

**COUNCIL: 21 JULY 2022**

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## **CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT**

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### **Summer Events Programme**

I was delighted to see the Cardiff Food & Drink Festival return to Cardiff Bay on 1-3 July 2022. Thousands of visitors took the opportunity to enjoy the array of food, drink and live music on offer. I would like to thank all those involved in organising and participating in the event. It is encouraging to see one of the city's anchor events return so strongly following the challenges of the last two years.

Cardiff Castle is hosting a further eight concerts throughout the month of July. From Michael Bubl  to Primal Scream, there will be something for every musical taste throughout the month. The city will also welcome the return of yet another of our annual events this summer when Pride Cymru return to the Civic Centre to host their Pride Big Weekend on 27 & 28 August 2022. Full details of the city's busy summer programme can be found at [www.visitcardiff.com](http://www.visitcardiff.com)

The Council's Events Team is also collaborating with colleagues in the Child Friendly City Team to support the delivery of the Summer of Fun for the city's young people. This will include a range of arts events and activities for children, young people and families curated by Arts Active from 23 July to 5 September 2022. Arts Active is a charity which supports people to enjoy the arts through education, community and audience engagement projects. Full details of the Summer of Fun programme, including a map, can be found on the Child Friendly Cardiff website at: <https://www.childfriendlycardiff.co.uk/>

### **Museum of Cardiff**

Last month saw the relaunch of Dinky Dragons, the monthly toddler day at the Museum of Cardiff, with participants taking part in rhyme & story time, soft play and messy painting. June also heralded the welcome return of the Front of House volunteers, who have generously donated 118 hours of their time to show people around the tiled corridor, reminisce about all things Cardiff, and help to make sure that visitors have the very best experience at the Museum, resulting in some excellent feedback on Tripadvisor and in the Museum's visitor book. I would like to thank all our volunteers for their commitment, time and enthusiasm.

### **Parks Capital Programme**

The capital programme for parks and playground improvements is progressing well and a number of schemes across the city are either complete or nearing completion. These include schemes at Sovereign Chase open space in the Cyncoed ward; Brewery Park, Cemetery Park and Howard Gardens in the Adamsdown ward;

Gelligaer Gardens in the Cathays Ward; Llanishen Park in the Llanishen ward; Maltings Park in the Splott ward; and Grange Gardens in the Grangetown ward. I am delighted with the quality of the schemes being delivered and, in particular, the innovative approaches to design and the use of natural resources, which are providing inviting, safe and challenging environments for play.

### **Victoria Park Splashpad**

A trial 'relaxed session' at the Victoria Park Splashpad has taken place for children with disabilities and additional needs. The Council has listened to parents who found the open sessions at the Splashpad too busy and noisy for their children. The trial session was very well attended, with children, their families and carers enjoying some exclusive time together. As a result of the success of the trial, the Council will continue to provide these sessions on a weekly basis throughout the summer holiday period.

### **Partnership with the National Botanic Gardens of Wales**

This month sees the commencement of the work experience exchange programme with the National Botanic Gardens of Wales in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, which is a key feature of the Council's Parks & Gardens Apprenticeship Scheme. Two trainees from the Botanic Gardens will be undertaking a placement in Cardiff for one week, working with our apprentices and other staff from the Parks Service and, next month, four of the Council's apprentices will then undertake a placement for the same period in Carmarthenshire. The placements provide beneficial opportunities for apprentices to gain horticultural experience and an awareness of how other organisations operate.

### **Skateboard Facility Strategy**

Officers are progressing the development of a Skateboard Facility Strategy, considering the needs and demands of young people across our city and a consultation exercise with stakeholders, user groups and young people has been completed. The strategy will seek to secure investment for areas of greatest need and demand, creating destination facilities to both suit beginners and challenge experienced skateboarders. The first destination site will be located in the Llanrumney ward and, as skateboarding is now an Olympic sport, the development of the strategy and implementation of capital investment is timely. I hope to see Cardiff produce future Olympians performing on the world stage.

### **Step Into Sport Initiative**

I have been following the work of the joint venture between the Council and Cardiff Metropolitan University on Sports Development with great interest. One of the schemes that I want to highlight is a ground-breaking initiative aimed at transforming the lives of young people in Cardiff who are being drawn into youth crime and gang membership called 'Step Into Sport'. Launched in May 2021 in partnership with the South Wales Police Youth Trust, this initiative uses sport as a vehicle for social change by referring young offenders aged between 12 and 19 to a range of sports clubs throughout the city. The aim is to build an individual's confidence, provide motivation and enable more positive life choices to be made, whilst also providing early intervention in youth-related crime.

By May 2022, a total of 59 young people had been referred by a range of partners, such as social workers, support workers and youth justice practitioners supporting some of Cardiff's most at-risk youngsters.

£20,000 was made available for this initiative by the South Wales Police Youth Trust, a charity which offers grants to organisations and projects offering young people an alternative path to being drawn into crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. This sum was matched by Cardiff Metropolitan University and the success of the initiative has resulted in a commitment for funding for a second year spanning 2022/23, with stakeholders due to meet next month to discuss their shared aim of making the initiative permanent.

**Councillor Jennifer Burke-Davies**  
**Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events**  
**15 July 2022**