

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

17th JANUARY 2023

A REPORT OUTLINING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP.

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

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive a report in respect of 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 2.1 Approve the proposal for changes to the membership of the Steering Group.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Increasing community involvement in the service builds upon the service's work with Lisa Baxter of The Experience Business following participation in her 'Designing Public Value with Purpose' programme funded by the Arts Council Wales, , supporting arts venues, artist and communities to develop a deeper understanding of their locality and realise the potential of creativity in helping local communities to flourish.
- 3.2 These proposed changes to the membership of the Steering Group will ensure that the service and its offer consider the communities needs, with a particular focus on the Park & Dare Theatre, and the Cultural Hub, fully embedding the service within its communities, involving audiences and individuals in its decision making, and are seen as exemplars and leaders in their field.

- 3.3 The Arts Council of Wales is due to commence an Investment Review of its Arts Portfolio programme in early 2023. RCT Theatres is currently an Arts Portfolio Wales client and is intending to apply for continued funding to strengthen its engagement work with communities and increase the public value of its theatres in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At its inception in 2019, the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group membership included two co-opted members: one from the Arts Council of Wales and one openly-recruited from the wider arts world working externally to the council.
- 4.2 Following a staff work programme review at the Arts Council of Wales, this co-opted member has changed; and due to personal reasons, the other co-opted member has taken the decision to resign from the membership of the Steering Group.
- 4.3 As part of the next Arts Council Wales Investment Review of its portfolio clients, commencing January 2023, the Arts Council have proposed focusing on the following six priorities: Creativity; Equity, Diversity and, Inclusion; Welsh Language; Climate Justice; Nurturing Talent; and Transformation.
- 4.4 Central to the Arts Council thinking, informed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the events leading to the Black Lives Matter protests, and the We Shall Not be Removed campaign, there is now an increased emphasis on art that is representative of local communities and, that leads to communities having access to pathways and resources to make and experience art on their own terms.
- 4.5 The Investment Review is also requesting that their funded organisations are responsive, innovative, relevant, and accountable, and will look to interrogate organisations on how they make decisions, who they involve, and the inclusiveness of those decisions.

5. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

- 5.1 In response to the forthcoming Arts Council of Wales Investment Review, and following the resignation of one of the co-opted members, the Steering Group has the opportunity to consider its membership and either change the role of its external co-opted member or increase the membership of the group to include one or more community voices.

6. PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 It is 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.
- 6.2 The Arts Service is exploring the development of a Community Panel that will include many community voices. It is proposed that the Chair of this panel, once established, also become a member of the Steering Group.
- 6.2 It is also proposed that an external arts professional is openly-recruited as a member of the Steering Group, following the resignation of the co-opted member who undertook this role.
- 6.3 The Arts Council of Wales member will continue to be co-opted to the membership of the Steering Group.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 7.1 This report provides a proposal for the Steering Group to agree the change of membership, seeking to ensure it is representative of the communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no Welsh Language implications arising from the content of this report.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

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

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

- 12.1 As an Arts Portfolio Wales client, we are supported to not only contribute to the delivery of the Arts Council of Wales' priorities but also the Council's corporate priorities, 'Prosperity', 'People' and 'Place'.
- 12.2 RCT Theatres will be further enabled to contribute to the seven national wellbeing goals, particularly:
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language;
 - A prosperous Wales;
 - A healthier Wales;
 - A Wales of cohesive communities.
- 12.3 The proposal is consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:
- Long-term – enabling us to co-create work, engage with our communities and build audiences that seek to achieve a more resilient and sustainable arts and creative industries provision within the County Borough;
 - Prevention – by understanding our community's needs, concerns, opportunities and aspiration, we can provide engagement, participation and performance opportunities that address the early intervention and prevention agenda;
 - Integrated – through community engagement work with key partners and contributing more effectively to a range of local, regional and national strategic priorities in an integrated and coherent way;
 - Collaboration – through creating and working with our communities in collaboration with key artists and arts organisations whose values align with ours and with whom we can work in partnership to achieve our goals;
 - Involvement – developing our creativity and community engagement through consultation, feedback, advisory groups and professional networks.

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 This report proposes 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.
- 13.2 It is 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, followed by the Chair of the, yet to be established Arts Service Community Panel.

- 13.3 It is also proposed that an external arts professional is openly-recruited as a member of the Steering Group, following the resignation of the co-opted member who undertook this role.
- 13.4 The Arts Council of Wales member will continue to be co-opted to the membership of the Steering Group.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers:

[Arts Council Investment Review and Business Plan, Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group Meeting, 22nd November 2022.](#)

Officer to contact:

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Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

None