



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
2 Llys Cadwyn
Taff Street
Pontypridd
CF37 4TH

Meeting Contact: Emma Wilkins - Council Business Unit (07385406118)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a virtual meeting of the **EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE** to be held on **MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2024** at **9.00 AM**.

Non Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by Date Not Specified on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

**Page
No's**

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. UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To receive the report of the Director of Public Health, Protection and

Community Services, which provides Members with an update on the work currently being undertaken in collaboration with National Eisteddfod officers in preparation for the 2024 Eisteddfod in Rhondda Cynon Taf, specifically in relation to community engagement and fundraising.

3 - 24

3. INITIAL REPORT IN RELATION TO THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES 2024 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPATIAL PLANNING

To receive the report of the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services, which updates Members on the infrastructure and spatial planning for The National Eisteddfod of Wales 2024.

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4. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any urgent business as the Chairman feels appropriate.

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

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



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

11th MARCH 2024

UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CLLR. RHYS LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH PARTICIPATION & WELSH LANGUAGE

Author(s):

Nicola Lewis, Head of Community and Welsh Language Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the work currently being undertaken in collaboration with National Eisteddfod officers in preparation for the 2024 Eisteddfod in Rhondda Cynon Taf, specifically in relation to community engagement and fundraising.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet Sub-Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the content of the report.
- 2.2 Considers whether further information is required.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The report is to update the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee Members of the approaches that have been adopted to engage with communities to ensure that the National Eisteddfod 2024 in Rhondda Cynon Taf is a success, in both the lead up to and during the Eisteddfod week and that a significant positive legacy remains for the longer term.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The previous Eisteddfod Cabinet report, dated 13th December 2022, outlined the background to The National Eisteddfod of Wales being hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taf in August 2024, and the initial preparations and discussions that were underway between the Council and Eisteddfod Officers.

- 4.2 Since that time there has been significant progress, with preparation work undertaken with the Eisteddfod's National Lottery Heritage Fund community engagement project continuing to be delivered successfully and providing opportunities to engage with a small number of targeted groups to inform and pilot a new approach to National Eisteddfod engagement in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 4.3 Eisteddfod Officers held a virtual community forum meeting in December 2022, where they were able to promote opportunities for local people to apply and be appointed to specific roles on their Executive and Local Fund Committees.
- 4.4 These two Committees are set up to be the driving force that brings people from across the County together and as a committed group of volunteers, they work closely with the Eisteddfod team, local communities and the Council to organise awareness-raising and fundraising events.
- 4.5 In January 2023, the National Eisteddfod appointed a Chair and Vice Chair for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Eisteddfod Executive Committee, namely Helen Prosser and Andrew White respectively and a Chair of the Local Fund Committee, Iolo Roberts.
- 4.6 Following these appointments, Eisteddfod officials and Members were provided with a report detailing options of how RCT could be split for fundraising purposes using the Council's already established Neighbourhood Network model and considering key data such as population, deprivation levels and average household income.
- 4.7 Consideration was given to setting up fundraising sub-committees in Rhondda, Cynon and Taf that would feed into the main Local Fund Committee (chaired by Iolo Roberts), with smaller potential fundraising targets for each area.
- 4.8 Three sub-committees were initially established, and first meetings held:
- Rhondda – 27th April 2023
 - Cynon – 18th May 2023
 - Taf – 7th June 2023
- 4.9 During this period, Council Officers, in consultation with Cabinet Members, developed an internal governance structure which brings together key officers and services to support the National Eisteddfod in planning and delivering a successful event in Rhondda Cynon Taf and provide regular updates on progress.
- 4.10 The Director for Public Health, Protection and Community Services has Lead Officer responsibility for the National Eisteddfod in Rhondda Cynon Taf, with two Lead Work Stream Officers in place to support and co-ordinate work on

both the National Eisteddfod and Infrastructure and Community Engagement and Fundraising, including Legacy.

(Appendix 1 – RCT Governance structure arrangements).

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS

5.1 The National Eisteddfod has organised and held a number of events this year, with support from Council Officers, Members and local community groups to launch and promote the event coming to Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2024.

5.2 Some of the main events have included:

- A Launch of the National Eisteddfod with 500 days to go – event held on 4th March in The Lion, Treorchy, with over 4,000 people attending.
- Proclamation – event held on 24th June in Aberdare, where over 500 children and local people joined in a procession, with the ceremony taking place at The Ron Jones Stadium.
- Announcement of Rhondda Cynon Taf's National Eisteddfod 2024 Maes location, with National Eisteddfod presence at the Big Bite event in Pontypridd on 4th August.
- The National Eisteddfod 2023 Llyn ac Eifionydd – Council Cabinet members, staff and young volunteers travelled to Gwynedd to host a stall at last year's event from 5th to 12th August, promoting the event coming to Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2024.

5.3 Key messages for the National Eisteddfod in Rhondda Cynon Taf is the need for it to be inclusive, ensuring that people understand there is something for everyone at the National Eisteddfod and that it's not just for people who can speak Welsh.

5.4 As such, the Council are working closely with Eisteddfod Officers and local members across RCT to ensure effective approaches are established for community engagement. A schedule of local engagement activities and events is being developed and will be widely promoted in the run up to the event in August 2024.

5.5 Cultural venues across Pontypridd town centre are also being considered for use by the National Eisteddfod as part of its offer, during daytimes and evenings the week of the event.

5.6 Relationships have been developed between the National Eisteddfod's Artistic team and Rhondda Cynon Taf's Arts Service and there are ongoing discussions in relation to artistic programmes.

5.7 The Council and the National Eisteddfod are committed to ensuring the Eisteddfod is as accessible as possible to everyone in RCT. In partnership with the National Eisteddfod, a proposal to fund subsidised access has been

developed and a business case submitted to Welsh Government regarding access and inclusion for the event requesting subsidised cost of entry, especially for specific vulnerable groups. A decision on additional funding is awaited.

- 5.8 A 'Let's Talk' Eisteddfod survey was recently undertaken which gave RCT residents an opportunity to give their views about the Welsh Language in general, which received over 700 responses. The results of the survey have identified opportunities for us to ensure residents are provided with information, so they fully understand what an Eisteddfod is and the benefits that come with it.
- 5.9 Survey results will also be used to inform our communications plan that is currently in development, and has been welcomed by Eisteddfod Officers, as it helps them get an understanding of the local demographic and any barriers/opportunities for engagement.

(Appendix 2 – Let's Talk Report).

- 5.10 More recently a Community Workstream group has been established to bring together key officers from across Council services to build on the work already undertaken to date and to co-ordinate future efforts under specific priority areas of work.
- 5.11 Officers will lead on identified priorities and support engagement with RCT's local business community, local schools and young people to take advantage of the opportunities the National Eisteddfod brings, including volunteering, fundraising, sponsorship.
- 5.12 Council services are developing opportunities for wider participation in Welsh medium/bilingual activities and events, which include:
- Welsh language taster sessions delivered with Menter Iaith and Welsh for Adults in local communities and town centres.
 - Toolkit for businesses to promote use of basic Welsh for their staff.
 - Using Welsh in a casual setting with young people through delivery of activities.
 - More Welsh Language courses delivered for Council staff and Members to increase take up and improve skill levels.
- 5.13 Council Officers in partnership with Eisteddfod Officers, have developed a school strategy, highlighting opportunities for Welsh and English medium schools to engage with Eisteddfod preparations. The strategy continues to develop as new opportunities become available, which in turn will be shared with all primary and secondary schools.
- 5.14 Council Officers working with key partners such as Menter Iaith, Helo Blod (Welsh Gov) and Town Centre BIDS, have begun work developing a business

toolkit. Included in the toolkit will be further information about the Eisteddfod, resources from Helo Blod and a pamphlet to help local businesses and town users to develop their conversational Welsh skills. Purpose of the toolkit is to create a Warm Welsh Welcome in our town centres.

6. FUNDRAISING

- 6.1 The National Eisteddfod is a charitable organisation and its funding model requires that a contribution to the operating costs of the festival is raised by community fundraising activities in the host local authority area. There is already lots of effort being made by the National Eisteddfod, local communities supported by local members, voluntary groups, to fundraise across the County Borough. It is expected that these efforts will escalate and gain momentum over the next 5 months in the run up to the event in August 2024. The Council is supporting the community activity as necessary in their fundraising endeavours.
- 6.2 The National Eisteddfod's three main local fundraising committees are well established with a number of smaller sub-committees being set up to ensure local communities and voluntary organisations have the best opportunities to become involved. These committees continue to promote and deliver locally organised fundraising activities and events run by their volunteers.
- 6.3 The National Eisteddfod has developed and launched a webpage providing information on Rhondda Cynon Taf's Eisteddfod this year and enables donations from individuals or businesses to be made online, either via sponsorship of competition prizes or general donations which will go to the local fundraising committees.
- 6.4 Collection boxes have been placed in key Council buildings across the County Borough (e.g.) Libraries, One4All centres, Theatres to support the fundraising efforts. Posters with a QR code directing members of the public to the National Eisteddfod's donation system have also been placed in high traffic areas at Council operated buildings.
- 6.5 The Council will, where possible, enable the use of its venues as part of community fundraising efforts. Requests will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis, as services will need to take into account activities that are already scheduled in.
- 6.6 The Council's Mayor, Councillor Wendy Lewis has also agreed for the National Eisteddfod to be one of her chosen charities this year, which will support the fundraising efforts.
- 6.7 Collections can be made at Council events, either through staff or local community/voluntary groups. Two licenses will be granted for each event to allow fundraising activities to take place. Council services and staff will also be encouraged to fundraise at their scheduled events and activities.

6.8 Council Officers will promote opportunities to local businesses and town centres to ensure they are fully aware of the opportunities that the National Eisteddfod will present.

6.9 A full list of planned events linked to the National Eisteddfod and fundraising activity can be found on the Menter Iaith website <https://menteriaith.cymru/events/>

7. LEGACY

7.1 The National Eisteddfod's aims in relation to legacy for Rhondda Cynon Taf are as those outlined in the Eisteddfod Cabinet report in December 2021 and include:

- More Welsh and bilingual activities and events locally.
- Increase in interest in local culture and heritage and more people interested in the story of RCT at a national level.
- More people choosing to learn Welsh and choosing to use the language as part of their daily life.
- Effect of around £15.9 million on the local economy during Eisteddfod week.
- Community project aims to improve people's digital skills.
- People of all backgrounds feeling more confident about Welsh and feeling that the language and culture belongs to everyone, and choosing to come to Welsh and bilingual events.
- A bank of volunteers of all ages with the skills to continue volunteering bilingually in local groups and organisations following the Eisteddfod.

7.2 The above aims align to Council priorities as identified in the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and Action Plan and the Corporate Plan.

7.3 The Community Workstream group will be capturing information on activities being developed and delivered and their relation to each of the Legacy aims by developing measurable outcomes that can be reported against. We want to ensure that networks, activities and opportunities to engage with Welsh language and Welsh culture continue beyond the event next year.

7.4 We have already seen a greater interest in learning to speak Welsh from residents, businesses and council staff. Again, we would want to continue to build on this momentum, not only increasing interest in the run up to the event but also maintaining and building on it as part of RCT's legacy aims.

7.5 It is worth noting that Census 2021 figures published for the number of Welsh speakers showed Rhondda Cynon Taf as being one of only a small number of Local Authority areas which had an increase, with the majority of areas across Wales seeing a decrease.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 8.1 This is an information report and therefore no equality and diversity screening is necessary.

9. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This is an information report and therefore no Welsh Language assessment is necessary.

10. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 10.1 This is an information report therefore no consultation is required.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 11.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 12.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

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

- 13.1 The Welsh language is a cross-cutting theme in the Council's Corporate Plan and the Council has a Strategy for the Promotion of the Welsh Language and supporting Action Plan, which includes a focus on increasing the use of the Welsh Language within communities by working with partners to deliver and/or facilitate events and activities as well as improving the number of services the Council offer through the medium of Welsh. The work undertaken in partnership with the National Eisteddfod will support this as well as contributing to [Cymraeg 2050 : A Million Welsh speakers](#) – the Welsh Government's Strategy to achieve 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- 13.2 The Corporate Plan recognises the important role that culture and heritage plays in supporting the wellbeing of residents enabling them to be independent or maintain their independence for longer. Supporting the development of events to engage with residents of all ages will contribute to the Council's aim of increasing participation in arts and culture.
- 13.3 The success of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Eisteddfod is dependent on a partnership between the National Eisteddfod, the Council and local communities. This report highlights how the National Eisteddfod and the Council are working together to ensure that communities across the County Borough are involved in the preparations for the festival, that no one feels excluded and that they have an opportunity to shape the events and activities that will be developed so that there is a longer-term legacy after 2024.

13.4 The main well-being goal being addressed is goal 6 – A Wales of Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh Language. However, as recognised in the Corporate Plan, participation in arts and culture has a positive impact on promoting health and well-being and brings people together, thereby increasing community cohesion.

14. CONCLUSION

14.1 The piloting of new approaches to community engagement in Rhondda Cynon Taf will ensure that communities across the County Borough will be involved in shaping the events that take place in the run-up to and during Eisteddfod week.

14.2 The Council's Eisteddfod Project Officer and other Council Officers will continue to work closely with the National Eisteddfod team especially in relation to their work of engaging with communities across the whole of the County Borough. Our common aim is to ensure maximum involvement by communities and to promote the message that the Eisteddfod is for everyone and you do not need to be able to speak Welsh to enjoy and participate in its activities and events.

14.3 Much of the preparation work is already underway for the event and good promotion and engagement achieved to date. However, there is a recognition that there is still a lot to do and efforts will increase significantly over the next 5 months to ensure Members, residents and businesses across the County Borough are involved and engaged and fundraising is maximised.

14.4 The importance of this work cannot be under-estimated as it will be central to the success of the festival and its legacy in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

14.5 Further reports will be prepared for Members in the period between now and the RCT Eisteddfod, updating Members on a range of issues associated with the event in addition to the ongoing community engagement work.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

11th MARCH 2024

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UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Background Papers:

None

Officer to contact:

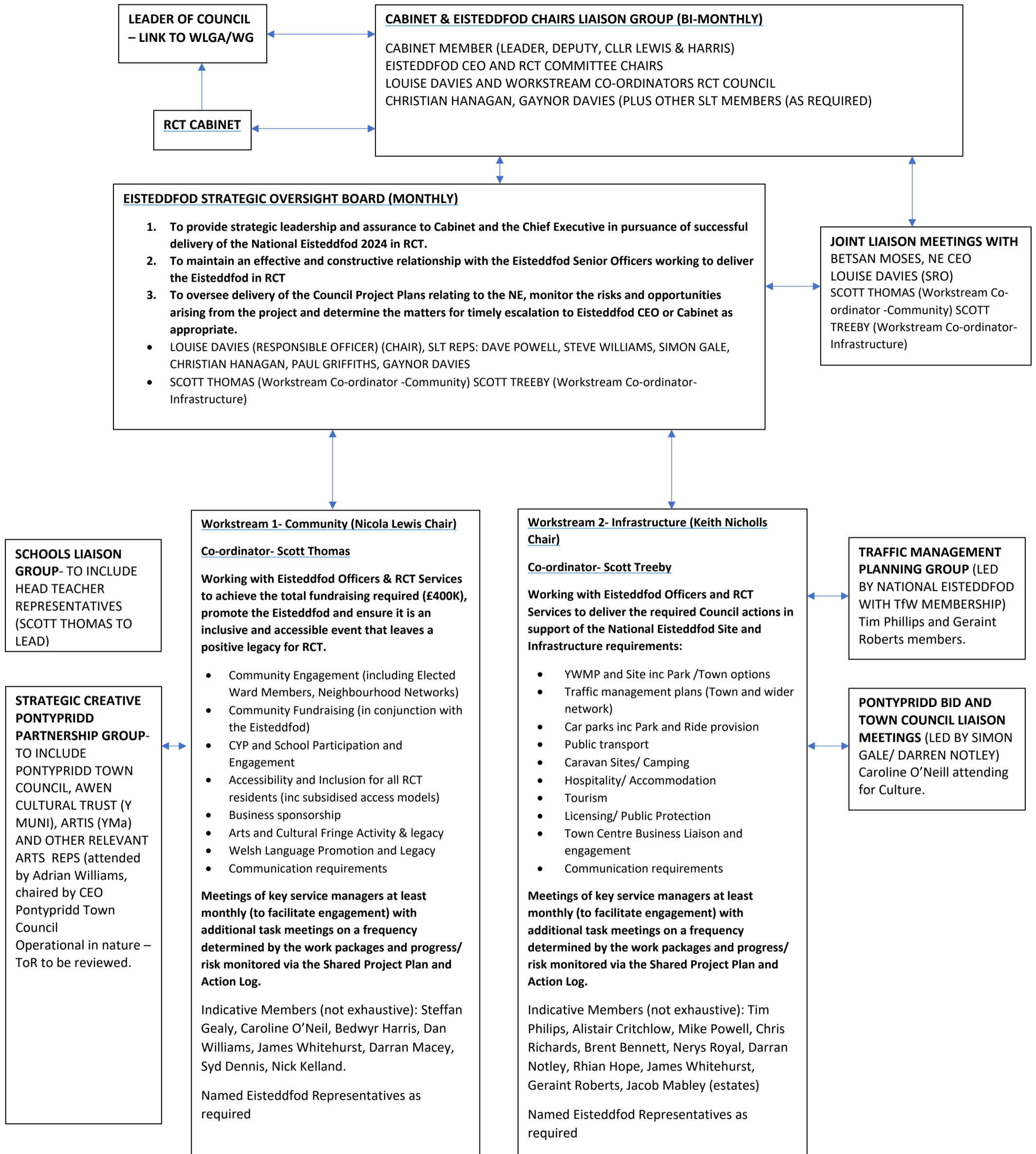
Nicola Lewis – Head of Community and Welsh Language Services – 07786523987

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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RCTCBC Governance Structure Eisteddfod RCT 2024



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EISTEDDFOD

Rhondda Cynon Taf

3-10 Awst 2024

CROESO

WELCOME

Fe wnaeth 728 o bobl lenwi ein hymgyngoriad Dewch i Siarad am yr Eisteddfod. Diben yr ymgynghoriad yma oedd clywed barn gyffredinol trigolion RhCT am yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, cael gwybod a oes unrhyw rwystrau sy'n eu hatal rhag mynychu'r achlysur flwyddyn nesaf a'u barn am y Gymraeg. Bydd y themâu cyson sy'n dod i'r amlwg yn yr ymgynghoriad yma'n ein helpu ni i lywio ein strategaeth gyfathrebu ar gyfer y cyfnod yn arwain at fis Awst 2024.

Our recent Let's Talk Eisteddfod consultation closed with 728 participants. The consultation set out to find RCT residents' general feelings towards the National Eisteddfod, if there are any barriers to why they might not attend next year and their thoughts around the Welsh language. The themes identified from the consultation will help us shape our Eisteddfod communication strategy in the lead up to August 2024.

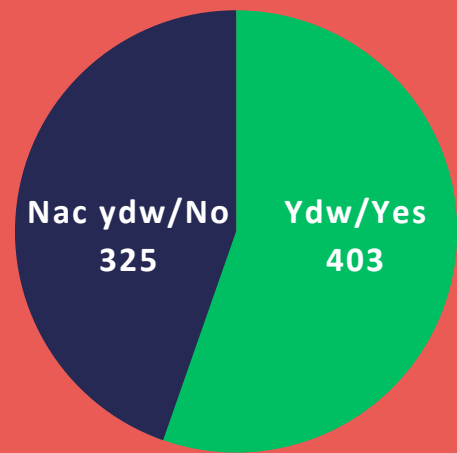




Trosolwg Overview

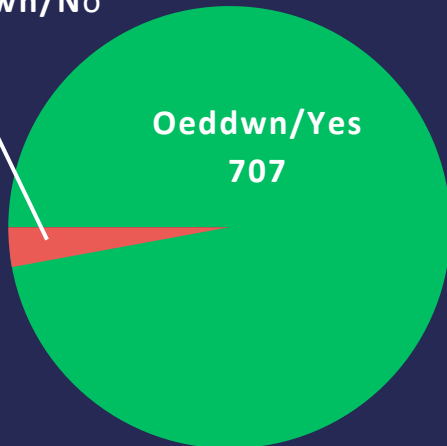
YDYCH CHI WEDI BOD I EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL O'R BLAEN?

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD BEFORE?



Nac Oeddwn/No

21

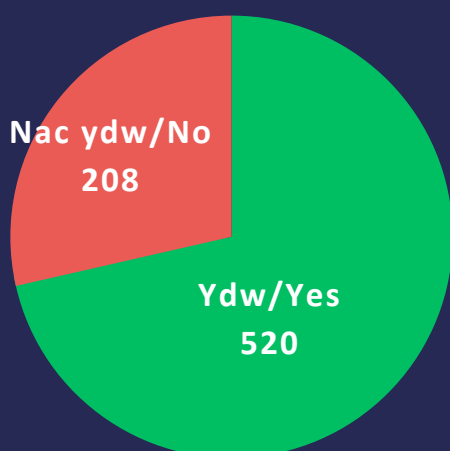
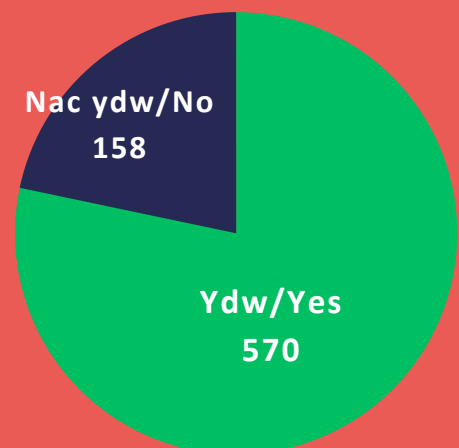


OEDDECH CHI'N GWYBOD BOD YR EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL YN DYCHWELYD I RHONDDA CYNON TAF YM MIS AWST 2024?

WERE YOU AWARE THAT THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD WAS RETURNING TO RHONDDA CYNON TAF IN AUGUST 2024?

YDYCH CHI'N BWRIADU YMWELD AG EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL RHONDDA CYNON TAF YN 2024?

ARE YOU PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE 2024 NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD IN RCT?

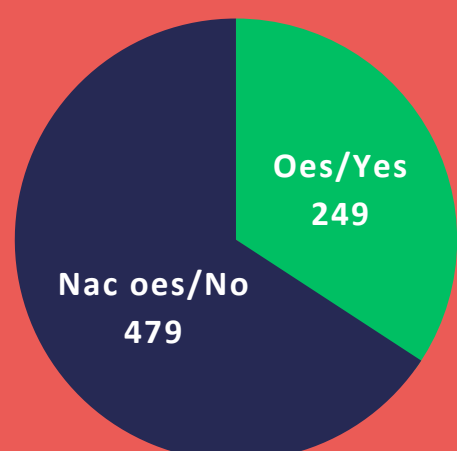


YDYCH CHI O'R FARN Y BYDD CYNNAL YR EISTEDDFOD YN RHONDDA CYNON TAF YN RHOI HWB I'R GYMRAEG YN LLEOL?

DO YOU THINK THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD RETURNING TO RCT WILL BOOST THE USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE LOCALLY?

OES GYDA CHI DDIDDORDEB MEWN GWIRFODDOLI YN EISTEDDFOD RHONDDA CYNON TAF YN 2024?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT THE RCT EISTEDDFOD IN 2024?





Adborth Cymraeg

YDYCH CHI WEDI BOD I EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL O'R BLAEN? - NAC YDW, PAM?

- Pellter teithio.
- Dydw i ddim yn siarad Cymraeg, roeddwn i'n meddwl bod yr achlysur ar gyfer siaradwyr Cymraeg yn unig/rydw i'n ofni teimlo'n unig.
- Does dim diddordeb gyda fy ffrindiau/teulu mewn mynd i'r achlysur gyda fi.
- Mae gen i fwy o ddiddordeb yn nhreftadaeth Cymru yn lle ei diwylliant.
- Dydw i ddim yn gwybod digon amdani i fynd/ dydw i ddim yn gwybod sut i ddod yn rhan o'r Eisteddfod.
- Rydw i'n mynd ar wyliau ar yr un pryd â'r Eisteddfod!
- Rhy ddrud
- Dydw i ddim yn hoffi mwd!
- Dydw i byth wedi teimlo bod croeso i bobl sydd ddim yn siarad Cymraeg

YDYCH CHI WEDI BOD I EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL O'R BLAEN? - YDW, BETH WNAETHOCH CHI EI FWYNHAU ORAU?

- Ymarfer defnyddio'r Gymraeg.
- Cyfle i ymdrwytho yn yr iaith Gymraeg a'r diwylliant.
- Y cystadlaethau a'r Maes yn gyffredinol.
- Stondinau/prynu anrhegion a chynnyrch Cymreig lleol.
- Mwynhau Maes B gyda fy ffrindiau.
- Gigs ledled y sir, nid dim ond yn y dref sy'n cynnal yr Eisteddfod.

YDYCH CHI'N BWRIADU YMWELD AG EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL RHONDDA CYNON TAF YN 2024? - YDW, BETH YDYCH CHI'N EDRYCH YMLAEN ATO FWYAF?

- Bwyta ac yfed!
- Cynnal yr achlysur yn RhCT.
- Rhoi croeso mawr i'r ymwelwyr sy'n dod i'r cymoedd.
- Gwirfoddoli a rhoi fy sgiliau Cymraeg newydd ar waith.
- Gwyllo fy mhlant/fy nheulu yn cystadlu
- Profiad newydd.
- Dysgu beth yw gwir ystyr yr Eisteddfod!
- Cyfle i ymdrwytho yn yr iaith Gymraeg a'n diwylliant.
- Yr awyrgylch.
- Nid yn unig dangos RhCT i Gymru, ond i'r byd!
- Cwrdd â hen ffrindiau a gwneud ffrindiau newydd.
- Gweld y genhedlaeth nesaf yn siarad Cymraeg.
- Dysgu rhagor am yr iaith Gymraeg a'n diwylliant.
- Ymweld â'r Eisteddfod am y tro cyntaf!
- POPETH!!

BETH ALLWN NI EI WNEUD ER MWYN SICRHAU BOD TRIGOLION RHCT YN CAEL EU CYNNWYS YM MHARATOADAU'R EISTEDDFOD YN Y CYFNOD CYN MIS AWST 2024?

- Rhannu'r newyddion diweddaraf ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol er mwyn sicrhau ein bod ni'n gwybod sut i ddod yn rhan o bethau a beth sydd ar y gweill.
- Gwersi Cymraeg am ddim i drigolion a busnesau.
- Achlysuron yn y gymuned er mwyn helpu pobl i ddeall beth yw gwir ystyr yr Eisteddfod (dwyieithog).
- Cydraddoldeb i bawb, sicrhau bod yr Eisteddfod yn gynhwysol.
- Trafodaeth agored am faterion trafndiaeth, cynllun rheoli traffig, parcio ac ati.
- Cynnwys yr ysgolion a'u hannog nhw i ddod yn rhan o bethau yn ystod paratoadau'r Eisteddfod.
- Trafnidiaeth reolaidd sy'n fforddiadwy.
- Achlysuron sy'n rhoi cyfle i bobl gael blas o'r hyn sydd i ddod, gigs ac ati er mwyn normaleiddio'r iaith.
- Cynnwys artistiaid iaith Gymraeg mewn achlysuron corfforaethol.

- Peidiwch anghofio am y bobl hynny sy'n cael eu gwybodaeth nhw o'r llyfrgell, canolfannau cymuned a'r radio.
- Cynnwys pawb yn Rhondda Cynon Taf, nid dim ond trigolion Pontypridd.
- Gostwng y pris ar gyfer trigolion lleol, neu fynediad am ddim!
- Hysbysebu'r achlysuron yn y gymuned wrth baratoi ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod.
- Rhagor o sesiynau holi ac ateb ar gyfer materion cyfredol.
- Dathlu talent leol ac annog y bobl yma i berfformio/cystadlu.
- Ffrwd/Sianel benodol ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol sy'n trafod yr Eisteddfod.
- Cyfarfodydd wyneb yn wyneb er mwyn trafod â'r cyhoedd.
- Peidiwch â chymryd yn ganiataol bod pobl yn gwybod beth yw Eisteddfod, rhaid esbonio'r Eisteddfod yn glir iddyn nhw.
- Peidiwch â thorri coed yn y parc.
- Sut mae modd dod yn rhan o'r Eisteddfod?
- Mynediad i'r parc? Pryd bydd y parc ar gau i'r cyhoedd?
- Dylai clybiau chwaraeon sy'n cael eu heffeithio gael gwybod ymlaen llaw.
- Mae'n rhaid i ni bwysleisio bod y Gymraeg i bawb (waeth beth fo'ch lefel).
- Beth sy'n digwydd yn ystod yr Eisteddfod? Beth yw'r Orsedd? Rhannwch wybodaeth fanwl er mwyn addysgu pobl.
- Mae rhywbeth at ddant pawb yn yr Eisteddfod!
- Cyhoeddi rhestr o derminoleg sy'n cael ei defnyddio o amgylch y Maes fel bod modd i bobl baratoi.

YDYCH CHI O'R FARN Y BYDD Y FFAITH BOD YR EISTEDDFOD YN DYCHWELYD I RHCT YN RHOI HWB I'R GYMRAEG YN LLEOL?

- Annog pobl i ddefnyddio'u sgiliau Cymraeg?
- Rhaid normaleiddio'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg yn ein bywydau bob dydd.
- Cefnogi cymunedau a busnesau lleol i ddefnyddio'u sgiliau Cymraeg, neu ddechrau ar eu siwrne gyda'r iaith.
- Cynnig cyfleoedd llawn hwyl i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg... gigs ac ati.
- Mae angen darparu rhagor o gymorth ar gyfer dysgwyr a'r genhedlaeth nesaf ar ôl iddyn nhw adael yr ysgol.
- Mae angen bod yn fwy cynhwysol, gan annog pawb i ddefnyddio'r iaith. Sicrhau nad yw'r iaith yn cael ei hystyried yn elitaid!
- Gwersi wyneb yn wyneb am ddim.
- Targedu gwasanaethau ieuenctid - clybiau ieuenctid ac ati.
- Normaleiddio dwyieithrwydd ym mhob dim y mae'r Cyngor yn ei wneud.
- Cefnogi achlysuron Cymraeg sydd eisoes yn cael eu cynnal megis Parti Ponty.
- Cerddoriaeth yw'r ffordd orau o fynd i'r afael â rhwystrau o ran yr iaith.
- Cefnogi Menter iaith.
- Sesiynau dysgu i'r teulu - cyfle i bawb yn y teulu ddechrau ar yr un lefel.
- Achlysuron llawn hwyl am ddim - cwis, noson gemau.
- Hyrwyddo gwersi am ddim yn y gymuned.
- Cynnal sesiynau blasu er mwyn tanio diddordeb.
- Targedu'r unigolion sydd wedi cwblhau'u haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg er mwyn rhoi cyfle iddyn nhw fagu hyder.
- Sicrhau bod pobl yn deall nad oes angen defnyddio Cymraeg perffaith. Mae safonau'r Gymraeg wedi arwain at bobl yn ofni defnyddio'u sgiliau rhag ofn eu bod nhw'n derbyn dirwy!
- Hyrwyddo clybiau sgwrsio anffurfiol yn Rhondda Cynon Taf!
- Sicrhau bod rhagor o fathodynau ar gyfer siaradwyr Cymraeg ar gael yn y canolfannau cymuned.
- Rhaid i'n hymdrechion parhau ar ôl yr Eisteddfod, mae'r achlysur yn para 8 diwrnod yn unig felly mae'r hyn sy'n digwydd ar ôl yr Eisteddfod yn bwysicach na'r achlysur ei hun.



English Feedback

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD BEFORE? – NO, WHY?

- Distance to travel.
- Don't speak Welsh, thought it was for Welsh speakers only/fear of being isolated.
- No-one to go with, friends/family not interested.
- Don't know enough about it to go/didn't know how to get involved.
- More interested in heritage than culture of Wales.
- Always on holiday at the same time!
- Too expensive.
- Don't like mud!
- Never felt welcomed as non-Welsh speaker.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD BEFORE? – YES, WHAT DID YOU ENJOY THE MOST?

- Practising Welsh.
- Immersing myself with the Welsh language/culture.
- Competitions and generally the Maes as a whole.
- Stalls/buying local Welsh gifts and produce.
- Enjoying Maes B with my friends.
- Gigs through-out the county, not just in the host town.

ARE YOU PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE 2024 NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD IN RCT? – YES, WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO?

- Eating and drinking!
- Just having the event in RCT.
- Welcoming visitors to the valleys.
- Volunteering and putting my new Welsh skills to use.
- Watching my children/family competing.
- A new experience.
- Finding out what the Eisteddfod is all about!
- Being immersed in the Welsh language and culture.
- The atmosphere.
- Showcasing RCT to not only Wales but the world!
- Meeting up with old friends and making new ones.
- Seeing the next generation speaking Welsh.
- Learning more about Welsh culture and heritage.
- Attending for the first time!
- EVERYTHING!!

WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENSURE THAT RCT RESIDENTS ARE INCLUDED IN EISTEDDFOD PREPARATIONS IN THE LEAD UP TO AUGUST 2024?

- Social media posts etc to keep us informed on how to get involved and what's coming.
- Free Welsh lessons for residents/businesses.
- Community events to help people understand what an Eisteddfod is (bilingual).
- Equality for all, ensure it's inclusive
- Open and transparent about traffic management, parking etc.
- Involve schools and encourage them to get involved in the event.
- Cheap and regular public transport.
- Events to give people a flavour of what's to come, gigs etc. to normalise the language.
- Include Welsh language artists in Council events such as Summer, Easter and Christmas.
- Don't forget about those who get information through libraries, community hubs and radio.
- Include all of RCT, not just Pontypridd.
- Discount for local residents to attend or free!

- Advertise events in the community in the lead up which benefit the Eisteddfod.
- More Q&A's around current issues
- Celebrate local talent and encourage them to perform/compete.
- Dedicated social media stream.
- Don't assume people understand what an Eisteddfod is, spell it out for them.
- Face to face meetings with the public to discuss.
- Don't cut down the trees in the park
- How do we get involved in the lead up and during?
- Access to the park? When will it close to the public?
- Sports clubs impacted to be informed well in advance.
- Welsh is for everyone, that's the message we need to push (no matter skill level).
- What happens at an Eisteddfod? What is the Gorsedd? Go into detail and educate.
- There's something for everyone at the Eisteddfod!
- Break down terminology around the Maes so people are prepared.

DO YOU THINK THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD RETURNING TO RCT WILL BOOST THE USE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE LOCALLY?

- Incentives to use your Welsh?
- Need to normalise it's use in everyday life.
- Support for local communities and businesses to use their Welsh or start their journey.
- Introduce fun ways to get involved with the language... gigs etc.
- Need more support for learners and next generation when they leave school.
- Need to be more inclusive, encouraging all to take it up. Not to be seen as elitist!
- Free face to face lessons.
- Target youth provision – youth clubs etc.
- Normalise bilingualism with everything the Council do.
- Support Welsh events already in place such as Parti Ponty.
- Music is the best way to break down language barriers.
- Family learning sessions – all the family start at the same level.
- Free fun events – quizzes, games nights.
- Promote free lessons in the community.
- Taster sessions to peak interest.
- Target those that went through Welsh medium schools to gain confidence once again.
- Break down barriers that you need to use perfect Welsh. Welsh standards etc have put the fear into people using their skills as they might get fined!
- Promote informal chat clubs in RCT.
- More Welsh badges for Welsh speakers and learners available at community hubs.
- Support Menter Iaith!
- Work must continue after the Eisteddfod, it'll only be here for 8 days so the legacy is more important than the event in itself.

EISTEDDFOD
Rhondda Cynon Taf
 3-10 Awst 2024



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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

**THE RHONDDA CYNON TAF NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CLLR. ANN
CRIMMINGS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
AND CLLR. RHYS LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH
PARTICIPATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE**

**Authors: Keith Nicholls - Head of Leisure, Sport and Parks
Chris Richards - Visitor Attractions Manager
Scott Treeby - Events Manager.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee in relation to the infrastructure and spatial planning for The RCT National Eisteddfod of Wales 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report and considers whether further information is required.
- 2.2 Approves the use of Council owned (or controlled) land identified in the Infrastructure Plan for use by the National Eisteddfod and delegates authority to the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services and the Director of Corporate Estates to ensure appropriate agreements are in place to secure the same.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee are aware of the current planning infrastructure requirements to deliver a successful festival in partnership with the National Eisteddfod.
- 3.2 To allow the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee the opportunity to comment on the progress of the work as the need arises.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As Members will be aware, in 2018 the Council completed a successful Expression of Interest to host for the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 2022. However due to the pandemic and disruption to the forward calendar for the National Eisteddfod, Rhondda Cynon Taf being host was delayed until August 2024.
- 4.2 In August 2023 the official home for the National Eisteddfod 2024 was officially announced as Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (YWMP) in Pontypridd. The RCT National Eisteddfod will therefore be in Pontypridd from the 3rd to 10th August 2024.
- 4.3 Under the direction of a Council Senior Leadership Oversight Board, two Workstream groups, made up of RCT officers and partners, have been established to work directly with the National Eisteddfod to deliver the comprehensive infrastructure and community engagement aspects of the Eisteddfod.
- 4.4 The Infrastructure Group meets monthly to discuss the following topics:
- Highway/Traffic Infrastructure.
 - Transport.
 - Car Parks/Park and Ride.
 - Hospitality.
 - Camping, Tourism.
 - Licensing.
 - Town Centre liaison.

Departmental Managers take responsibility for their specific work tasks as set out in the Council's Project Plan. Additional Sub-Groups are in place where required to progress specific priorities, for example transport management plans.

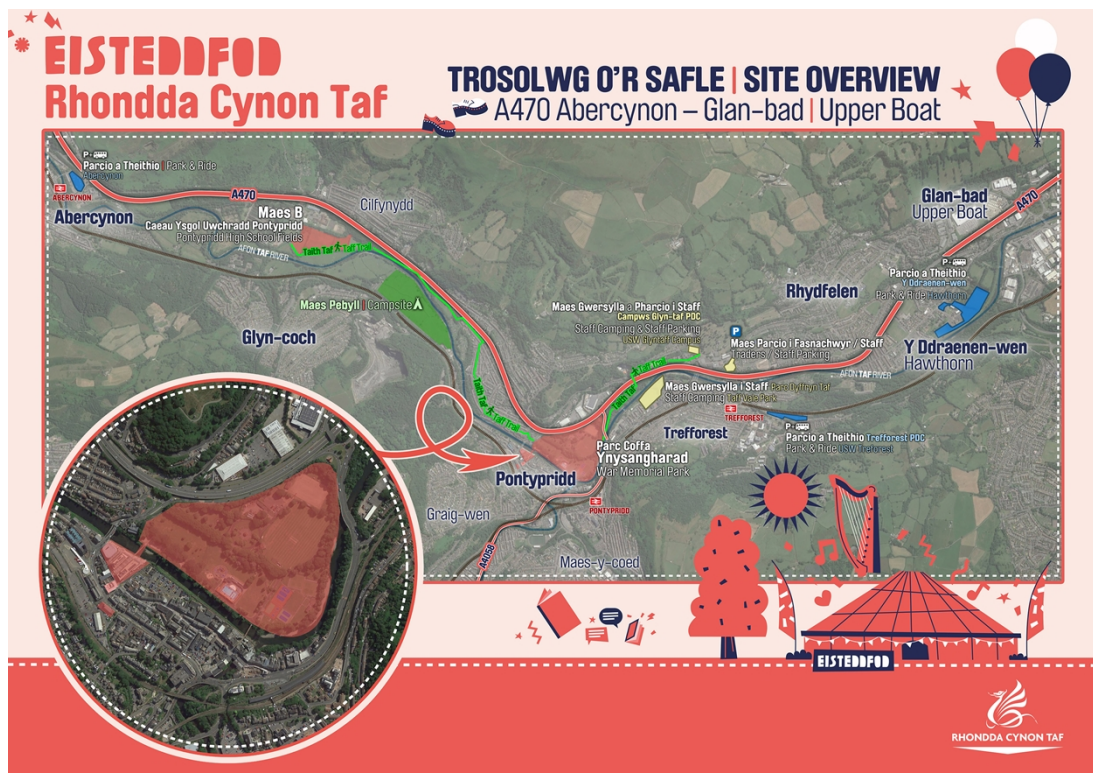
Infrastructure

- 4.5 While the main festival site will be in YWMP, Officers have worked with the National Eisteddfod to identify land and infrastructure to enable the Authority to host Europe's largest cultural festival making best use of existing resources and facilities. This has required identification of sites for caravan and camping sites, park and ride arrangements and maximising use of the public transport network.
- 4.6 The National Eisteddfod has confirmed the proposal locations of key features of the festival, in and around Pontypridd and have worked with Council Officers to produce an infrastructure plan which is provided below. The plan includes use of private, Council and other publicly

owned lands for a range of purposes including the main camping and caravan site location, Maes B (the National Eisteddfod Youth Fringe Festival) and key park and ride sites. The Council owned (or controlled) sites identified for use are:

- Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (main Eisteddfod Site)
- Hawthorn School site (park and ride)
- Pontypridd High School Fields (Maes B)

The Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee will note that use of the Pontypridd High School Playing Fields for Maes B is subject to decision and specific agreement between the School Governors and the National Eisteddfod.



- 4.7 On the 4th March, a briefing was held by Key Officers and the National Eisteddfod Chief Executive for Members representing Pontypridd Area Wards and localities hosting elements of the infrastructure plans. This forms part of an ongoing commitment from the National Eisteddfod and Council Officers to work with local members as the detailed plans are developed for operationalising the Spatial Plan set out in this report.
- 4.8 Pontypridd Town Centre benefits from excellent public transport links, which will be further enhanced in time for the Eisteddfod as the Metro infrastructure work is progressed. The RCT Eisteddfod will therefore promote a greener travel message to visitors, and a number of

initiatives to promote use of the train network and wider park and ride facilities will be in place. A specific working group of the National Eisteddfod, Council and Transport for Wales is ensuring detailed transport and traffic management plans are in place for the Event. These plans will be presented to the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee for consideration at the earliest opportunity once a final draft is available.

- 4.9 The arrangements put in place for the National Eisteddfod will be subject to further scrutiny and approval in due course by the Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG). ESAG is a multi-agency group that ensures robust security and safety considerations for large events are in place by organisers. Membership of ESAG includes Police, Fire and Rescue, Emergency Planning, Community Safety Licensing and wider event safety management input by Council departments. The first meeting of ESAG to consider the emerging National Eisteddfod Plans was held in January 2024.

Pontypridd Spatial Plan

- 4.10 The National Eisteddfod Main Site (or Maes) will be in the YWMP and draft plans for the location of the Maes key features are being developed, maximising the natural and built features of the Park for the benefit of visitors and competitors.
- 4.11 Building the National Eisteddfod Maes requires a significant lead in time and incorporating key features of the Park and Town Centre into this unique Eisteddfod offer will mean some disruption to normal users of those facilities. This will be during the build and deconstruction phases of the Maes. This work has been discussed in detail with the National Eisteddfod and a phased approach to release of areas of the Park for the National Eisteddfod will be adopted and issued once fully completed.
- 4.12 In addition to YWMP, Members will specifically note that the following Council venues and sites in the town and locality are proposed for inclusion in the overall National Eisteddfod Maes or wider Infrastructure plans:
- Pontypridd Library (Welcome Centre and Ticket Office)
 - St Catherine's St Car Park (accessible parking)
 - Taff Vale Park (Eisteddfod Staff camping)
- 4.13 Individual licenses will be issued to The National Eisteddfod for Council land that is occupied during the festival.
- 4.14 Officers are working with existing sporting groups and organisations directly affected by the Eisteddfod to ensure any disruption is kept to a

minimum during the site construction, festival itself and decamp periods. Engagement from those clubs and organisations has been very positive to date with alternative arrangements being made where necessary to meet their needs.

- 4.15 The National Lido of Wales will be working on a unique experience for those visitors to Eisteddfod 2024 and this will form part of the ticketing offer for visitors to the National Eisteddfod when tickets go on sale in coming months. The National Lido will remain open for public use, as will Lido Play and the main footbridges into the Park until the 31st July 2024, ensuring the main park facilities are available for as long as practicable during the phased build of the National Eisteddfod Site.
- 4.16 For Committee awareness, other non-council locations that are subject to separate private agreements between the National Eisteddfod and the relevant third party, and will form an integral part of the National Eisteddfod Spatial Plan will include:
- Private Land off Berw Road (Caravan and Camping Site)
 - The Muni (Performance and Competition Venue)
 - YMa (Performance and Rehearsal venue)
 - University of South Wales Sites at Glyntaff and Treforest (Trader and Staff parking, Park and Ride and Accommodation Offer)

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 This is an information report and therefore no equality and diversity screening is necessary.
- 5.2 The National Eisteddfod does have their own Equality and Diversity policies that will be available for Members information.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This is an information report and therefore no Welsh Language assessment is necessary.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 There is no requirement to carry out a consultation in relation to this event. As part of the ESAG function and the wider consultation work that relates to the Eisteddfod, engagement will be undertaken with Stakeholders, including the business community, transport providers and Highways Wales.
- 7.2 Members representing the Pontypridd Area wards and localities hosting elements of infrastructure for the National Eisteddfod have been briefed on the Spatial Plan components. The National Eisteddfod and Senior

Officers of the Council will ensure they are routinely involved in the detailed operational plans as these are being developed over coming weeks to ensure the views of the residents they represent can be duly considered.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report. The National Eisteddfod is a charitable organisation and the costs of the Event are met through community and corporate fundraising, income from the event (traders/ tickets) and a Welsh Government Grant.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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

- 10.1 **A Prosperous Wales** – Providing an opportunity for local business to benefit from the additional visitors to Pontypridd and the surrounding areas and re-enforce RCT as a tourist destination.
- 10.2 **A Wales of More Cohesive Communities** – Involving communities from throughout the County Borough the opportunity to be involved in the largest cultural festival in Europe.
- 10.3 **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language** – The National Eisteddfod will highlight the culture and language of Wales through RCT and beyond to an international audience.
- 10.4 **A Globally Responsive Wales** – The Eisteddfod will further highlight Wales and RCT in a positive light across the world.
- 10.5 **Long Term** – The Eisteddfod will help to establish RCT as a tourist destination. The legacy of the Eisteddfod and community engagement will also benefit those learning and already fluent in the Welsh language across RCT.
- 10.6 **Integrations** – The Eisteddfod will provide a fully accessible and integrated festival for all those wishing to attend.
- 10.7 **Collaboration** – The Council will continue to work effectively with the Eisteddfod to ensure the festival and legacy impact on residents of RCT in the future.

11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

- 11.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf Eisteddfod, whilst based mainly in the Pontypridd and adjacent areas, will affect and benefit wards across the County Borough.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf National Eisteddfod offers a great opportunity to showcase the County Borough and Pontypridd. The work required to host such a large event in a non traditional location for the Eisteddfod will result in some disruption to usual activities in and around the Town. This will be offset by the economic and long term benefits to the welsh language and locality that this event is known to deliver. Detailed work will continue by the National Eisteddfod, supported by Council Officers, Transport for Wales, local memebhrs and other partners, over coming months to develop the necessary Transport and Traffic Management Plans, Event Safety Management Plans that are required to ensure the event is successful and safe. The Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee should note the report and agree the frequency of future update reports and meetings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2024

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CLLR. ANN
CRIMMINGS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
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PARTICIPATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE**

**INITIAL REPORT IN RELATION TO THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF
WALES 2024 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

Background Papers:

None

Officer to contact:

Keith Nicholls – Head of Leisure, Sport and Parks

Relevant Scrutiny:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

SITE OVERVIEW

A470 ABERCYNON - UPPER BOAT



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eisteddfod.cymru

EISTEDDFOD
Rhondda Cynon Taf



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

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