



**RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

Key Decision ✓

**SUBJECT: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO HOST THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director, Cabinet & Public Relations.

The report puts forward an opportunity for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to express an interest to host the 2021 or 2022 National Eisteddfod of Wales.

**DELEGATED DECISION:**

It was **AGREED:**

That Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council would submit a formal expression of interest to WLGA to host either the 2021 or 2022 National Eisteddfod of Wales.



**Chief Officer Signature**

CHRISTIAN S SHANAGAN  
**Print Name**

5/6/17  
**Date**

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution



**CONSULTATION**

A. Morgan

5/6/2017

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE (if required)

DATE

**CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.**

**IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

YES      NO

Reason for urgency:.....

*If deemed urgent* - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....  
(Mayor)

.....  
(Dated)

**NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.**



FOR CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

**PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES**

**PUBLICATION**

Publication on the Councils Website:- 07/06/17

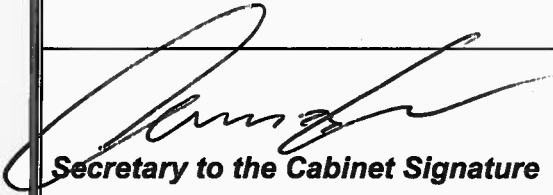
DATE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

**Note:** This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be 19/06/17.

DATE



Secretary to the Cabinet Signature

CHRISTIAN J E HANRAHAN  
Print Name

7/6/17  
Date



### Further Information

Directorate:	Chief Executive
Contact Name:	Ian Christopher
Designation:	Strategic Manager
Tel.No.	01443 424017 / 07795391855



## **DELEGATED DECISION**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF CABINET AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2017**

#### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO HOST THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES**

**AUTHOR:** Ian Christopher, Strategic Manager – 01443 424017

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information in respect of a formal expression of interest for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to host the 2021 or 2022 National Eisteddfod of Wales.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended:-

- 2.1 That a formal expression of interest is submitted to the WLGA for consideration that RCT CBC host either the 2021 or 2022 (based on availability) National Eisteddfod of Wales.
- 2.2 Officers undertake preparatory operational work to identify potential locations suitable with the County Borough that would meet the criteria identified by the National Eisteddfod.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To allow Officers to formally express an interest on behalf of the Council to host the National Eisteddfod at a future date by the deadline for nominations of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.



#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The National Eisteddfod of Wales is a celebration of the culture and language of Wales and is eight days of competitions and performances that take place during the first week of August each year. It is considered the largest music and poetry festival in Europe, and competitors typically number 6,000 or more, and overall attendance generally exceeds 150,000 visitors.
- 4.2 The Eisteddfod is the natural showcase for music, dance, visual arts, literature, original performances and much more. Most of Wales' leading writers, musicians and poets have competed at the Eisteddfod, with many performers appearing on a national stage for the first time during the festival. Encompassing all aspects of the arts and culture in Wales, it is an inclusive and welcoming festival, which attracts thousands of Welsh learners and those who do not speak the language as well as Welsh speakers every year.
- 4.3 The festival travels from location to location each year, alternating between north and south Wales.
- 4.4 Rhondda Cynon Taf has a rich cultural heritage, which includes hosting the first-ever National Eisteddfod of Wales in Aberdare in 1861. If Rhondda Cynon Taf is successful in its bid to host the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 2021 it will mark its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the area where it all began.

The National Eisteddfod of Wales returned to Aberdare in 1885, and for its final time (to date) in 1956. The event was also held in Pontypridd in 1893 and in Mountain Ash in 1905, 1940 and 1946.

- 4.5 Her Majesty The Queen, when she was Princess Elizabeth, was made an Honorary Bard at the 1946 National Eisteddfod of Wales when it was held in Mountain Ash at a ceremony held at the Bardic Gorsedd Circle, situated in Duffryn Woods, Mountain Ash, on August 6, 1946.
- 4.6 The Urdd Eisteddfod, the annual Welsh Language youth festival of literature, music and performing arts which started in 1929, has only been held in the County Borough on four separate occasions - Treorchy in 1947, Aberdare in 1961, Pontypridd in 1973 and Taff Ely in 1991.
- 4.7 The Council has also supported Pari Ponti, a Welsh Language festival held at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Pontypridd, both financially and by offering services in kind, for the past three years.

This recognises the positive work being undertaken to help promote the Welsh language and culture.



This year the Council has also become the official partners of the event and has committed funding of £40k over two years, with the aim of promoting the event and ensuring it becomes sustainable in the future.

## **5. SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY**

There is a strong economic, as well as cultural case, for exploring the potential for hosting the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

The National Eisteddfod of Wales is the most important of several eisteddfodau that are held annually with overall attendance generally exceeding 150,000 visitors, the number of competitors involved typically around 6,000 or more and with the inclusion of over 250 trade stands and stalls.

- (i) Economic impact – the amount of visitors into the area would create a positive economic impact for local trade and businesses.
- (ii) Social impact – local residents would have access to and benefit from the offerings of a national event which promotes the Welsh language and culture. With volunteering opportunities and community projects, local residents are able to form part of a national event, thus promoting good relations with the Council.
- (iii) Showcasing of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a visitor destination – with visitors from all over Wales (and further afield) travelling to be part of the event, plus the media coverage of the National Eisteddfod of Wales (i.e. Radio One, S4C and Wales Online to name a few have been involved in previous years) provides an opportunity to showcase Rhondda Cynon Taf and its visitor offering nationally.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 None is required.



## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

There are no financial implications at this stage, however, should the expression of interest to host this event be successful, any further reports on this matter will need to consider making available appropriate resources to deliver this major event.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 There are no legal implications at present.

## **10. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP.**

10.1 The hosting of the National Eisteddfod of Wales would support the Council's Corporate Plan priorities of Place & Economy by promoting tourism and building a neighbourhood where people are proud to live and work.

10.2 The Welsh Language is a cross-cutting theme in the Corporate Plan and underpins all corporate priorities as the Council is required to comply with the amended Compliance Notice issued by the Welsh Language Commissioner in September, 2016.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 The National Eisteddfod of Wales is a festival that brings with it huge visitor attendance as well as national media coverage, and as such it would be hugely beneficial for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (and its businesses/residents) to submit a formal expression of interest to host this event during 2021 or 2022.

11.2 The hosting of the Eisteddfod highlights the Council's positive commitment to the Welsh Language Standards and ensuring its duty to promote and facilitate the language across the County Borough.





***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

***Background Papers***

None

***Contact Officer***

Ian Christopher, Strategic Manager - 01443 424017



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR, CABINET &  
PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO HOST THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD  
OF WALES**

**Background Papers: None**

Officer to contact: Ian Christopher, Strategic Manager - 01443 424017