed the opportunity to hear the views of the community to cater for local needs.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation & Welsh Language welcomed the proposals but was cautious that groups with a larger membership can lose focus. The Cabinet Member commented on the importance of taking into consideration the appropriate attributes, interests, and expertise of any future appointments to the Group. The officer assured the Member that the proposals were in its infancy and took on board the Cabinet Member's comments.

The Steering Group **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the proposal for changes to the membership of the Steering Group; and

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2. That the Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication provides an update to the Leader on the membership recommendation for the Leader's endorsement.

12 Urgent Business

The Chair spoke of the Santa's Toy Mine experience and of the pantomime held at the Parc & Dare Theatre and wished to place on record his thanks to all involved in the fantastic events over the Christmas period.

Another Member echoed the Chair's comments and spoke highly of her experience at the Christmas pantomime. The Member commented that it was one of the best she'd attended.

This meeting closed at 10.55 am

**CLLR HARRIS
CHAIR.**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE & ARTS STEERING GROUP

13TH JULY 2023

PROPOSED FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITIES, COUNCILLOR BOB HARRIS

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 2023/24 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 2023-24 Municipal Year are:-

5.1.1 July 2023

- Proposed Forward Work Programme 2023/24;
- RCT Theatres and Carbon Reduction Plans; and
- Production and Co-production Programme

5.1.2 November 2023

- External Funding Update;
- Libraries Update; and
- Welsh Government Cultural Strategy Update

5.1.3 April 2024

- Artist in Service Update
- NLHF Altered Images: Cultural Strategy Update; and
- The Muni Update

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
WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2023-2024**

Forward plan of proposed business for the 2023/24 Municipal Year

N.B – The work programme is a fluid document, which will be subject to change to take account of any additional / deletion of reports.

Contact: Hannah Williams (Tel No. 07385401954)

JULY 2023
Forward Work Programme 2023-24
RCT Theatres and Carbon Reduction Plans
Production and Co-production Programme
NOVEMBER 2023
External Funding Update
Libraries Service Update
Welsh Government Cultural Strategy Update
APRIL 2024
Artist in Service Update
NLHF Altered Images: Cultural Strategy Update
Y Miwni Update

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

13TH JULY 2023

REPORT ON RCT THEATRES CARBON REDUCTION PLANS

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

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group of the RCT Theatres' Carbon Reduction Measures.

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 information provided.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This report provides an opportunity for the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group to consider the proposed Carbon Reduction Measures within the RCT Theatres.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Wales has declared both Climate and Nature emergencies and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is committed to playing its part in tackling those emergencies.
- 4.2 The Council's [Think Climate Strategy 2022-2025](#) was agreed by Cabinet on 22 June 2022 and sets out the ways in which the Council aims to tackle climate change and meet its commitments to reducing carbon emissions across the Council and the County Borough.
- 4.3 The Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint across all of its activities, with particular emphasis on procured goods and services and

built assets, which comprises the largest proportion of the Council's carbon footprint.

- 4.4 The Arts Service Business Plan 2024-2027 outlines a commitment to respond to the climate and nature emergencies using creativity and the arts to support the Council, county borough and the arts sector to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- 4.5 In May 2022, Point One and Indigo Ltd partnered to deliver Act Green, a piece of research into the attitudes of UK cultural attendees towards the climate crisis. Its aim was to understand more about what audiences expected from cultural organisations in this area, and what part they were willing to play. The key findings of the research were:
 - 77% of audience members agree with the statement: “Cultural organisations have a responsibility to influence society to make radical change to address the climate emergency”;
 - 88% of cultural audience members are worried by the climate emergency;
 - Only 17% think cultural organisations currently place great importance on it;
 - 90% or more expect theatres to already be making sustainable productions, running sustainable buildings, and operating sustainably;
 - High proportions of audience members are open to sustainable travel, food and other choices.
- 4.6 This research by Indigo and Point One shows a strong expectation by audiences that theatres should do more to respond to the climate emergency.
- 4.7 In 2021, the first edition of the [Theatre Green Book](#) was released. The Theatre Green Book is an initiative by theatre-makers – guided by sustainability experts Buro Happold – to move theatre towards sustainability. In three volumes, it sets standards for making productions sustainably, for making theatre buildings sustainable, and for improving operations like catering and front of house.
- 4.8 The volume of the Theatre Green Book focused on theatre buildings recognises the challenges faced by those managing historic buildings and uses the energy hierarchy as its key principle.
- 4.9 The energy hierarchy suggests:

- a) First making your building 'Lean' by improving its building fabric so it wastes less energy. That means insulating roofs and walls and improving windows and doors.
- b) Second, make it 'Clean' by replacing inefficient services systems, so as to minimise the energy they use and deliver the energy demand in the most efficient way possible.
- c) Thirdly, go 'Green' by switching that energy to renewable sources by generating energy on site wherever possible, with photovoltaic cells, heat pumps etc

4.10 The Theatre Green Book also recognises the importance of training: "Theatre's shift towards sustainable working needs everyone to understand the principles on which green guidance is based. More widespread Climate Literacy training can help the whole sector move forwards."

5. Carbon Reduction Measures within the RCT Theatres

5.1 As part of the Arts Council Wales and Council funded development of Stiwdio Un at the Park and Dare Theatre, LED alternatives to theatre lighting were included in the lighting specification and subsequently purchased.

5.2 The Strategic Arts and Culture Manager attended a Theatre Green Book event at the Bristol Old Vic in December 2021 and has encouraged the team to adopt its key principles as well as publicising the Theatre Green Book to other officers across the Council.

5.3 The Arts Service hold regular meetings with Corporate Estates colleagues to discuss and develop Carbon Reduction Measures within the two RCT theatres using the energy hierarchy to prioritise schemes.

5.4 The Council has recently approved the following schemes at the Park and Dare Theatre, designed to save 23.2 tonnes of Co2 per year, as part of its Corporate Carbon Reduction Programme:

- Replacement of boilers, pumps and boiler management system;
- Installation of LED lighting within toilets, circulation areas and back stage areas

5.5 At the Coliseum Theatre, the following schemes, designed to save 5.9 tonnes of Co2 per year, have been approved:

- Upgrading of boiler management system;
- Installation of LED lighting within toilets, circulation areas, back stage areas and external areas

- 5.6 As well as saving an estimated 29.1 tonnes of Co2 per year, these schemes, which represent a total investment of £150k, are also estimated to save the Council around £16k per year in energy costs.
- 5.7 The Coliseum Theatre is also subject to structural and feasibility studies in respect of the installation of roof-top solar array with the results expected later this year.
- 5.8 There is an ambition to install electric vehicle charging points in the Coliseum car park as part of the Council's publicly accessible EV roll out. Charging points have already been installed at the public car park near to the Park and Dare Theatre
- 5.9 The Arts Service continues to implement the recommendations within the Theatre Green Book in relation to its productions and co-productions and is striving to:
- Make sure 50% of all materials come from reused or recycled sources;
 - Make sure 65% of them go on to future live productions, through storage or re-use;
 - Avoid harmful and unsustainable materials;
 - Run technical systems sustainably;
 - Reduce journeys and deliveries.
- 5.10 The service also continues to encourage hirers to adopt these principles when presenting their productions and to use eco-friendly materials where these exist.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 No consultation exercise has been required.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

10.1 With financial contributions from the Arts Council Wales and the Council, we contribute to the delivery of Welsh Government priorities and the Council's corporate priorities, 'Economy', 'People' and 'Place'.

10.2 The Arts Service contributes to the seven national wellbeing goals, particularly:

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

11.3 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 partnerships 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.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 This report informs members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group of the carbon reduction plans within RCT Theatres and how the service is supporting the Council in the delivery of its Think Climate Strategy 2022-2025.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

13TH JULY 2023

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

Report on RCT Theatres' Carbon Reduction Plans

Officer to contact: Mr Adrian Williams, Strategic Arts & Culture Manager

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

13TH JULY 2023

**REPORT ON THE PRODUCTION AND CO-PRODUCTION PROGRAMME
OF THE ARTS SERVICE**

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

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group on the production and co-production programme of the Arts Service

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 information provided.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This report provides an opportunity for the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group to consider the production and co-production programme of the Arts Service.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 RCT Arts Service incorporates RCT Theatres, comprising of the Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy and the Coliseum, Aberdare; Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre; and an arts and creative industries team that use Families First funding to develop targeted arts interventions with young people, supporting them to improve their personal resilience and make positive lifestyle choices through engaging in arts projects.

4.2 The Arts Service Business Plan 2024 – 2027 outlines the following which we are preparing for in 2023:

Vision: “We imagine a thriving Rhodda Cynon Taf where the arts have the power to make us happy, confident, and proud of the place we call home.”

Mission: As a local authority Arts Service investment in the arts inspires and connects our communities; unlocks, nurtures, and celebrates latent creative talent; and ignites pride in and a sense of belonging to Rhondda Cynon Taf.

4.3 Our aims and specific objectives are:

Aim 1: To support a thriving cultural democracy, where our communities flourish, taking the lead in shaping and co-creating opportunities to engage with the arts

Objective 1: Our communities, including our communities of artists, are at the heart of our organisation, with whom we work in partnership to make, co-create, and engage with the arts and culture on their own terms, ensuring equity of access to all

Objective 2: We will create a community engagement plan that builds on the learning from our programme of community conversations, our work as part of the Designing Public Value with purpose programme.

Objective 3: People within our communities prosper, fulfilling their creative potential no matter what their background or lived experience including their socio-economic circumstances

Objective 4: An imaginative artistic programme, developed with our communities as audiences and participants ignites joy, hope and compassion, improves well-being, navigates today’s challenges, and shapes a better future by celebrating the place we call home

Objective 5: The arts are valued by all for the difference they make to people’s lives through their ability to promote healthy lifestyles, build social capital, and create more cohesive communities where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

Aim 2: To treasure the Welsh Language for the importance it holds to our shared identity, our shared heritage, and our shared culture in creative and imaginative ways.

- Objective 1: Welsh Language events and activities form an integral part of our artistic programme, promoting the use of the language and enabling our communities to celebrate the language in ways that are relevant to them.
- Objective 2: Our creative partners make use of the Welsh language in different contexts and community settings capitalising on the visit of and the legacy from the National Eisteddfod to RCT in 2024.
- Aim 3: To respond to the climate and nature emergencies using creativity and the arts to support the Council, county borough and arts sector to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Objective 1: An arts programme that engages the community in the on-going Climate Change conversation developed in partnership with the community and the Council.
- Objective 2: Manage our theatres and activities in a socially, environmentally, and ethically sustainable way.
- Aim 4: To embed principles of good governance, equitable thinking, behaviours, and practice into everything we do.
- Objective 1: Our governance arrangements, our artistic programmes, and our workforce, are representative of and are knowledgeable about our communities.
- Objective 2: Our board, workforce, creative partners, and freelancers are paid fairly, offered training and development opportunities and supported to adopt healthy lifestyles.

4.4 Our values were developed in partnership with our communities:

Creativity	nurture creative talent; enable creative activation; inspire creative expression; discover hidden talent; provide new experiences; challenge; take risks
Rootedness	celebrating place; altering perspectives; listening and sharing voices; acknowledging RCT's place today; developing pride in place and developing future ambitions
Calon	open-minded; non judgemental; accessible; welcoming to all; listening; sense of hospitality; fairness
Connectedness	civic agent and change maker; strengthening community; involving people; co-creation; connecting people (generosity); networks; partnerships
Joy	provider of entertainment; place for release and escapism; fun; celebration

4.5 The Arts Service's theatres are a portfolio client of the Arts Council Wales and receive an annual grant of £153,000 to support its productions and co-productions.

4.6 This financial year, the Arts Service will use the Arts Council Wales revenue funding to support the delivery of its objectives through a programme of productions and co-productions:

- Turning the Wheel – in co-production with local writer and producer, Keiran Bailey
- Knuckles – in co-production with Merthyr Tydfil-based company, Gurnwah Productions
- Ink'd – in co-production with Merthyr Tydfil-based company, Gurnwah Productions
- Sue (the Hippopotamus who doesn't Identify as a Hippopotamus) – produced by RCT Theatres' and developed with local creatives, Menna Rogers and Jemima Nicholas
- RCT Pantomime – produced by RCT Theatres' and directed by Richard Tunley

- Carwyn – in co-production with Cardiff-based writers and producers, Gareth Bale and Owen Thomas
- No Man’s Land – in co-production with local producer, Kyle Stead
- Gen Z Fest – in co-production with local producer, Kyle Stead

5. Production & Co-production Programme

5.1 Turning the Wheel – a co-production between RCT Theatres and the writer and producer, Keiran Bailey

5.1.1 An original musical based on the history of the Italian cafés in the Rhondda between 1890-1910, born out of an initial research and development phase in 2019 (pre-Pandemic). We realised that the wonderful Italian cafes on our high street were slowly closing and felt that there were stories worth sharing, especially once we had spoken with that community.

5.1.2 Kieran Bailey was fortunate to receive an Arts Council Wales Create grant during the pandemic with support from Theatr Na nog, a theatre company based in Neath. He put pen to paper writing songs and a script as part of an ideas and investigation concept.

5.1.3 A script-sharing took place over Zoom during July 2021 and Kieron approached RCT Theatres to support him to further develop the piece so that it could be shared further with the community.

5.1.4 Pen y Cymoedd Community Fund awarded Kieron a small grant and the Arts Service supported him to successfully apply for his first production grant from Arts Council Wales.

5.1.5 Following the successful Arts Council Wales application and community sharings in a variety of settings, including Cwm Farm shop, Hot Gossip, and Treorchy Rugby Club, a team of creatives were contracted to bring this next phase to life. This included four actors, a designer, a photographer, a videographer, costume and props, and choreographers.

5.1.6 A sharing of the work followed nine days of rehearsal at the Park & Dare Theatre within its Stiwdio Un space, and 86 community members came to experience a sharing of what could potentially be a full scale production.

5.1.7 70% of the audience completed a feedback form following the sharing and the majority felt that this was a story worth telling in RCT and beyond. Feedback included, “excellent ideas and storytelling”; “the bilingual element really worked as it wasn’t just translated, it was an

integral part to the storytelling”; “People could understand “Tipping back”; “This fledgling production evoked the feeling of a Willy Russell production - an emotional rollercoaster, and an important slice of valleys’ social history in action.”

5.1.8 We plan to move towards a full production of “Turning the Wheel” in spring 2024, dependent on successful Arts Council Wales and other external grant applications being made by Keiran Bailey.

5.2 Knuckles – an RCT Theatres’ co-production with Gurnwah Productions

5.2.1 Knuckles is a one-man show starring an older, emerging artist, Paul Black as Victor “The Knuckles” Norman which follows the character on his last day. It is a disturbing story, based loosely on true events, of one man’s rise and fall and all the chaos that ensued in-between.

5.2.2 This co-production has had a seven-date tour in Wales to mid-scale venues, and will visit Dublin’s Smock Alley Theatre, and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival at the Greenside venue during Summer 2023.

5.2.2 The writer, Anthony Bunko describes the play as a rollercoaster ride of emotions rammed into 55 minutes. It is a story about how someone can choose the wrong road at the wrong time in life. Sometimes it’s that person’s choice which road they take; other times, sadly the road can be decided for them by others.

5.2.3 The co-production has received funding from RCT Theatres, Arts Council Wales and Wellbeing Merthyr.

5.3 Ink’d – an RCT Theatres’ co-production with Gurnwah Productions

5.3.1 Ink’d is a new first phase research and development project that grew out of an RCT Theatres’ social-media call out for the hidden stories behind people’s tattoos. This created a real buzz of excitement and over fifteen stories were received from the RCT community.

5.3.2 Face-to-face interviews took place in and around Treorchy, and Rhondda Radio conducted an interview and encouraged people to call in with their stories.

5.3.3 The Merthyr Tydfil-based production company, Gurnwah Productions, are investigating funding opportunities to develop the project further.

5.4 Sue (the Hippopotamus Who Doesn't Identify as a Hippopotomus) – an RCT Theatres' production developed with local creatives, Menna Rogers and Jemima Nicholas

5.4.1 Started during the pandemic, this is a children's show that explores identity and how confusing life can be for young children, , working with local writer, Menna Rogers and actor, Jemima Nicholas.

5.4.2 The production is now entering its second research and development stage, with a plan to work alongside the innovative and accessible Cardiff-based Taking Flight Theatre Company and a small audience to explore the ways in which access and inclusion can become an integral part of the production.

5.4.3 Taking Flight Theatre Company have established a reputation for making bold, inclusive theatre and have worked with us on a number of co-productions, including last year's show 'Road' at Stwdio Un in the Park and Dare Theatre.

5.4.4 The show is intended to be available in both Welsh and English with elements of BSL and integrated audio description. Our aim is to tour this work locally and trial it with local schools in Winter 2024.

5.5 RCT Pantomime – an RCT Theatres' production directed by Richard Tunley

5.5.1 This year's pantomime, Cinderella, will be the twelfth RCT produced pantomime, offered at the same ticket price as last year's production.

5.5.2 We are only too aware of the difficulties faced by families on a daily basis due to rising costs and RCT Theatres' continue to strive to make the RCT pantomime a high-quality, affordable production that rivals those in Cardiff and Swansea in terms of value-for-money, storytelling and family entertainment.

5.5.3 RCT Theatres' continue to develop relationships with local creatives and will once again be partnering with students of Coleg y Cymoedd on their costume and prop-making degree courses. Employment opportunities will be offered to three graduates who will receive their first professional credit for their CVs.

5.5.4 The Arts ervice is always looking for ways to make its productions more environmentally sustainable, and for this year's pantomime, we will be reusing as much as we can from previous pantomime productions, reducing the amount of one-off items we purchase, and recycling anything that can't be reused.

5.6 Carwyn – in co-production with Cardiff-based writers and producers, Gareth Bale and Owen Thomas

5.6.1 The Arts Service has been supporting Gareth Bale and Owen Thomas with an Arts Council Wales grant application and booking for an 18 date performance tour across Wales during Autumn 2023 with their one-man show, Carwyn. Venues include Sherman Theatre, Cardiff; Theatr Felinfach, Ciliau Aeron; Borough Theatre, Abergavenny; and the Park & Dare Theatre.

5.6.2 'Carwyn' explores the enigma of a multi-layered man. A man ahead of his time. A man who was alone in a crowd. A man uncomfortable in his own skin. A man of whom it is said very few truly knew him, knew what made his heart beat and his mind tick. In his 53 years, Carwyn James made an incredible, indelible impact on his homeland, and yet is somewhat forgotten. A man who adored sport, culture and politics, a man who adored Wales. A man who beat the mighty All Blacks with three different teams. 'Carwyn' explores the life of a man whose career comprised teaching, broadcasting, coaching, and even espionage.

5.6.3 The service is delighted to be working with the BAFTA winning duo following the success of their previous work 'Grav', and will also be working with them to support the development of their 'Rebel Rebel' Comedy Club in Stiwdio Un, building on the success they have experienced in Cardiff at the Tiny Rebel pub.

5.7 No Man's Land – an RCT Theatres' co-production with local producer, Kyle Stead

5.7.1 Kyle Stead has recently completed his employment with the service as part of a Weston Jerwood Creative Bursary Fellowship, and this will be an exciting first phase research and development of his project entitled, 'No Man's Land'.

5.7.2 Kyle's project has been awarded an Arts Council Wales grant to further develop the production, a gritty drama being written by local playwright Rachle Tresize and employing three local emerging artists to work alongside other professionals during its residency at the Park & Dare Theatre in June 2023.

5.7.3 Kyle is looking to develop the project further and is investigating additional sources of funding.

5.8 Gen Z Fest – produced by Kyle Stead, supported by RCT Theatres

- 5.8.1 As a local freelance artist, Kyle Stead has been contracted to produce our young emerging artist showcase scheduled as part of International Youth Day on Saturday 12th of August.
- 5.8.2 During 2022, the service worked with the Youth Engagement and Participation Service to pilot activities for young people as part of the International Youth Day, and this year's programme builds on the lessons learnt to support performances by eight emerging artists in and around Treorchy's high street.
- 5.8.3 In addition to the Gen Z fest programme, the service has also secured four paid support slots for emerging artists as part of our Stiwdio Un programme this Autumn.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 No consultation exercise has been required.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

- 10.1 As the projects are funded by Arts Council Wales and the Council, we contribute to the delivery of Welsh Government priorities and the Council's corporate priorities, 'Economy', 'People' and 'Place'.
- 10.2 The Arts Service contributes 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.

11.3 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 partnerships 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.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 This report informs members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group of the production and co-production programme of the Arts Service during 2023-2024 and how it supports the delivery of national, local and service aims and objectives, whilst aligning with service values developed with the community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

13TH JULY 2023

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

**Report on Production and Co-production Programme of the Arts
Service**

Officer to contact: Mr Adrian Williams, Strategic Arts & Culture Manager

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