

COUNCIL: 22 OCTOBER 2020

CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT

Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

Cardiff Council has been a proud member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN) since 2014 and was voted the first Co-operative Council of the Year in 2018. CCIN now comprises 33 member councils with combined budgets of £14billion, representing 8.8 million citizens across the UK, and is believed to be the fastest-growing network in local government. I am pleased to be the Council's representative on the network and have recently been elected vice-chair of the network's Executive Oversight Committee.

CCIN's annual conference was held between 6 and 8 October this year. Due to Covid-19, the conference was held virtually for the first time. The theme of this year's conference was 'Building Back Greener' and included two keynote speeches, three plenary sessions, six workshops and nine fringe events. The topics covered include turning social value into social outcomes; encouraging online participation with residents; co-operation during Covid-19; supporting the economy and jobs during the pandemic; supporting mutual aid groups post Covid-19; and tackling inequalities during Covid-19 recovery. I was delighted to be asked to speak as part of the panel on the last topic and share details of the excellent work taking place in Cardiff, both prior to and during Covid-19, to tackle inequality in all its forms as the primary focus of the Capital Ambition agenda.

Parks

I am delighted to advise members that, following independent assessment earlier in the month, Keep Wales Tidy has confirmed that Green Flag status has been maintained for our twelve existing sites, and Forest Farm Nature Reserve and Hailey Park have also achieved the prestigious status for the first time. This achievement is particularly pleasing at a time when services have been under great pressure as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and reflects the hard work and commitment of officers and the significant contribution made by volunteers and community groups.

Sport & Leisure

Notwithstanding the constraints arising from Covid-19, Cardiff Riding School, Cardiff International White Water Centre and Channel View Leisure Centre have all re-opened on reduced occupancy levels, with robust risk assessments in place to safeguard both staff and customers. Some very positive feedback has been received from our customers, with Channel View recording an increase in new memberships when compared with Quarter 2 of 2019/20.

Our 3G pitches have re-opened for use to clubs in compliance with the Football Association of Wales (FAW) protocols. Our grass pitches are being cut and marked in preparation for intra-club friendlies and training matches that are scheduled to commence next week, also following FAW protocols.

I can also report that, in response to Covid-19, Welsh Government and Sport Wales have announced a new grant scheme of £14 million to help restart the Sport and Physical Sector, with innovative opportunities being a priority for funding. My officers are active in supporting clubs and organisations through the application process.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
15 October 2020