



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL EISTEDDFOD CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Eisteddfod Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting held on Monday, 29 April 2024 at 2.00 pm.

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 Morgan

Non Committee Members in attendance:

Councillor H Gronow

Officers in attendance

Ms L Davies, Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Mr S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development
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, Graduate Officer - Cabinet & PR
Mr S Treeby, Events Manager

Others in Attendance

Ms B Moses, Chief Executive of the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

5 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received by County Borough Councillor A Crimmings.

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the 11th March 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.

7 UPDATE ON THE RCT NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2024

The Head of Community and Welsh Language Services provided Members with an overview of the report before them, which provided an update on the work currently being undertaken in collaboration with National Eisteddfod officers in preparation for the 2024 Eisteddfod in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Members were provided with details of recent meetings taken forward to launch and promote the Eisteddfod coming to Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2024, which

included local drop in sessions and business drop in sessions and Members were advised of the positive responses received to both events.

Details of the planned programme for the Eisteddfod to attend all secondary schools was also advised upon as well as the launch of a schools art project and resulting show case event.

The Sub Committee welcomed the update in relation to the considerations for accessibility for residents of the County Borough to attend the Eisteddfod, including the subsidised access, work with veterans and the receipt of Welsh Government funding to support access to the event.

The Head of Service continued to advise upon the fundraising elements associated with the Eisteddfod and reminded Members of the funding model in place which requires a contribution towards the operating costs of the festival to be raised by community fundraising activities in the host local authority area. It was recognised that there was already lots of effort being made by the National Eisteddfod, local communities supported by local members, voluntary groups, to fundraise across the County Borough and the officer advised that there had been a noticeable increase in the funds raised over the past couple of months, now totalling in excess of £185,000.

The Head of Community and Welsh Language Services concluded the report by providing details on the legacy aims of the Eisteddfod and Members were advised that interest in learning to speak Welsh from residents, businesses, Council staff and Members continues to increase and specific activities, sessions and resources will be developed and made available in the run up to the event, which will continue to be maintained and built upon as part of RCT's legacy aims.

The Chair thanked the Head of Service for the report and referenced the notable excitement building across the County Borough with less than 100 days until the event and also referenced the detailed work taking place across communities to make the Eisteddfod a success.

The Chair referenced the support from local businesses and welcomed the announcement in respect of the funding support from Welsh Government which would assist in the accessibility aims for local residents and recognised groups.

The Deputy Leader commented on the positive momentum gathering for the event and the work taking place with schools across the County Borough. Reference was made to the funding and the Deputy Leader thanked the local communities for their ongoing efforts and Welsh Government for their welcomed funding support.

The Chief Executive of the National Eisteddfod of Wales thanked Members for their comments and also spoke of the encouraging work taking place with the fundraising for the event.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- i. To note the content of the report.

The Director of Public Health, Protections and Community Services provided a further update to the Sub-Committee in relation to the infrastructure, transport and traffic, and spatial planning for the RCT National Eisteddfod of Wales 2024.

Members were advised of a number of changes to the spatial plan previously reported to Committee in March 2024 and the Director advised that such changes mainly reflected the evolving needs of the National Eisteddfod (NE) customers with the aim of providing them with a greater overall experience.

The Committee heard updates in respect of a

- new plan for the Maes in YWMP,
- main site for the caravan park off Berw Road, Pontypridd,
- the current review of the proposed location for Maes B,
- Hawthorn High School Park and Ride,
- update to the use of the University of South Wales Treforest Campus
- controlled access to Taff Street and Gas Road Car Park.

The Director advised of the ongoing engagement in respect of these issues with relevant stakeholders and community groups to ensure the smooth running of the event.

The Director continued the update by providing detail on traffic and transport work to help ensure the smooth running of the event. Members were informed that a traffic management consultant had been appointed to work with all partners to devise a traffic management plan.

The Chair thanked the Director for the comprehensive report and spoke of the moving picture of the spatial plan and the need for fluidity due to the sheer logistics of the event. The Chair referenced the unique setting of the Eisteddfod in a Town centre environment and the challenges associated with such a setting compared to a usual rural settings for the event. The Chair commented on the importance of ensuring that the Eisteddfod was a safe environment and experience for all and thanked the Director and the Chair of the National Eisteddfod for the amount of work that was taking place behind the scenes to ensure a successful and safe Eisteddfod for RCT.

The Leader commented on the update and reference the loss of the parking arrangements with the University but noted the University hosting the Fringe as an alternative which was a positive update. The Leader spoke of the detailed and comprehensive work being undertaken.

Discussions ensued in respect of parking arrangements in Hawthorn High School and the Director spoke of the traffic management plans in place and the contingency plans being explored.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- i. To note the content of the update report

This meeting closed at 2.30 pm

**Cllr R Lewis
Chairman.**

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