

**CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT**

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**Christmas Events**

I am sure that Members will wish to join me in thanking all those involved in delivering the annual Step Into Christmas event on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Despite the winter drizzle, the event was well attended with a plethora of Christmas treats on hand for all to enjoy. Footfall numbers were up 13% on the 2017 event at just short of 136,000.

Winter Wonderland also launched on the same evening with a larger site, a new double storey ski-lodge and a breathtaking new fairground ride, which provides stunning views of our capital city followed by a heart stopping drop to earth. I want to thank Sayers Amusements and their partners for their continued commitment and investment in this ever popular Christmas attraction.

Pantomime and ballet ticket sales also continue to perform well at the New Theatre and St David's Hall respectively and I would encourage Members not to miss out on these annual festive treats.

**National Tree Week**

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018, I will be marking the commencement of National Tree Week through the planting of new and replacement trees at Thompsons Park in the Canton ward. National Tree Week is an initiative by The Tree Council, a charitable organisation which works with landowners and communities to promote the importance of and value of trees. The Council has worked with partners, including the Cardiff Civic Society, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Welsh Government and private sponsors, to develop a planting programme throughout our parks and streets that will see in the region of 250 plantings for the 2018/19 season. This programme underlines the Council's commitment to ensuring that the vitality of our tree stock is maintained.

**Councillor Peter Bradbury  
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure  
23 November 2018**