
CULTURE AND LEISURE STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 10

Apprenticeships

The Parks Service has created a new Horticultural Apprenticeship, which will specialise in plant propagation/production and see the successful applicant benefit from a tailored programme of in-house practical experience, combined with study towards a professional qualification in horticulture. The creation of this new post demonstrates delivery against the Cardiff Commitment to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities within the Council, which is a major employer within the city.

Promoting Nature

The Council's partnership project with the RSPB and Buglife, Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff, continues to successfully engage more children with nature in the city. The project has secured £500,000 from the Big Lottery Fund and has now enabled the partnership to engage over 27,000 children and their families with nature in every single ward in Cardiff. The project continues to inspire and enable a team of volunteers aged 14 to 60+ who have now generously given over 5,000 hours of their time to help engage Cardiff's communities with nature.

Sport and Physical Activity

Last week, I met with officials from Welsh Government to discuss their work programme for sports facilities and the wider benefits of sport and physical activity. As a result, I have asked them to explore the following three issues at Ministerial level:

- **21st Century Schools** – the need to make a firm commitment to build appropriate, innovative and aspirational sports facilities that provide conditional access for the local community and local clubs on a self-funded basis and for this to be a condition of grant funding for new schools. There is evidence that such provision/access improves educational attainment for pupils and builds a sense of ownership and pride in their school.
- **Education** – to recommend that the new Successful Futures curriculum recognises the importance of increasing the time spent during the school week on curricular sport and physical activity, in accordance with the Chief Medical Officer's recommendations of 5 times per week for every child, and to make this a key Estyn measure for schools' well-being.

- **Statutory Provision** – to make the causal link between sport, physical activity and health as an intervention tool to prevent obesity and other poor lifestyle illnesses. Making sport, leisure and physical activity a statutory obligation will help protect services, unlock resources across policy areas and reduce the health inequalities that exist in our city.

I am fully committed to working with Welsh Government, Sport Wales and National Governing Bodies to look at how we can improve the grant award process for cities like Cardiff and will strive to develop a broad strategy for Sport and Physical Activity.

Arts Venues

I want to congratulate both St David's Hall and New Theatre on excellent Christmas performance figures. The annual pantomime at the New Theatre broke all attendance and income records, with 60,000 people attending the 5-week run, which returned a gross income in excess of £1.5m. The ballet at St David's Hall also exceeded its targets and set new records for both attendance and income, with over 16,000 ticket buyers enjoying the performances. These excellent results are a tribute to the professionalism and efforts of the theatre staff, together with the exceptional talent of all involved in the staging, delivery and performance of each show.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
24 January 2018