



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL  
RHONDDA CYNON TAF  
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**A virtual meeting of the  
EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE**

**will be held on MONDAY, 15TH JULY, 2024 at 1.00 PM**

**Contact: Emma Wilkins - Council Business Unit (Tel No. 07385406118)**

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 by 10am – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

**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 receive as an accurate record the minutes of the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**(Pages 3 - 8)**

**3. 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.

**(Pages 9 - 16)**

**4. UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024**

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.

**(Pages 17 - 24)**

**5. URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any urgent business as the Chairman feels appropriate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. St. James', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

**Director of Democratic Services & Communication**

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



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting held on Monday,  
10 June 2024 at 10.00 am.

### **County Borough Councillors - Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee Members in attendance:-**

Councillor R Lewis ( Chair)  
Councillor M Norris    Councillor M Webber  
Councillor B Harris    Councillor A Crimmings  
Councillor A Morgan

### **Officers in attendance:**

Ms L Davies, Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services  
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Mr S Thomas, Eisteddfod Project Officer  
Ms N Lewis, Head of Community and Welsh Language Services  
Mr J Whitehurst, Strategic Communications and Marketing Manager - Cabinet & PR  
Mr S Treeby, Events Manager  
Mr K Nicholls, Head of Leisure, Sport and Parks

### **Others in Attendance:**

Ms B Moses, Chief Executive of the National Eisteddfod of Wales  
Ms H Prosser, Chair of the Executive Committee

## **9        DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

## **10       MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.

## **11       UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024**

The Head of Community and Welsh Language provided 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.

Members were provided with detail of the community engagement events that had been recently held across the County Borough. The Office advised that Volunteering opportunities continued to be promoted through the Eisteddfod website with an online link for applications remaining open until 30th June. To date 330 applications have been received from people with a range of skills,

including those wanting to learn Welsh through to fluent Welsh speakers.

Reference was made to the unveiling of the Eisteddfod Chair and Crown, 'Cadair a Coron', in the Llantrisant Guild Hall on 13th June, after which time the items will be moved to be on display at the public in the Library at Llys Cadwyn.

Details of the subsidised entry and access to family tickets and early bird offers was also provided.

The Head of Community and Welsh Language informed Members that the fundraising had increased since last reported on 29th April and now totalled £215,000 on 17th May. It was added that the Council continues to support the Eisteddfod to promote fundraising and sponsorship opportunities to communities and businesses across the County Borough and are enabling use of its venues when possible, which are approved on a case-by case basis.

Before concluding the update the Officer provided details of the legacy work being undertaken, with the Community Workstream group continuing to capture information as activities are being developed and delivered in relation to each of the Legacy aims.

The Chair put on his record his gratitude to all the officers involved in the work to date and the outreach work undertaken with businesses, schools, arts and cultural services and local communities to make the Eisteddfod a success. The Chair commented on the building of excitement and anticipation ahead of the event in August.

The Chair recognised the fantastic number of volunteers who had come forward to give their own time to support this event and the notable fundraising of £250k that continues to grow.

Reference was made to the wider Eisteddfod presence and the Council's priority and strategy to increase the number of Welsh speakers across the County Borough. The Chair commented on the success of 'Give Welsh a go' initiative encouraging local businesses to use the language.

Councillor Webber reiterated her thanks for the tremendous amount of work involved in the planning and supporting of the National Eisteddfod. The Member spoke about the importance of communication and asked that Local Members are briefed with important key messages to ensure correct, factual information is conveyed to local communities members to which officers in attendance agreed to provide.

Councillor Webber referenced the high number of volunteers and queried whether it was felt this would be sufficient number to run the event. The Head of Service confirmed that the National Eisteddfod did believe the number of volunteers expressed to date would be sufficient, however the opportunity to volunteer was being left open on their national website to allow further opportunities for increased numbers.

Helen Prosser, Chair of the Executive Committee also provided information to Members in respect of the engagement with 70 Welsh learners acting as volunteers, providing a platform for learners to engage in the Welsh language and practice their learning at the National Event, which also took the number of

volunteers to over 400.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**

- i. To note the content of the report.

## **12 NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES 2024 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Communities provided Members with a further progress update in relation to the infrastructure, transport and traffic, and spatial planning for the RCT National Eisteddfod of Wales 2024.

Members were advised of the need for a number of changes to the spatial plan as previously reported to Committee in April 2024, which mainly reflected the evolving needs of the National Eisteddfod (NE) customers with the aim of providing them with a greater overall experience. The Director continued to provide a brief overview of the changes which included:

- The development of a new plan for the Maes in Ynysangharad War Memorial Park (YWMP). The changes relate to the way in which the NE has reconfigured the layout to enhance the experience of the festival.
- The NE has reviewed the location for Maes B and moved its location from Pontypridd High School to the Berw Road on land adjacent to the Eisteddfod caravan site.
- Plans have been developed to provide park and ride facilities (pre bookable) at Hawthorn High School and Abercynon with hours of operation being finalised. Discussions are ongoing in respect of the safe traffic management requirements for the site during the week of the Eisteddfod. A communication plan is being developed by the NE to inform the local residents of the details relating to the P+R facility housed in the school.
- Members were advised that due to the above it was proposed to close the swimming pool within Hawthorn High school for the period of the Eisteddfod (2nd August – 12th August) to ensure safe operation of the park and ride due to the large amounts of traffic entering and leaving the site.

The Director provided Members with detail of the licensing application and confirmed that officers were continuing to work with existing sporting groups and organisations directly affected by the Eisteddfod to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum.

In respect of Traffic and Transport, the RCT Traffic Team are continuing to meet with the NE and Transport for Wales as part of a Working Group, regarding the movement of visitors around Pontypridd and surrounding areas during the festival. The traffic management consultant appointed to work with all partners to devise a traffic management plan is actively supporting the development of a traffic management plan for the town during the event and a draft plan is being finalised. This is in addition to the Traffic Management Strategy the National

Eisteddfod is required to prepare in relation to the wider road network and operation of the event.

Members were assured that a single channel of communication co-ordinated by lead officers for all agencies had been agreed across all partners streams of communication (including social media channels and the NE website), working with RCT Council and Transport for Wales communications officers and NE and South Wales Police teams.

The chair commented on the report, which reflected the importance of visitor safety at the event. The chair acknowledged the collective working within the Council with the National Eisteddfod and other agencies to ensure the smooth running of the event.

Reference was made to the challenges facing the Authority with the different set up of the Eisteddfod compared to previous arrangements in other Authorities. However the Chair commented on the positive differences and referenced the positive transport infrastructure within Pontypridd.

The Chair commented on the adjustments highlighted within the report and the rationale for the changes, which again reflected the fluidity of the plans in place to ensure the best and safe experience for those supporting and attending the National Eisteddfod. The Chair spoke of the 'slight inconveniences' that some may experience due to the hosting of the National Event but commented on the overall positives that would be brought to the County Borough.

Members of the committee echoed the comments of the Chair and welcomed the continuance monitoring and developing of the plans in place to ensure the success of the event.

Members commented on the modes of communication available to the public to reinforce the details and arrangements of the Eisteddfod and the important transport messages needed. The Director confirmed that there was a detailed joint communications plan in place with partners enforcing the same messages, with information available on appropriate websites to reenforce the messages.

The Leader reiterated the importance of communication and spoke of the potential creation of an animation to capture the public's attention with the park and ride messages. The Members were also advised of the ongoing discussions with Transport for Wales and the contingency plans in place to alleviate any pressures during peak times of the event.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- i. To note the content of the update report.
- ii. To consider whether further information is required.
- iii. To temporarily close the Hawthorn Swimming Pool from the 2<sup>nd</sup> August to 12<sup>th</sup> August to ensure the safe operation of the Park and Ride facility at Hawthorn High School

**13 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

The Chair welcomed the Chair of the Executive Committee to the meeting to provide an update on the work of the Committee.

The Chair was able to advise Members that community funding had now reached £235k and the Chair expressed her thanks to all the volunteers involved in the fundraising opportunities and events that had been held and for the generosity of the local communities. Details of the 4 main fundraising groups across the County Borough were provided to the Cabinet Sub Committee and the forthcoming events. The Chair took the opportunity to ask Members to advise of any suggested fundraising opportunities that they may be aware of.

Members heard of the Communities that want to continue the legacy of the work as intended. Further information was provided in respect of fundraising with the 3 peaks challenge, the raffle and the selling of products and merchandise. Details of the work of Menter Iaith ( MI) were also provided as well as promotional videos of the facilities available.

Members heard how the excitement was building, with everyone working together to create a happy and successful Eisteddfod for everyone, regardless of their Welsh language ability.

The Chair of the Sub Committee thanked the Chair of the Executive Committee for the update and commented on the diverse range of activities highlighted.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

**This meeting closed at 10.45 am**

**R Lewis  
Chairman.**

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## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE**

**15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

#### **UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

#### **REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE AND CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, INCLUSION 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 provide a further update to the Cabinet Sub-Committee in relation to the infrastructure, transport and traffic, and spatial planning for the RCT National Eisteddfod of Wales 2024.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

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

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The report is to provide the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee the opportunity to comment on progress with the work required to deliver the infrastructure, transport and traffic, and spatial planning arrangements for the National Eisteddfod (NE) in August 2024.

#### **4. INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

##### **Ynysangharad War Memorial Park**

- 4.1 The site build began on 17<sup>th</sup> June and construction is progressing as expected. The NE build team have been accommodating to park

visitors in order to minimise disruption so far as reasonably practicable, and in line with decisions taken by the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Sub-Cabinet Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Public communications will continue to be issued as the build progresses and planned restrictions on areas of the park are put in place. Signage is in place around the park to inform visitors of the phased restrictions.

- 4.2 A plan to allow the Park Run to continue until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 was developed and put in place with organisers of the event. As the popular Pontypridd Park Run has been postponed for selected dates in July and August, the Council has made available free use leisure facility vouchers to encourage runners to continue with their training at one of our leisure sites during this period.
- 4.3 Officers are continuing to work with all established sporting groups and organisations directly affected by the Eisteddfod to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum. As reported in the previous meeting there have been some difficulties relating to the newly laid playing surface at Ynysybwl for the Pontypridd Ladies and Junior Cricket Teams. This has now been resolved and following positive engagement with Hopkinstown Cricket Club, these teams will play matches at Hopkinstown for the rest of this season.

### **Park and Ride Locations**

- 4.4 Plans are being finalised to operate the park and ride (P&R) facilities at Hawthorn High School and Abercynon, with hours of operation being 07.00 until 00.00 (midnight) each day. The NE has advised that these facilities tend to be vacated earlier in the evening, as the Eisteddfod programme of acts ends before 10.30pm, meaning that any large scale potential disruption to local residents during late evening is kept to a minimum.
- 4.5 Discussions are ongoing in respect of the safe traffic management requirements for the sites during the week of the Eisteddfod. A communication plan has been developed by the NE and the Council to inform the local residents of the details relating to the P&R facility housed in the school. A link has been developed to allow Eisteddfod visitors to express an interest in P&R [Park and ride | Eisteddfod](#)
- 4.6 As per agreement from Sub-Cabinet at the last meeting, Hawthorn Pool will be closed from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August and will re-open on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Customers and hirers have been made aware and information about alternative centres has been provided. This message will continue to be communicated in the run up to the NE.
- 4.7 The P&R areas will be staffed and managed by RCT employees including the Council's Transport Team, trained Security Staff and NE

Volunteers. A rota is being finalised currently and training will take place on site for team members to understand their roles in the days leading up to the NE.

- 4.8 Contractors have been appointed to operate the P&R bus services. Detailed communications have been issued to inform visitors to the event encouraging use of the free P&R services, that will run every few minutes from each site and take people directly into the town centre. **Visitors travelling from the north** of Pontypridd can use the existing Abercynon P&R (postcode CF45 4UQ) which is off the A470. The pick-up/drop-off location in Pontypridd will be on Bridge Street. **Visitors travelling from the south** of Pontypridd can use the Hawthorn P&R (CF37 5AL), which has been set up temporarily for the event. The Hawthorn P&R will be based at Hawthorn School. The pick-up/drop-off location in Pontypridd will be opposite the train station. The NE Traffic Management Contractor will be responsible for ensuring there is signage for both P&R upon exit from the A470 for the benefit of visitors.

### **Community Safety and Licensing**

- 4.9 The Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) has continued to meet with the NE and third party organisation discussions progressing well. This includes wider discussions between the Council, Emergency Planning Leads, South Wales Police and the NE to ensure contingency plans to manage any incidents outside the main Maes are planned for and adequate resources are in place by all agencies to manage and respond as required. A number of sessions have been conducted by the NE with ESAG members, using a table-top emergency planning exercise to identify any potential issues and understand the impact of the Eisteddfod on the wider community.
- 4.10 The Council, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, is progressing the application submitted for a licence for the event, in line with usual licensing procedures and legislation. Representations from all statutory consultees have been received and the final licence, with appropriate licensing conditions for the Maes and Maes B, will be determined in coming days.
- 4.11 A comprehensive Policing Strategy will be in place by South Wales Police for the duration of the NE. This will include additional resources in the town and command structures in place to oversee the transport system and wider public safety and crowd order requirements.
- 4.12 As part of our wider community safety responsibilities, the Council has arrangements in place for additional CCTV monitoring for Pontypridd Town Centre and additional taxi marshals provided at the night-time taxi ranks for all 8 days. The Council's Community Safety Wardens will also ensure a visible presence in the town as part of our established

public assurance service, and to encourage responsible and acceptable behaviours in the town.

### **Traffic and Transport**

- 4.13 The NE and RCT Traffic Team are continuing to meet with Transport for Wales as part of a Working Group, regarding the movement of visitors around Pontypridd and surrounding areas during the festival. The event transport management consultant appointed to work with all partners to devise a traffic management plan is finalising the traffic management plan for the event. Travel demand data is continually being collected and analysed from local people, businesses and visitors, and the traffic and transport plan evolving to cater for demand.
- 4.14 A single channel of communication co-ordinated by lead officers for all agencies has been agreed across all partners streams of communication (including social media channels and the NE website), working with RCT Council, NE, Transport for Wales communications officers and South Wales Police teams. A strategic communications plan has been finalised and work has started to promote messages on active travel, use of public transport and how to book P&R spaces is being issued by the NE and Council. Further planned communications will be issued throughout July and the event period in August.
- 4.15 Active travel, safe walking and cycling routes are being promoted around the event, and work to ensure safe routes for pedestrians from the main campsite at Berw Road have been undertaken. A walking route assessment has been concluded and a preferred walking route between the camp site and Maes has been established. Highway improvement works are underway to enhance the walking route and are due to be completed mid-July. The NE appointed Traffic Management Contractor will be responsible for the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians between the highway and camp site. There will also be ample cycle storage within the Maes to support visitors who wish to cycle to the event too.
- 4.16 Public transport will continue to be promoted as one of the best ways to access the Eisteddfod. There are now more frequent rail services on the South Wales Metro, with 8 trains per hour between Cardiff and Pontypridd, and more frequent evening services to Aberdare, Treherbert and Merthyr Tydfil. In addition, there are regular public buses connecting the town from adjacent communities. Between 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> September, there will be £1 bus fares for journeys within Rhondda Cynon Taf. Further details of terms and conditions will be available on the Council Website.
- 4.17 A survey of Pontypridd Town Centre businesses has been conducted in partnership with the Pontypridd BID, in order to understand business

requirements during the planned restrictions on vehicle access to Taff Street. Proposed restrictions will operate from 09.00 to 01.00 between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the early hours of 11<sup>th</sup> August, with permit access only available to Gas Road Car Park. In line with confirmed, business critical needs, businesses affected by the restrictions will be issued with a permit from the Council to access that car park.

4.18 As previously reported to this Sub-Cabinet Committee, St Catherine's Car Park will be the designated accessible parking location for blue badge holders attending the event, with the NE responsible for overseeing access to and operation of the car park throughout the Eisteddfod.

4.19 The main taxi rank for the town will operate from the daytime rank, outside Llys Cadwyn and the Unite Union which represents the trade has been advised. When the bollard controlled area at Taff Street is opened up by 01.00, the rank and trade will move to the night-time rank location outside the B&M Store.

**5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

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

**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 report.

**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 There are significant links to both the Corporate Plan 2024-2030 (Culture, Heritage and Welsh Language priority) and the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. As a Council we are committed to promoting and enabling use of the Welsh language in our communities and the NE is a national event that is providing a platform from which we can continue to make progress.
- 10.2 The NE is being delivered in partnership with the organisers, communities, businesses, sector partners and visitors to RCT. The approach to delivering the event is an inclusive one to ensure everyone can feel part of the largest cultural event in Europe and that we derive a long term legacy from our hosting of the event.

## **11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS**

- 11.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf National Eisteddfod, whilst based mainly in the Pontypridd and adjacent areas, will affect and benefit wards across the County Borough. Officers continue to communicate with local Ward Members regarding the Eisteddfod and where possible provide updates and information in a timely manner when enquiries are made, recognising that the final traffic management plans are being confirmed by the NE in partnership with the Council and Transport for Wales. All elected members are also updated via the Cabinet Office and members bulletins.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 The Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee should note the significant work that has been undertaken to ensure the infrastructure, transport and spatial plan requirements of the event are delivered successfully and efficiently.

**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**

**15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR – PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH, CABINET MEMBER  
FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE AND CABINET MEMBER FOR  
EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND WELSH LANGUAGE**

**UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 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

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024

#### UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, INCLUSION & 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 ongoing progress being made in engaging 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 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, outlined the progress made during the previous month with regards to the work carried out in preparation for the Eisteddfod event in relation to community engagement, events and fundraising activities.

4.2 Updates on the events held in June and outlined in the previous report include:

- The business breakfast session held on Thursday 13th June in the Lido, Pontypridd was well attended with around 25 to 30 businesses engaged.
- The unveiling of the Eisteddfod Chair and Crown, 'Cadair a Coron', in the Llantrisant Guild Hall that took place on 13th June was a great success and televised on S4C 'Heno' programme. Both are now on display to the public in the Library at Llys Cadwyn. School groups have already been visiting to learn more about the history and the design of the items, Link to social media post for Pontypridd library: [Facebook](#)
- The schools' art project showcase event held on 14th June at Llys Cadwyn in Pontypridd, announced and celebrated the selected winning entries from 320 that were submitted by over 20 different schools:

**1<sup>st</sup> place** Rhondda: Ysgol Gynradd, Trealaw  
Cynon: Ysgol Gynradd, Abercynon  
Taf: Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed entries in each area were also celebrated with all schools being given a display banner.

Link to social media post: [Locals get ready for #steddfod2024 | Eisteddfod](#)

- The annual Adult Community Learning festival held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Garth Olwg was a great success with over 2,000 people attending and gave an opportunity to engage with the local Eisteddfod committee and volunteers to raise funds for the event in August.

4.3 Updates will continue to be given as part of this report on the ongoing work of both the Council and Eisteddfod under the three themed areas: Community Engagement and events, Fundraising and Legacy.

## **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS**

5.1 The National Eisteddfod events and activities with support from Council Officers, Members and local community groups being held in July include:

- 'Diva' a celebration of songs performed by favourite local vocalists was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July in the Parc and Dare Theatre.
- The celebration event to be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July also at the Parc and Dare Theatre in Treorchy, is being presented by United Choirs of Treorchy with all proceeds being donated to the Eisteddfod.

Tickets for the Choir event are available to buy at either the box office or online at: [RCT | Pre Eisteddfod Celebration \(rct-theatres.co.uk\)](#).

- Information on other local activities continues to be available on the Menter Iaith website, link: [Digwyddiadau / Events - Menter Iaith RCT](#)
  - The Eisteddfod Maes B festival tour will carry out their final visit to Mountain Ash Comprehensive School on 19<sup>th</sup> July with Ponty High, Aberdare and Treorchy secondary pupils also being invited to attend.
- 5.2 Volunteering opportunities that have been promoted through the Eisteddfod website closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June. With over 400 people in total offering to volunteer, the Eisteddfod are now planning on holding engagement sessions. One face-to-face session is planned for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July at Coleg-y-Cymoedd campus in Nantgarw. Two further online sessions are then planned to follow on from this.
- 5.3 The Welsh Government funding awarded to provide subsidised entry to the Eisteddfod event and which is being targeted at vulnerable families across the County Borough is now approaching being fully spent.
- 5.4 As at the beginning of July, 4,103 applications had been received, which will mean that over 16,400 individuals in total will potentially benefit from free access to the event and get a £25 food voucher to spend while there.
- 5.5 In addition to this, YEPS has secured separate funding from WG for 150 young people to attend during the week. This means 25 young people from each of our 6 clusters will have free entry and transport to the Maes and be hosted in the WG pavilion at a buffet lunch.
- 5.6 The Council has also been able to support and distribute 71 tickets to veterans and their families, via our Armed Forces Officer and established veteran support groups.
- 5.7 The great uptake response has been due to the work of our staff across community services, education and other departments, and local members, in reaching out to our communities and schools to promote these opportunities.
- 5.8 Any remaining funding will be used to offer access opportunities to various groups across the County Borough who support vulnerable residents to ensure the event is as accessible to as many people as possible across RCT.
- 5.9 The Eisteddfod Community Workstream group continues to meet on a monthly basis with key officers from across Council services, with the support of the Council's Eisteddfod Officers, developing a number of initiatives to support the wider participation in both Welsh and bilingual events. Updates on some of these initiatives include:
- The Library service has now printed 200 copies of their book 'O Aberdar i Ystrad / From Aberdare to Ystrad' which includes history, heritage and

places to go in Rhondda Cynon Taf, and will be offered for sale at £10 each with all proceeds going towards fundraising for the event.

- Officers have continued to plan a programme of town centres activities, which will be held in the run up and following the Eisteddfod. There will be 3 events held in Pontypridd on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August and two events held in Mountain Ash on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August. These activities will be free for families to access at the events.
- The Council's Eisteddfod Officer has been able to arrange for a small group of young people to gain valuable experience at the event by shadowing and working with the Eisteddfod's photographer. They will be required to use their own camera equipment and will have the opportunity to post an album of their selected photos on social media.

5.10 There will be translation services on the Maes provided by the National Eisteddfod, to ensure non welsh speakers can enjoy the main programme. In addition, as part of the RCTCBC stand and in support of Elected Members, the Welsh Language service has been concentrating efforts on developing translation support for the Eisteddfod, arrangements that will be put in place include:

- At home cover for morning and late evening for social media and external communications, from 7am-9am and 6pm-9pm.
- Two translators based at Llys Cadwyn for all dates of the event.
- Two simultaneous translators and, at times, a 3rd translator on the Maes each day who will be doubling up as RCT Village hosts and supporting staff scheduled in from other Council services.
- 40 headsets available on the RCT Stand for simultaneous translation support that will also be available for members to access.
- In partnership with Menter Iaith, staff will be supporting a volunteer training day for those who don't speak Welsh and learners on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July (as referenced in point 5.2 above).

## **6. FUNDRAISING**

6.1 As outlined in previous Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee reports, the funding model of the Eisteddfod requires that a contribution to the operating costs of the festival is raised by community fundraising activities in the host local authority area.

6.2 It is recognised that fundraising efforts have increased substantially over the last few months and as at the beginning of July the total funds raised stands at

£290,000. This figure does now include funds raised from the Mayor's Charity and the recent Three Peaks Challenge completed by volunteers from the local fundraising committees and Council staff.

- 6.3 Fundraising efforts continue right up to the start date of event with the Council supporting the Eisteddfod to promote opportunities to communities and businesses across the County Borough (refer to points 4.2, 5.1 and 5.9 above).

## **7. LEGACY**

- 7.1 The Community Workstream group continue to capture information as activities are being developed and delivered in relation to each of the Legacy aims and will provide more details in future reports, after the event has been held.

- 7.2 As outlined in the report dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, officers have been planning, developing and scheduling the Council's offer for our Host stand at the Eisteddfod event, under the five Legacy themes of

- Tourism – Attractions, Heritage and What's on the Menu
- RCT – a great place to live and work
- Biodiversity – A Greener RCT
- Culture and Arts – Putting RCT on the Stage
- Welsh language – Developing RCT into a bilingual county.

This schedule is now nearing completion and will provide a full programme of to be offered on each day of the event.

- 7.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf's Tourism team with the support of the Council Communications team and other service staff have designed an Eisteddfod 'magazine' which will be available free at our Host stand. It will promote other places of interest and to visit whilst in Rhondda Cynon Taf not only during the event, but it is hoped will encourage people to make return visits in the future.

## **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 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.
- 14.2 Ongoing efforts will continue to ensure Members, residents and businesses across the County Borough are involved and engaged, and fundraising is maximised. With only 21 days to go, work to prepare for the event itself is also being prioritised to ensure the event is a success.
- 14.3 The importance of this work cannot be under-estimated as it will be central to the success of the festival's legacy in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 14.4 Further reports will be prepared for Members following the event to give details of planned ongoing Legacy work, as required.

**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**

**15th JULY 2024**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY**  
**SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER**  
**FOR EDUCATION, INCLUSION & WELSH LANGUAGE**

**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