
ARTS COUNCIL OF WALES – THE POTENTIAL OF THE ARTS IN CARDIFF

Purpose of Report

1. This report prepares Members for the contribution that will be made to their meeting by the Arts Council of Wales, who have been invited to discuss the potential of the Arts in Cardiff to promote city regeneration and the well being of citizens.

Background

2. The Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference gives the Committee responsibility to review Arts & Culture and Events & Tourism in Cardiff, and to *"scrutinise, measure and actively promote improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of economic regeneration"*.
3. As part of the process to develop its 2015/16 work programme, the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee sought ideas for consideration from external stakeholders, alongside suggestions from Elected Members, directors, key strategic and performance plans and items carried forward or suggested during 2014/15. As a key stakeholder within Committee's terms of reference, the Arts Council of Wales was invited to suggest topics or ideas that it felt merited the Committee's attention.
4. The topic for consideration suggested by the Arts Council of Wales was *"The potential of the Arts in Cardiff to promote city regeneration and the well being of citizens"*.

Arts Council of Wales

5. The Arts Council of Wales is an independent charity, and is the nation's funding and development agency for the arts. Its vision is of a creative Wales where the arts are central to the life of Wales. The Arts Council's strategy; *"Inspire... Our strategy for Creativity and the Arts in Wales"*¹ is central to the Arts Council of Wales work, and can be summarised in three words – Make, Reach, Sustain - Making art, ensuring it connects, and ensuring a durable legacy are all part of the vision.
6. The following extract is taken from the Arts Council of Wales Strategic Equality Plan 2015/16 and summarises the vision outlined above.

"When we talk about Make, we mean artistic creation. We want to foster an environment for our artists and arts organisations in which they can create their best work. Because if we Make well, we inspire.

"If we inspire, more people in Wales will enjoy and take part in the best that our nation has to offer. This is at the heart of our ability to Reach, and crucially to reach further than before, and to engage individuals and communities who have felt excluded from our work."

And if in doing this, something of worth is created in what is made or who is embraced, then we should ask how we protect and Sustain these things in ways that work economically and that can endure.

We achieve our goals by:

- *distributing Government grant-in-aid and Lottery funds*
- *providing advice about the arts*

¹ <http://issuu.com/artscouncilofwales/docs/inspire/1?e=1765604/10427962>

- *sharing information*
- *raising the profile of the arts in Wales*
- *generating more money for the arts economy*
- *influencing planners and decision-makers*
- *developing international opportunities in the arts*
- *promoting small scale performances in local communities*

Issues

7. In light of the work programme suggestion received from the Arts Council of Wales, the Chair of the Committee has invited representatives of the organisation to build upon the suggestion, outlining the opportunities that exist for Cardiff, identifying good practice and potential areas of weakness.
8. It is hoped that the information received and subsequent discussions during the meeting will help inform Members as they look to scrutinise arts-related items at future meetings throughout the year. Examples include the consideration of the Arts Venues Operational Management Procurement exercise and the scrutiny of the Cabinet's draft budget proposals for 2016/17.

Way Forward

9. Sian Tomos, the Arts Council of Wales' Director of Enterprise and Regeneration, will be joined by colleagues at the Committee meeting and will facilitate discussion around the potential of the arts in Cardiff.
10. The City of Cardiff Council is currently piloting arrangements for third sector organisations to be able to ask questions at scrutiny committee meetings. If a third sector organisation request to ask a question at the meeting and the Chair of the Committee is content for the question to come forward, a representative of that organisation will attend Committee to pose the question.

Legal Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/ Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

13. The Committee is recommended to consider the information received at the meeting, and submit any recommendations, observations or comments to the Cabinet Member. Members may also wish to consider additional areas of work for the Committee to focus on as part of the 2015/16 work programme.

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