

COUNCIL: 20 OCTOBER 2016

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER

Cardiff Convention 2016

We held another successful Cardiff Convention last week (13 October 2016), which was attended by over 150 people at the Wales Millennium Centre. Good media attention was generated due to the high calibre of international speakers, including Sir Alasdair Macdonald, Government Advisor on Education and Newsha Ghaeli, Research Fellow and Project lead, Senseable City Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Convention focused on how the city can deliver its vision of becoming one of Europe's most liveable cities. Topics included the role of education and skills, transport, technology, built environment, the health and wellbeing of the city. The Convention continues to support our engagement across the city, whilst also bringing in a wider view on how we can tackle the issues we face and build on the opportunities we have.

Bilingual Cardiff: Five Year Strategy

We have published a draft Bilingual Cardiff 5 year strategy for public consultation. This is a city wide strategy which sets out the Council's priorities for promoting and developing the Welsh language in Cardiff. The strategy builds on our existing work and is one of the statutory requirements of the new Welsh language standards which were introduced earlier this year. A consultation event is being held on 20 October 2016 at Yr Hen Lyfrgell, Cardiff's Welsh Cultural Centre, which will bring together prospective partners who will help deliver this strategy.

This is a strategy for the city as a whole, not for any one organisation. Delivering the strategy will therefore rely on partnership working: between public sector partners; between the public, private and education sectors; and, most importantly of all, with the people of Cardiff. It will include a target to increase the number of Welsh speakers within Cardiff over a five-year period as well as our priorities for facilitating the use of the language in line with the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy. This consultation exercise will give the public and members the opportunity to have their say on how we can promote and develop the Welsh language in Cardiff, and to support the Council's vision of a truly Bilingual Cardiff. Following the consultation, a detailed action plan will be developed with our partners to deliver on identified priorities. The final strategy will be submitted to Cabinet and full Council for consideration in due course.

Cardiff Contemporary

Thirty-one days of artistic challenge and discovery begins this week as the third Cardiff Contemporary gets under way. The festival draws international and Wales-based artists into the city streets, galleries, forgotten spaces and communities to explore the theme of 'communication' through multi-disciplinary visual, sonic and performance arts. The title 'Are You Ready?' references the pioneering work of Guglielmo Marconi who transmitted those three immortal words in Morse code from Flat Holm Island in the Bristol Channel to Lavernock Point, Glamorgan on 13 May 1897.

Taking in historic sites from the city centre to Cardiff Bay, Cardiff Contemporary will find its focus in a temporary hub, 'The Angel', which has been developed to include five new gallery spaces across a derelict floor beneath the city's Angel Hotel. From here, brand new commissions will radiate across Cardiff, including impressive new public sculpture along one of Cardiff's most public landmarks, a takeover of the imposing-yet-defunct old Post Office at Cardiff Bay for an exhilarating, public reclamation and an unmissable light sculpture to welcome travellers arriving at Cardiff Central train station.

European Local Democracy Week, 10-16 October 2016

Last week's Cabinet meeting (13 October 2016) was held in the Creative Suite of Central Library Hub to mark European Local Democracy Week. The meeting was attended by students from Cardiff School of Journalism who took the opportunity to see for themselves how decisions are made in Cardiff. Over the next few months, Cabinet meetings will be held at different venues across the city in a bid to engage more people in local politics and make council business more accessible to residents.

Apprenticeships

As part of our commitment to supporting people into employment, we have been working with the developer of Central Square to ensure that there is a significant offer for apprenticeships as part of the construction work. There are now two apprentice bricklayers due to start on site, with apprenticeships planned for mechanical and electrical, dry lining and plastering, carpentry and decoration. Contractors are also working with Cardiff and Vale College to provide work experience for their first year intake of students in 2016/17.

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Aberfan Disaster

Flags will be flown at half-mast at all Council buildings on Friday 21 October to commemorate the Aberfan disaster in 1966 in which the lives of 116 children and 28 adults were tragically lost following the collapse of a nearby coal tip. Council staff and members will also honour a minute's silence at 09:15am, the exact time that the disaster occurred 50 years ago, as a mark of respect for the victims and their families.

Councillor Phil Bale
Leader of the City Council
19 October 2016