



## **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

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.**