

COUNCIL: 22 MARCH 2018

CULTURE AND LEISURE STATEMENT

Music Strategy

Members will be aware that, in December 2017, the Council launched its partnership with Sound Diplomacy to develop a music strategy for the city. Significant work has been undertaken over recent weeks and Sound Diplomacy will be undertaking a survey to seek opinions on various aspects of Cardiff's current music landscape. This survey will play a crucial role in the development of the final strategy. I would like to ask you to help us in encouraging your residents to participate in the survey, which will in turn help inform and develop a healthy and sustainable music industry in the city.

National Tourism Awards for Wales

I am sure that Members will be pleased to learn that the Council's Visit Cardiff team secured the Best Event Award in the National Tourism Awards for Wales 2018 in recognition of the hosting and promotion of the UEFA Champions League Final that was held in Cardiff in June last year. The awards celebrate the best of Wales' tourism, showcasing Wales' tourism businesses and the industry's achievements. I am also delighted that Cardiff International White Water was also recognised as a regional finalist in the Best Attraction category.

Cardiff Story

The Cardiff Story has recently been successful in securing a grant of £110,500 from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund. This will enable the funding of a new Community Curator post for three years to further expand their community work, which is increasingly being seen as an example of best practice internationally, as well as in the UK museum sector. Indeed, the Cardiff Story Museum Manager has been invited to speak about their award winning community outreach and engagement work at the American Alliance of Museums' conference, to be held in Phoenix, Arizona in May 2018. The conference will be attended by delegates from across the USA, as well as many international delegates, and will explore the ways in which museums serve as hubs of community activation and learning. I am delighted that the work of the Cardiff Story is being recognised in this way and that the Council is sharing its work and expertise with colleagues internationally.

Green Infrastructure Capital Grant

I am pleased to advise Members that the Council has been successful in securing a grant of £98,000 under the Welsh Government's interim Local Authority Green Infrastructure Capital Grant scheme, which will help improve green infrastructure for the direct benefit of improving air quality in Cardiff. Our tree stock can have a

significant and positive impact on air quality and the grant will enable the Council to more accurately map and quantify stock, identifying areas for development. Part of the grant also includes provision for new planting programmes.

Urdd/WRU National Junior Sevens

Earlier this month, the Urdd/WRU National Junior Sevens was held for the first time in Cardiff at Pontcanna and Llandaff Fields, with over 2,000 children participating. I was delighted to see so many young people involved in this event, including many girls' teams, with great support from their school teachers and volunteers. The event was very professionally organised with catering, physio, communications, digital scoreboards and league tables and S4C TV coverage, which made it a real spectacle for all the children taking part. Feedback from the event organisers has been extremely positive with discussions already taking place about the event's return to the venues in 2019. A legacy plan for the event, whereby schools and clubs will benefit from free coaching courses and equipment, also formed part of the arrangement, targeting areas of greatest need.

Meeting with the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport

I recently met with Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas AM, the Welsh Government Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, to discuss a number of policy matters impacting on sport and physical activity – such matters not only impact on Cardiff, but also could have a significant benefit for Wales. The main points of interest and discussion were to develop a measurable outcome for 21st Century Schools ensuring that new school designs provide inspirational sports facilities for pupils, whilst ensuring that they are accessible for the local community in extra-curricular time. I also stimulated a debate on whether or not ESTYN should be including stronger measures for schools in terms of physical activity and well-being for pupils and a measure for their role in the community as part of the 'community focussed schools' agenda in Wales.

We discussed the need for National Governing Bodies to have a more flexible approach to funding inner city clubs that do not own their land and play on municipal fields. We have had too many clubs prevented from securing investment and being prevented from progressing through their respective league pyramid structures. We also debated the role of Sport Wales and their future direction in terms of Community Sport and allocation of lottery funds. Since lottery resources were directed at the London 2012 Olympics, we have seen a reduction in capital grants and this concerns me greatly. I intend to follow this up with the Chair and Chief Executive of Sport Wales.

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Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
21 March 2018