

COUNCIL: 19 JULY 2018

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER

Co-operative Council of the Year Award

Cardiff Council was named 'Co-operative Council of the Year', at the recent Co-operative of the Year Awards organised by Co-operatives UK and supported by the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network. The award winners were announced on 23 June 2018 during Co-operatives Fortnight, which raises awareness of the valuable contribution that co-ops make to the UK economy and the communities in which they are based.

Cardiff Council has used the co-operative approach to inform and shape its response to a number of city challenges. The Council recognises that it does not have a monopoly on good ideas and that success will require a broad partnership which allows and encourages everyone to contribute. This simple ethos has been applied to a range of different delivery models as the Council addresses a number of issues, from promoting the involvement of residents in driving up recycling and keeping their local neighbourhoods clean to connecting businesses together with school leavers.

The 'Cardiff Commitment' exemplifies the approach. Having reduced the number of young people not in education, employment or training from over 9% to around 2.3%, the Cardiff Commitment allows individuals and businesses to support young people, either by becoming mentors, school governors or offering work placements. The response from the business community has been exceptional and is an example of what can be achieved as a city when we come together around a common challenge.

Channel 4 Bid

Following my statement to Council last month noting that Cardiff had been shortlisted as a possible location for Channel 4's new national headquarters, I was pleased to welcome their representatives to the city on 22 June 2018 as part of the application process. Once again, it was a real pleasure to work with the extraordinarily talented people from Cardiff's creative sector who are part of our bid team, who helped showcase the city and bring to life our offer. The final decision will be made in October 2018 and I will continue to update Council on the bid's progress.

WLGA and LGA Annual Conferences

I was pleased to join Cabinet colleagues and other Council Leaders in Wales in attending the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Annual Conference and WLGA Council AGM in Llandudno on 28 & 29 June 2018. I also attended the LGA Annual Conference in Birmingham on 3 July 2018.

The most significant announcement at the WLGA Annual Conference was made by the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services, Alun Davies AM, who confirmed that he was happy to withdraw the map of proposed council mergers that was contained in the recent Green Paper. He also made clear that he wants to work together with local government to agree, and not impose, a solution for strengthening local government. I believe that the Cabinet Secretary genuinely wants to see stronger local government succeeding across Wales and I look forward to working constructively with him to agree a shared vision for the future following the recent consultation on the Green Paper.

Tafwyl

On the weekend of 30th June and 1st July, Cardiff Castle once again hosted the Tafwyl festival. Tafwyl is now well established as not only one of the foremost Welsh language festivals in Wales, but also an important part of Cardiff's schedule of major events. It attracts around 40,000 visitors and brings in over £1.5m to the Cardiff economy. It is a great example of how the city can help make the Welsh Language open and inclusive, offering a unique opportunity to residents and visitors to experience the Welsh language and Welsh culture within one of the city's most iconic settings.

Councillor Huw Thomas
Leader of the Council
13th July 2018