

COUNCIL: 17 MARCH 2022

CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT

Culture and Events

As a result of all our efforts to continue to keep Wales safe and the lifting of Welsh Government Covid-19 restrictions, I am delighted that the Council's venues and attractions are, once again, able to open their doors. As I reported to Council in January 2022, our efforts have now turned to working with our clients and promoters to reschedule events and performances to facilitate and encourage the sectors swift and sustainable recovery. The hard work of everyone involved has already resulted in a compelling spring and summer event offer for residents and visitors to enjoy.

I would encourage members to visit our www.visitcardiff.com website to keep abreast of all the upcoming attractions in the city over the coming months. Highlights include the return of the FIM Speedway to the Principality Stadium for its 20th year, the return of the Cardiff Food & Drink Festival to Cardiff Bay, which will be followed closely by the Cardiff Bay Beach. Plans are also well advanced for another series of concerts at Alexandra Head in Cardiff Bay, whilst Cardiff Castle will open its doors to a plethora of music concerts this summer, including Madness, Dermot Kennedy, Gerry Cinnamon, Diana Ross, Rag'n'Bone Man, Bryan Adams, Michael Bubl  and Tears for Fears.

St David's Hall has an equally compelling spring and summer season with a rich mix of comedy, dance, rock and pop. The world class acoustics of our national concert hall will also host 20 concerts that will feature some of today's most distinguished soloists, conductors, and orchestras.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all those involved in rescheduling the many demands made of all our venues and, indeed, the promoters, artists and all those who work in the sector.

We are now firmly focused on longer term opportunities. This month, the Cabinet has provided its in-principle commitment to supporting an expression of interest to being considered as one of the host cities for the 2028 UEFA European Football Championship tournament as part of a joint bid by the England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland Football Associations. Whilst discussions are at a very early stage, the Council will be working closely with colleagues in the five governments and their associated Football Associations to consider and develop the final bid over coming months.

Finally, following the successful transfer of the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay from the Council's ownership to a new independent charity, Norwegian Church Cardiff Bay, I'm sure that members would wish to join me in wishing the new operators every success as they work to reopen the iconic venue as a café, arts centre and music venue in April 2022. The building has been a feature of the Cardiff landscape since 1868 and, in the hands of the new charity, I am confident that the venue will go from strength to strength as it showcases the best of Norway and Wales.

BBC Radio 6 Music Festival 2022

Cardiff will host this year's BBC Radio 6 Music Festival, which will take place from Friday 1 to Sunday 3 April 2022. Since its launch in 2002, BBC 6 Music has grown to become the biggest digital station in the UK with 2.6 million listeners and is celebrated for bringing the best ground-breaking music to people in the UK and around the world. The 6 Music Festival forms part of BBC 100 in 2022, which includes special content, events and education initiatives being developed and broadcast to mark 100 years of the BBC this year. The festival will include live performances, DJ sets, In Conversations and more being held at multiple venues in the city, including St David's Hall, The Great Hall and Y Plas at Cardiff University Students' Union, Clwb Ifor Bach and Tramshed. Further information is available at: www.bbc.co.uk/6musicfestival

Events will be held during the day, as well as at night. 6 Music Festival By Day events will take place at Tramshed and By Night events at St David's Hall, The Great Hall and Y Plas. Tramshed will also host 6 Music Late, a club night featuring 6 Music DJs and special guests, which follows the 6 Music By Night live gigs. BBC Radio 6 Music presenters will also be broadcasting from Cardiff over the course of the weekend and bringing live music, interviews, DJ sets and more from the festival to listeners. Other programmes held during the festival will be broadcast on BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio Cymru. BBC Four and BBC Wales will also revisit some of the best moments from the festival with a special programme, featuring performance highlights, being aired at a later date.

Alongside the 6 Music Festival, Creative Wales and the Welsh Government, supported by Cardiff Council, is working with local venues and music partners to create the 6 Music Festival Fringe, showcasing exactly why Cardiff was named the UK's first 'Music City' in 2021. The Festival Fringe will run from 28 March to 3 April 2022 and feature artists and bands performing at venues across the city. These shows will fully showcase the breadth of talent and diversity of artists in Cardiff, whilst also shining a light on the vital role of grassroots music venues across the city.

The Council has worked with the BBC to help bring the 6 Music Festival to Wales for the first time and we are looking forward to welcoming the festival to Cardiff next month. It will provide a great opportunity for the city to not only enjoy the live music and performances that will be held across the city, but also to promote what the city has to offer in terms of great live music venues and local talent. Cardiff is proud of its vibrant independent music scene and, through our Cardiff Music City strategy, the Council is committed to working with the Cardiff Music Board and partners to finalise plans for a signature international music event/festival within the next 12 months.

Coed Caerdydd

I'm delighted at the progress being made with our Coed Caerdydd project. Following its launch last year and the round of meetings with ward members, I anticipate a total of 16,000 trees being planted across the city at the close of this season's planting window. A key feature of this season's programme has been engagement with volunteers and schools, and officers will be holding a further round of consultation meetings this summer to inform the 2022/23 planting programme. I'm confident that, with the momentum gained to date, the Council can further increase activity in this area, working towards the ambitious canopy target that we have set for Cardiff.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
11 March 2022