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## CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee** ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time of Meeting** THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2016, 4.30 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact [scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk)

9 **Correspondence following the committee meeting** *(Pages 1 - 24)*

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: NRS/RM/PBr/14.01.16

Dyddiad / Date: 26 January 2016



Councillor Peter Bradbury  
Cabinet Member: Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise  
City of Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Bradbury

### **ECONOMY AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 JANUARY 2016**

Thank you for attending the January meeting of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee. At the meeting we considered Cardiff's performance in the 2015 Summer Reading Challenge and provided the opportunity for stakeholders to present to the Committee in relation to the Budget Proposals for Consultation 2016/17. I will be grateful if you could also pass on the thanks of the Committee to Sarah McGill, Isabelle Bignall and Nicola Richards for the presentation delivered and for addressing the questions that arose during the meeting. The Committee had a few comments and observations following the meeting, which are set out below.

#### **Summer Reading Challenge**

The Members of this Committee were pleased to be informed of another successful year of the Summer Reading Challenge in Cardiff. We note that the target of 70% completion was not achieved, but are aware that this was always going to be a very challenging target, as stated in our letter to you on 15 June 2015. We welcome the fact that this target will be set again for 2016, and recognise the aspiration shown to be the first authority in Wales to achieve it.

During the meeting, discussion took place around the role school governors could be playing in the promotion of the Summer Reading Challenge. The majority of Elected Members in Cardiff serve as governors in schools across the city, and we feel that this presents an opportunity to promote the Summer Reading Challenge within our respective schools in the run up to the summer holidays. We anticipate there being a willingness from all Elected Members to get more involved in the promotion of the 'Challenge' and would hope it could help encourage more young people to participate in and complete it. The Committee recommends that the involvement of Elected Members is formally included within planned promotional activities for future years.

The Committee is pleased to note that the budget for this initiative is not under threat or review as we approach the setting of the 2016/17 Council budget. We understand that a budget for this is provided by the Reading Agency and recognise the efforts that have gone in to securing contributions and involvement from local businesses and community groups, enabling Cardiff to offer a range of prizes as an incentive for participants to complete the Challenge.

Members of the Committee are glad the Council is demonstrating ongoing commitment to this initiative. We recognise the importance of assisting and encouraging young people to continue learning and improving their literacy skills throughout the summer break. We also see that this project is delivering wider benefits to the people of Cardiff, encouraging adults to visit libraries and raising their awareness of the services they offer, enabling parents to gain confidence in story telling and listening to their child read. We understand the success of the Summer Reading Challenge is not directly evaluated against these criteria, but feel they are important to note.

### ***Budget Proposals for Consultation 2016/17 – stakeholder engagement***

You will be aware that the Committee considered an item on the *2016/17 Budget Proposals – For Consultation*. This enabled Members to comment on the proposals released for public consultation and provided the opportunity for relevant stakeholders and members of the public to present to the Committee on the proposals, the services and projects they affect, and the impact that may be seen if certain proposals are accepted in the final 2016/17 Council budget.

A selection of individuals who had actively contacted Scrutiny Services were invited to give their views on the proposals, and the Members of the Committee felt it would be helpful to raise a number of points with you following these discussions. I am aware you were present in the public gallery during much of this section of the meeting and welcome your commitment to hearing first-hand the views of those affected by the initial budget proposals.

We have sympathy with the arts community with regard to the way in which the proposals are presented, and understand why there has been significant resultant outcry from the arts community in Cardiff. At first glance, it does appear that the Council is proposing a reduction in arts and culture related budgets of approximately £700,000. Upon digging deeper into the detail of the proposals it is clearer that £430,000 of this is in relation to the Arts Venues procurement exercise – a project aimed at securing a viable future for two important arts venues within the city centre. Even discounting this figure, the city's arts community seems to be facing a significant reduction in local authority funding.

The Committee welcomed your assurances at the meeting that Arts Active will continue to be delivered by a new operator following the Arts Venues procurement exercise. Sadly the wording of the narrative in the budget proposal was not particularly clear on this point. This is exacerbated by the inclusion of a section in the Consultation Questionnaire explaining what Arts Active is, what it delivers and how the Council will no longer be able to contribute to Arts Active funding, culminating in the question 'Do you support the decision to cease funding for Arts Active?'. No mention is made in the narrative of the service continuing via the ADM procurement exercise, but rather "seeking contributions ... to minimise the impact". We can understand therefore why the media has reported that this charity and the valuable work it undertakes are under threat as part of the 2016/17 budget.

The Committee received representations from three separate groups, the first focussed on the Cultural Projects scheme, the second on Artes Mundi and the third an overarching view on the arts in Cardiff from representative of What Next? Cardiff. The representations given during the meeting clearly laid out the benefits delivered to Cardiff – from both small community arts projects funded through the Cultural Projects scheme, and larger international arts initiatives such as Artes Mundi.

Members heard that the Cultural Projects Scheme's £62,000 budget supported 14 arts projects across Communities First areas in the city in 2015/16. These projects are designed to involve individuals with protected characteristics in the arts, and encourage integration across the community. Statistics suggest that approximately 9,000 individuals participated in these projects, and over 29,000 individuals have viewed the arts produced.

The Committee believes that the Scheme delivers substantial benefit for Cardiff from the Council's initial investment. The money is effectively doubled through projects securing match funding, employment can be created for local community members, invaluable links between schools, charities, artists and the community are established, and individuals are empowered to participate in activities or spend time with individuals from another background that they would otherwise never consider. Clearly much of this is impossible to quantify in financial terms, however this evidence must be given consideration when finalising the Cabinet's final 2016/17 budget proposals.

At the other end of the scale, Members heard that Artes Mundi has enabled the city of Cardiff to develop its international profile, and is valued at approximately £2.46m to the local economy (Event Impacts Calculator & the Audience Agency estimation). Statistics show that c90,000 visitors were attracted to Cardiff to visit Artes Mundi 6 in 2014, and it is estimated that 12% of these visitors stayed at least one night in the city. Again, it is clear that this project delivers a substantial boost to the economy for a relatively small £40,500 contribution from the City of Cardiff Council. Members recognise that Artes Mundi is not dependant on the finance provided by the Council, and understand this may be an influential factor in deciding on the future of this grant,

but we are fearful that Artes Mundi does not have a fixed location and in the long term could be attracted by other destinations should the Council cease in its commitment to the exhibition. We explored this risk during the meeting, with Members informed that there were no plans for Artes Mundi to leave Cardiff, but that other business and delivery models would have to be explored should the funding sources change.

The final presentation Members received was from representatives of What Next? Cardiff, a group aimed at advocating the role of arts and culture in society and enabling those involved in the arts to actively advocate the value of the work they do. This presentation emphasised to Members that the arts and cultural scene delivers so much more than just items of work to observe and exhibitions to visit – the cultural offer of Cardiff will contribute to top businesses, visitors and students choosing the city as their destination of choice; it can help drive regeneration and sustainability and has a positive effect on the health, wellbeing and quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

The cultural offer also helps connect Cardiff to the wider world, through high profile events, festivals and exhibitions. As such, the proposed cuts pose a threat not just to the livelihood of artists but also to the connections and reputation Cardiff has with the wider world. It was suggested to Members that, at a time when cities like Bristol and Manchester are making big commitments to the future of the arts, our Council does not seem to recognise the same potential value that a vibrant arts scene can provide.

This item also gave Members the opportunity to consider and comment on some of the proposals not covered in the representations made by stakeholders. One comment we wish to make in this respect is with regard to the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition, an event that we believe truly enhances the city of Cardiff's global reputation. We fear that events such as this are mobile, and could be held in any number of major cities across the UK, should the ties to Cardiff be lost through a cessation of Local Authority funding. With this in mind we would urge you and Cabinet colleagues to assess the full impact of all the cuts being proposed when piecing together the final draft budget 2016/17.

The Committee recognises that this year, as in many previous years, there are hard decisions to be made as to where the required savings will be found across the Council. We are conscious that the Council has received a more favourable settlement than was anticipated when setting the *Budget Proposals 2016/17 – for Consultation*, and that this provides the Cabinet with some flexibility over the savings proposals put forward in the Draft Budget 2016/17. With this in mind, Members of the Committee do not feel we can demand that all proposed cuts to the arts are removed from the final draft budget. We would, however, be disappointed if the full level of proposed savings from the arts was accepted and urge you to seriously consider the impact that each proposal will have individually, and combined as a collective contribution to the Arts in Cardiff.

Members of the Committee seek reassurance that arts funding decisions are underpinned with an assessment of the impact these proposals would have on the organisations involved, and the groups accessing their services. It was clear to Members from the submissions received that some larger and more established operations could feasibly continue without the support that the Council provides, while other smaller community projects are fully reliant on Council grants and would cease to be run. Some organisations rely on Council funding to secure the match funding that makes projects viable, while others use the money provided by the Council as leverage to attract additional funding and use the local authority commitment to the project as a signal of its reliability and importance to the city. Consideration also needs to be given to the plausibility of other sources of funding being secured – projects with a global reputation that already have the involvement of private corporations are far more likely to plug their funding gaps than a small arts project focussed in more deprived areas of the city.

### **Further Observations**

The Committee also wished to make some more general points in relation to the *2016/17 Budget Proposals – for Consultation* following our consideration of this item, and discussion with members of the public and friends' groups.

It is apparent that affected stakeholders feel there is no strategic approach in place to guide the Council's working with the Arts community, or indeed a clear vision for Arts and Culture in the city. The Committee recognises the need for an ongoing dialogue with the arts community in Cardiff, exploring where the Council can work with artists on projects across the city, whether they be in schools and education, community development or urban regeneration, and that a long term strategy is developed to underpin this work. We understand from correspondence with the Leader that the Cultural Conversation was launched to address these very matters, and we hope you can confirm that this forum has been used to discuss the impact of the savings proposals within the 2016/17 budget.

Members of the public commented that they found it hard to understand from the *Budget Proposals – for Consultation* the extent of the cuts being proposed, because it isn't clear what proportion of the total budget (or of a Directorate's budget) that a saving represents. Similarly it is hard for Members to evaluate or comment on proposed cuts, without knowing what services are being maintained and what levels of money are allocated to these services. During the meeting you mentioned that the Arts & Theatres Manager would be able to provide us with this breakdown of budget allocation, and we wish to accept this offer of information.

During the meeting the Committee also raised questions about the manner in which savings proposals are presented, with savings proposals taken from the same Directorate budget listed separately, and not in a consecutive order. For example, budget lines 80, 81, 83 and 85 all relate to the same Arts budget. Although they may not individually represent a large proportion of the budget, when added together they

are a reduction of approximately 40% of the associated budget. We feel this is misleading and seek assurances that savings proposals are not only evaluated on an individual basis, but also give regard to the collective impact on the respective budget they are taken from.

You mentioned briefly during the meeting that you have written to Ken Skates AM, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, to outline the unique role Cardiff plays as Capital City of Wales in terms of the arts, the expectation for events to be held here, and the additional finances that this role requires. This Committee is currently making the same case as part of our task and finish inquiry 'Cardiff Allocation of National Non Domestic Rates', and we recognise the additional burden placed on this city in fulfilling its role as the Capital. We wish accept your offer of a copy of this letter, and also request that you share the Deputy Minister's response with us, when it arrives.

To re-cap for ease, the Committee asks that the following points are addressed:

- The Committee recommends that the involvement of Elected Members serving as school governors is formally included within planned promotional activities for the Summer Reading Challenge.
- The Committee seeks assurances that savings proposals are not only evaluated on an individual basis, but also give regard to the collective impact on the respective budget they are taken from, and the collective contribution made to the Arts and Culture offer of Cardiff.
- The Committee seeks confirmation that decisions will be reached with reference to an impact assessment of these proposals on the organisations involved and the groups accessing their services.
- The Committee seeks confirmation that the Cultural Conversation forum has been used to discuss and establish the impact of the 2016/17 savings proposals with the arts community.
- The Arts & Theatres Manager provides the full budget allocation for the arts, demonstrating what is being kept and what services and included within the 2016/17 savings proposals.
- The Committee requests a copy of the letter written to Ken Skates AM and subsequent responses received.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments, observations and recommendations, and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Regards,



**Councillor Rod McKerlich**  
**Chairperson, Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee**



cc Sarah McGill, Director: Communities, Housing and Customer Services  
Neil Hanratty, Director: Economic Development  
Cabinet Support Office  
Members of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM33417

Dyddiad / Date: 23rd March 2016

Councillor Rod Mckerlich  
C/O Member Services  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl/Dear Councillor Mckerlich,

### **E&C Scrutiny 14th January 2016**

I refer to your letter of the 26th January and note that due to an oversight, you have not been responded. Please accept my apologies for this.

It was my pleasure to attend the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee on the 14 January 2016. I was only sorry that I was unable to remain for all of the presentations as I understand from officers that the presentations from Artes Mundi and What Next, Cardiff were extremely constructive, articulate and passionate.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

The Committee recommends that the involvement of Elected Members serving as school governors is formally included within planned promotional activities for the Summer Reading Challenge. This is a good suggestion. We already work closely with schools throughout Cardiff and we will ensure that Elected Members will be formally included in this years and future promotional activities for the reading challenge.

### **Budget Proposals for Consultation 2016/17 - Stakeholder engagement**

It will come as little surprise to you to understand that there is very little in your letter that I disagree with. The points you make and those of the stakeholders who generously gave up their time to contribute to this important debate are understood and indeed supported by the Leader, Cabinet and I. None of these proposed cuts would even be considered if it were not for the unprecedented financial challenges faced by this authority due to national UK government austerity measures.

**ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO:** Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office,  
Ystafell / Room 514, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall,  
Glanfa'r Iwerydd / Atlantic Wharf, Caerdydd / Cardiff,  
CF10 4UW Ffon / Tel (029) 2087 2598



As you reflect in your letter, the Council has received a slightly more favourable settlement than was first anticipated when developing the initial budget proposals. As we had already considered each proposal at great length and were fully cognisant of their potential impact, we were able to promptly re-visit and re-evaluate each proposal in light of the improved funding position and, also reflecting the overwhelming response that we have had from the Arts & Culture community, we have removed the proposed cuts in respect of Artes Mundi, Cardiff Singer of the World and Community Arts Grants from the 2016/17 budget proposals.

I am mindful of the important role the Council plays in helping to secure funding from other organisations, not only in terms of a match funding contribution, but also the consequent credibility Council involvement brings. I understand that this is no less important for smaller community groups than for the larger global events. I therefore want to make it very clear that our decision to review the project funding for the Arts was simply a case of impossible choices and although we have been provided with a reprieve for this year you will understand that we can not guarantee the sustainability of that position as we move forward.

I note your comments regarding the presentation of the budgets and I apologise if this caused any confusion. You will appreciate that the development of the budget was very much a moving feast against the backdrop of developing new ways of delivering our services often referred to as Alternative Delivery Models within the Council. It is unfortunate that the proposals had gone to print before the alternative option for Arts Active had been confirmed. As requested I attach a breakdown of the full budget allocation for the Arts demonstrating what is being kept and what services are included within the 2016/17 savings proposals. In parallel I will share your concerns and comments with my cabinet colleagues in respect of preparation for next year's budget consultation.

I have also attached copies of the correspondence between myself, the Deputy Minister and Minister in respect of my concerns regarding the very real threat to the Council's ability to continue to support the vital arts & culture sector set against ever decreasing financial settlements and seeking a fundamental review of how we can work proactively together to ensure a sustainable future for Arts & Culture in our Capital City.

In conclusion and in response to the specific points you ask to be addressed:

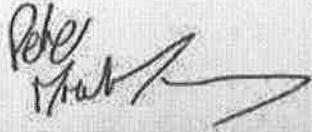
- I can assure you that savings proposals are not only evaluated on an individual basis but also with regard to the impact on the wider budget and indeed the impact on the city more widely.
- Equality Impact Assessments were completed in relation to all 6 of the savings proposals.
- The Cultural Conversation was not specifically used to discuss and establish the savings proposals for 2016/17 as wider conversations around the future of arts and culture in the city had already been held with this group and many would have also been consulted directly as part of the ongoing process. They will however very much be part of the ongoing future discussions and a meeting is scheduled for later this month.
- The details relating to the Arts budgets are attached for information.

- Copies of the letters written to Ken Skates AM and subsequent responses, as indicated above, are attached.

I would like to thank you once again for your consideration of the Arts & Culture Savings and I am grateful for the supportive response of the committee.

Yn gywir

Yours sincerely



**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Peter Bradbury**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise**  
**Aelod Cabinet Dros Datblygu Cymunedol, Mentrau Cydweithredol a Mentrau Cymdeithasol**

c.c. Sarah McGill, Director, Communities, Housing and Customer Services  
Neil Hanratty, Director, Economic Development  
Cabinet Support Office  
Member of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee

• Copy of the letter written to the Hon. AIA and subsequent  
responses on various issues are enclosed.

I would like to thank you for your contribution to the AIA & I would  
like to see you for the support of the AIA in the future.

Yours sincerely,  
[Signature]

Minister, Ministry of Labour,  
Employment, Immigration and Social  
Development  
Hon. Cabinet Minister, Ministry of Labour,  
Employment, Immigration and Social  
Development  
Hon. Minister, Ministry of Labour,  
Employment, Immigration and Social  
Development  
Hon. Minister, Ministry of Labour,  
Employment, Immigration and Social  
Development  
Hon. Minister, Ministry of Labour,  
Employment, Immigration and Social  
Development  
Hon. Minister, Ministry of Labour,  
Employment, Immigration and Social  
Development

**Proposed Arts Budget Savings 2016-17**

Below is a breakdown of the Arts budget (which includes expenditure/income) aligned to the proposed savings for 2016-17:-

<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Budget 2015-16</b>	<b>Proposed Saving 2016-17</b>
Arts Revenue Grants	£67,650	£0
Cardiff Singer of the World	£72,000	£0
Cardiff Contemporary	£86,600	£50,000
Arts Grant – Artes Mundi	£40,500	£0
Arts Active (Education)	£130,050	£130,000
St. David's Hall	£1,182,730	£160,000
New Theatre	£832,440	£140,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,411,970</b>	<b>£480,000</b>

Below is a description of the data input (which includes assumptions) provided to the model for the assessment.

Parameter	Value	Units	Source
Soil Concentration	0.1	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	0.2	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	0.3	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	0.4	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	0.5	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	0.6	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	0.7	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	0.8	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	0.9	mg/kg	Site Data
Soil Concentration	1.0	mg/kg	Site Data



**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref : CM33091  
Eich Cyf / Your Ref : KS/01513/15  
Dyddiad / Date: 25th January 2016

Edwina Hart AM  
Minister For Economy, Science And Transport  
Welsh Government  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Annwyl / Dear Mrs Hart

**Arts & Culture in Cardiff**

Thank you for your letter dated 13 January 2016. I am extremely grateful for your detailed and considered response. I also welcome your recognition of the major role that the City of Cardiff Council has played with regard to investment in the arts and culture sector in Cardiff. All of the events outlined in our relative correspondences would not have been possible without the commitment and financial support of the Council. Indeed, although not revenue funded by the Council, the Wales Millennium Centre would not have been in its current location if the Labour Cabinet at that time had not secured the land for its development.

Clearly all of our organisations are faced with an increasingly challenging financial position and it was not my intention to suggest that ACW or MEU should fill funding gaps vacated by the authority. We have excellent partnership and collaborative working relationships with both ACW and MEU and we clearly understand their respective policies and the financial challenges they also face.

Whilst the City Deal may provide an opportunity for new capital funding, I believe the challenge for Cardiff and Wales as a cultural nation is far more fundamental than that. In November this year, the chancellor stated that cutting the arts is a false economy, "One of the best investments we can make as a nation is in our extraordinary arts, museums, heritage, media and sport." Yet the very same central government funding settlement places a serious question mark over local government's ability to continue their pivotal role in ensuring the sustainability of the arts and culture sectors. In all of the many responses we have received our budget consultation, one message chimes clear, the financial involvement from the local authority is key to unlocking match funding from other grant giving bodies and sponsor organisations.

I very much welcome your offer to meet and discuss how together we can seek to support what we both recognise as Wales' vital cultural ecosystem. I will make contact with your private office and arrange a mutually convenient appointment.

Yn gwyir  
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bradbury', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Peter Bradbury**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise**  
**Aelod Cabinet Dros Datblygu Cymunedol, Mentrau Cydweithredol a Mentrau Cymdeithasol**

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref : CM33091

Dyddiad / Date: 17th December 2015

Mr Ken Skates AM  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism  
Welsh Government  
5th Floor  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Annwyl / Dear Ken

**St David's Hall, Cardiff Singer of the World and Artes Mundi**

I am mindful of your stated vision to make Wales the most creative and active nation in Europe and therefore I write to seek your support in protecting the future of two significant cultural events.

You will be aware that due to central government austerity measures the authority is faced with unparalleled savings targets over the next four years. Not surprisingly, the authority's discretionary services are bearing the impact of a significant proportion of these shortfalls.

Cardiff has been proud to support the delivery of two significant cultural events – the first Cardiff Singer of the World (£145K) and secondly and more recently Artes Mundi (£81K), which is now in its seventh cycle. As part of the 2016/17 budget proposals it is proposed to remove the council subsidy for both these events over a staged two year period.

**BBC Cardiff Singer of the World** is a competition known throughout the classical music world as the premier showcase for opera and concert singers at the outset of their careers. The competition is seen on every platform of the BBC attracting audiences from the US, Europe, China and Australasia. For the first time, in 2015, a range of "fringe" events were developed which took place at Cardiff University, the Wales Millennium Centre, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and Chapter Arts Centre. For 2017 more expansion had been planned, including design and arts exhibitions as well as further performance offers for visitors to Cardiff. This is clearly now all under threat and the authority is also aware that the BBC may seek to relocate the event from Wales if the subsidy is lost.

**Artes Mundi (arts of the world)** Artes Mundi is Wales's world-class contemporary visual art exhibition. Founded in 2002 by Welsh artist William Wilkins, it features exceptional artists drawn from over 700+ nominations from every continent around the world (except Antarctica). The UK's largest visual arts prize, the biennial exhibition features artists who explore social and political themes through a variety of media including sculpture, installations, photography, film and performance, telling stories of lived experience from countries and cultures across the world.

Artes Mundi has an established record of working with minority groups that are in some way disadvantaged. The organisers have also worked extensively with schools in Cardiff, providing educational workshops during the exhibition periods and support and training for teachers, aimed at helping them to use contemporary art as a cross-curricular tool that improves overall educational performance. Artes Mundi's plans for outreach work in 2016/17 are focused on three specific groups, young male offenders and ex-offenders, women asylum seekers, almost entirely from ethnic minorities, and the elderly.

I am sure you will appreciate that my cabinet colleagues and I have grave reservations about the impact of these potential cuts, with the serious risk that these important cultural events could be lost to Cardiff and Wales, but we find ourselves in an untenable financial position.

I believe it is also worth taking this opportunity to consider that St David's Hall, as the host venue for Cardiff Singer of the World, is the National Concert Hall for Wales. However, despite its national role the cost of administration is borne entirely by the Council with only limited contribution from the Arts Council for Wales. Historically the combined economic impact of St David's Hall and the New Theatre has been calculated at in excess of £38 million. While attendance for the combined venues compares very favourably with the WMC, presenting a wider range of product at a lower subsidy level, neither St David's Hall nor indeed the New Theatre are recipients of any external revenue funding. This is stark in comparison to the annual Arts Council for Wales grant to the Wales Millennium Centre which is in the region of £3.9 million and the c£1.2 million for the Sherman Theatre.

30 years on from its opening, the Hall retains its global reputation as one of the finest concert halls in the world – attracting in excess of 100,000 patrons every year from outside of Cardiff post codes. 12% of our audiences come from community first areas, whilst over 10% of the 310 performances presented at St David's Hall are generated and performed by local groups and charity hirers.

The authority is in the process of seeking an alternative provider for both cultural venues, but early indications are that the market cannot offer the financial solution needed to meet the savings that are required due to concerns relating to required capital investment. If we were able to address the capital challenge then the potential for securing a revenue solution going forward would be greatly enhanced.

We recognise the pivotal role that both venues and the events, detailed above, play in the social and economic wellbeing of our city and the wider city region. It is our continued intention to seek the best solution and protect as much of the excellent work undertaken as possible not only for our direct communities but the wider audience from across Wales who benefit from the Capital's cultural offer. But we can simply no longer do this

In view of the importance St. David's Hall in drawing international events and visitors to Wales and the potential impact of losing two significant cultural events, I would very much welcome further discussion with Welsh Government about how we can work together to secure a sustainable future for the cultural offer for Cardiff and the wider capital region through a continued partnership approach.

Yn gwyir  
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bradbury', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Councillor / Y Cyngorydd Peter Bradbury**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise**  
**Aelod Cabinet Dros Datblygu Cymunedol, Mentrau Cydweithredol a Mentrau Cymdeithasol**

cc - **Carwyn Jones AM**  
**Edwina Hart AM**



Fy Nghyf / My Ref: NRS/RM/DD/14.01.15

Dyddiad / Date: 26 January 2016

Councillor Daniel De'Ath  
Cabinet Member: Skills, Safety & Engagement  
City of Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



Dear Councillor De'Ath

## **ECONOMY AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 JANUARY 2016**

### **Adult Community Learning – 14/15 Performance**

At our January meeting, Members of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee considered the 2014/15 Performance Data for Adult Community Learning in Cardiff. I will be grateful if you could pass on the thanks of the Committee to Sarah McGill, Isabelle Bignall and John Agnew for the presentation delivered and for addressing the questions arising during the meeting. The Committee had a few comments and observations following the meeting, which are set out below.

Members were very pleased with the results reported for 2014/15, with Cardiff Council individually, and the Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership (CVCLP) collectively, achieving success rates above the targets set. Members were particularly impressed when considering the level of improvement achieved in the two years following the 2012/13 results. We feel the 27% improvement in this time period is a testament to the success delivered through the establishment of the CVCLP and the improvement actions implemented by the Council.

While Members welcomed the performance data presented to them, we wish to request that, when considering this item or similar items reporting annual performance in the future, we are provided with actual figures as well as the figures in percentage terms. We have no doubt that the figures given to us show the service is performing well, but would like to be able to make comparisons in real terms and gain an understanding of the scale of the service. For example, the figures presented do not enable us to grasp how many individuals are achieving accreditation via adult community learning courses in Cardiff, and how this figure compares to the number of individuals achieving accreditation through courses provided by the Vale Council or Cardiff and Vale College.

During the meeting a brief discussion took place around English for Speakers of Other Languages provision and the Life in the UK Test. We were informed that this is

something provided in the city through Cardiff and Vale College, and have requested that the Principal Scrutiny Officer for this Committee contacts CAVC to arrange an update on this provision in the summer – please let Nathan know if this is an item you, or officers responsible for delivering lifelong learning would also wish to contribute to.

I would be grateful if you would consider the above comments, observations and recommendations, and look forward to receiving your feedback.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod McKerlich', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Councillor Rod McKerlich**  
**Chairperson, Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee**

cc Sarah McGill, Director: Communities, Housing and Customer Services  
Cabinet Support Office  
Members of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee





My Ref / Fy Ref: CM33378

Your Ref / Eich Ref :

Date / Dyddiad: 15 February 2016

Councillor Rod McKerlich  
Chairperson  
Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Dear / Annwyl Rod,

**RE:- Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2016  
Adult Community Learning – 14/15 Performance**

Thank you for your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and we welcome your observations and recommendations and I have passed on your thanks to the officers.

Yes I share the committees view on the overall performance of the Adult Community Learning team and it pleasing to see the hard work of officers in transforming this section in recent years. I will ensure that future reports contain actual figures as well as percentage.

We will look to include this information in future, however can advise that for 2014/15, we have the following learner numbers who attended grant funded courses:

- City of Cardiff Council 2295 Learners
- WEA 2055 Learners
- Cardiff and Vale College 1639 Learners
- YMCA 849 Learners
- Vale of Glamorgan Council 547 Learners



With regards to English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), yes the provision is provided in Cardiff by the Cardiff and Vale College. Therefore we would not be directly involved, but if there is anyway officers or I could help please let me know.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely  
Yn gwyir



**Councillor/ Y Cynghorydd Daniel De'Ath**  
**Cabinet Member for Safety, Engagement & Democracy**  
**Aelod Cabinet Dros Diogelwch, Ymgysylltu a Democratiaeth**  
**Councillor for Plasnewydd/**  
**Cynghorydd Plasnewydd**