
CULTURE AND LEISURE STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Apprenticeship Scheme

In July 2017, I updated Council on the introduction of two new Apprenticeship Schemes within my portfolio and advised that I would provide an update, in respect of further developments, following the recess. I am, therefore, delighted to report the creation of a new 4-year Electrical Engineering Apprenticeship at Cardiff Harbour Authority. The recruitment exercise has been completed and the successful candidate has commenced a course of study leading to the award of a BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Electrical Engineering. The course of study will be complemented by a comprehensive programme of practical experience. The recruitment process for a second Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship, also over a 4-year term, has been completed, which will see the successful candidate working towards the award of the BTEC Level 3 in Mechanical Engineering. I had the pleasure of meeting the two new recruits on a visit to Barrage Control earlier this month and I am committed to providing these high quality opportunities within my portfolio that ensure the succession of skills to meet current and future service needs. I anticipate being in a position to provide an update on further opportunities in the New Year.

In addition to Trades Apprenticeships, my portfolio continues to support this Administration's commitment to supporting looked after children through the provision of work experience placements. Currently, two participants are nearing the end of a 7-week placement in the Parks Service and I want to see further opportunities provided across other areas within my portfolio.

Storm Aileen

Members will have seen the impact of Storm Aileen that reached Cardiff during the early hours of 13th September 2017 bringing disruption across the city. 240 tree related incidents were reported over a period of 24 hours, with Council teams working through the night and collaboratively with partners to ensure the safety of citizens and minimising disruption. Whilst damage was inflicted on some vehicles and properties, there were no reports of injuries to persons during the period. The major impact of the storm was on our tree stock and officers from the Parks Service will, in the coming weeks, continue to complete remedial works on a priority basis. The Council's response was, I believe, a robust one, which tested our emergency plans and demonstrated our resilience. It is regrettable that over 50 trees were lost during the storm and I am working with officers and stakeholder organisations in bringing about a plan for replacement planting for the 2018/19 season that mitigates these losses.

Summer Events Programme

I am sure that Members will want to join me in thanking all those involved in the successful delivery of an exceptionally busy summer season of events in Cardiff. Following swiftly on the heels of the successful UEFA Champions League Final in June 2017, the Council and its partners have ensured that the city has been able to offer something for everyone over the summer.

In July 2017, the 16th Cardiff International Food Festival returned to Cardiff Bay on 8th-10th July 2017. Wales' largest free food festival never fails to draw the crowds and compliments from visitors and exhibitors alike. The August Bank Holiday weekend saw the successful delivery of the Pride Cymru Big Weekend in the civic centre. The Cardiff Harbour Festival also included the Extreme Sailing Series, which helps us to further build the excitement ahead of Cardiff's hosting of the Volvo Ocean Race in 2018.

Earlier this month, Cardiff staged the Kidney Wales 10k (3rd September 2017); welcomed the Queens Baton Relay ahead of this year's Commonwealth Games (5th September 2017); hosted the BBC Antiques Roadshow at Cardiff Castle (6th September 2017) and hosted the final stage and finish of the UK's premier road cycling race, the OVO Energy Tour of Britain (10th September 2017).

The Cardiff Bay Beach closed on 3rd September 2017 following another successful year at Roald Dahl Plass and I am delighted that we have been able to work with Sayers Amusements Ltd to confirm exciting plans to relocate the beach to Alexandra Head for 2018. This is to make way for next year's National Eisteddfod in Cardiff when it returns to the Welsh Capital after an absence of 10 years. The exciting and innovative new open site format will mean that the Bay and the City will become the Eisteddfod Maes from 3rd to 11th August 2018.

Sport Pitches Winter Season

This month has seen the start of the winter season for sports in the city, with children and adults representing clubs in local leagues using our parks pitches. The municipal sporting offer, as with our allotments, is so important for our city and our local communities in terms of providing outdoor leisure opportunities and improving health & well-being. I want to wish all those clubs competing in the 2017/18 campaign, in all age groups and through all tiers, an enjoyable and successful season.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
27 September 2017