



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

SUBJECT:

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF, CULTURAL SERVICES "ARTS CONNECT"
COLLABORATION WITH BRIDGEND, MERTHYR TYDFIL, VALE OF
GLAMORGAN AND ADDITIONALLY WITH CAERPHILLY, NEATH PORT
TALBOT AND TORFAEN ARTS SERVICES**

PURPOSE OF ATTACHED REPORT:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to firstly seek approval for Rhondda Cynon Taf, Cultural Services to continue to provide arts services (theatres, gallery and Arts Development) as part of collaboration with Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils and to be known as Arts Connect.
- 1.2 Secondly, to approve the possible addition of Caerphilly, Neath Port Talbot and Torfaen County Borough Councils.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director, Environmental Services as described below.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

The content of the report is noted and approval is given to the continued collaboration with Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Vale of Glamorgan and the possible addition of Caerphilly, Neath Port Talbot and Torfaen arts services.

 Chief Officer Signature	GEORGE JONES Print Name	18-3-14 Date
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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

RB

19-03-14

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

Strinda I. Davies

18/3/14

OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

DATE

Directorate:	Environmental Services Group Cultural Services
Contact Name:	Strinda Davies
Designation:	Head of Cultural Services
Tel.No.	01443 490226

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-14

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF
GROUP DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**Part 1
(Non-Confidential)**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF, CULTURAL SERVICES "ARTS
CONNECT"
COLLABORATION WITH BRIDGEND, MERTHYR TYDFIL,
VALE OF GLAMORGAN AND ADDITIONALLY WITH
CAERPHILLY, NEATH PORT TALBOT AND TORFAEN ARTS
SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to firstly seek approval for Rhondda Cynon Taf, Cultural Services to continue to provide arts services (theatres, gallery and Arts Development) as part of collaboration with Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils and to be known as Arts Connect.
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- 1.3 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director, Environmental Services as described below.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The content of the report is noted and approval is given to the continued collaboration with Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Vale of Glamorgan and the possible addition of Caerphilly, Neath Port Talbot and Torfaen arts services.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The senior officers of the respective arts services in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Neath Port Talbot, Torfaen and Rhondda Cynon Taf, along with the Arts Council of Wales, WLGA and the Welsh Government Arts Policy Branch officers, have agreed that there are and will continue to be a number of benefits to collaborating on the delivery of arts services (theatres, gallery and Arts Development).



Dated the day of 2014

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL,

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AND

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

In respect of

ARTSCONNECT

- 4.4. All Officers from each of the Parties will follow the forward operational work plans as agreed by the Management Team and set out in Clause 7.10.
- 4.5. Any problems or disputes arising out of a failure by Officers of any of the Parties to work to and complete tasks within the agreed operational work plans will be dealt with, as appropriate, by relevant senior officers responsible for the arts from each Party.

5. Leadership

- 5.1. The Cabinet Members' Group will meet bi-annually to consider and discuss the priorities for future collaborative working and to receive reports from the Leadership Group on current activity.
- 5.2. The Leadership Group will monitor progress on collaborative working and receive quarterly reports on how operational work plan actions are being met
- 5.3. Progress on the collaborative working will be reported by the Management Team on a quarterly basis to the ArtsConnect Leadership Group, as well as being reported in accordance with the internal reporting mechanisms for governance as adopted by each of the Parties.
- 5.4. The value of Arts Council of Wales, Welsh Government Arts Policy Branch and WLGA representation will be recognised and each of these organisations will continue to be invited to send a representative to attend Leadership Group meetings.

6. Planning

- 6.1. Performance Indicators (PIs) and outcomes for this collaborative approach to working will be as set out in the Arts Connect Action Plan, combining the key targets from each Party's respective current and forward arts service Business Plans (where they exist) and in keeping with the Chief Culture & Leisure Officers Wales' (CCLOW) Report Card: "All People in Wales Being Creatively Active" and Arts Benchmarking for Wales.
- 6.2. Progress on PIs and outcomes will be reported at an operational and local level within each Party's Performance Management protocol and also at a regional and strategic level to the Leadership Group, on a quarterly basis.

7. ArtsConnect "in practice"

In practice ArtsConnect undertakes the following, albeit this is not an exhaustive list:

- 7.1. Increasing and/or sustaining range of arts provision and engagement across the ArtsConnect area

- 7.2. Strengthening the local authority arts service “voice” with Arts Council of Wales, Welsh Government departments, WLGA, CC Skills, Sector Skills Councils, Careers Wales and other relevant agencies
- 7.3. A consistency in approach to arts Policy and Strategy development e.g. Youth Arts.
- 7.4. A consistency in approach to Performance Monitoring in keeping with Arts Benchmarking in Wales.
- 7.5. Operating an ArtsConnect *Management Team*, consisting of the existing senior Officers with team responsibility, to oversee the strategic direction as set out by the Leadership Group and delivery on operational work plans
- 7.6. Operating a *regional Arts Development team* consisting of the Arts Development Officers from each of the Parties and led by an existing Arts Development Manager with team responsibility.
- 7.7. Providing *clearer progression routes into the Creative and Cultural Industries*, in particular for young people, across the ArtsConnect area linking with FE/HE sectors, Careers Wales and Sector Skills Councils, collaborating on projects such as It’s My Shout and the Singer Songwriter Collective and developing *shared Creative and Cultural Industry apprenticeships*, internships, work experience and volunteering programmes
- 7.8. Operating a Theatre Programming/Marketing team to support complementary *Arts Programming* for all partners’ directly owned and managed venues: RCT Theatres, Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl and Blackwood Miners’ Institute for the performing arts and Art Central, Barry, for the visual arts, enabling all directly owned and managed arts venues to utilise shared arts programming and arts marketing skills and advice.
- 7.9. Adhering to the agreed Press Protocol for publicly promoting the successes of ArtsConnect
- 7.10. Regionally approaching Technical provision and sharing of expertise where Technicians exist within each of the Parties.
- 7.11. Capacity building for the 3rd sector owned and/or managed arts venues: e.g. Theatr Soar, Barry Memo, Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Centre, through the ArtsConnect Venues Network
- 7.12. Improving Workforce Development and Continuing Professional Development opportunities for all of the Arts Officers through skills-sharing, mentoring and joint training initiatives.

10.3. Officers will continue to be based in their current locations subject to there being an expectation for them to work in other Parties' areas as and when required according to the needs of ArtsConnect and as agreed by the Leadership Group.

11. Expenses/Activity budget

11.1. For the avoidance of doubt all expenses arising out of the Parties' Officers undertaking ArtsConnect work shall be paid by the Party employing the Officer that incurs the expense.

11.2. For the avoidance of doubt all collaborative arts activity budget expenditure arising out of arts activity (delivered on a project basis) within the ArtsConnect area of Bridgend, Merthyr, RCT, The Vale, Caerphilly and Torfaen shall be paid by the Party that leads on that activity as part of the collaborative working, unless as otherwise agreed in writing between the Parties. Reimbursements will be made between the Parties to cover the total of such expenditure as agreed in advance.

12. Indemnity

12.1. In the execution of 'ArtsConnect' duties each Party's existing insurance and indemnity cover shall apply to their respective Officers.

13. Variation & Review

13.1. This Memorandum of Understanding may be varied, amended or supplemented from time to time by agreement in writing between the Parties and shall be reviewed 3 calendar months before its termination to allow for consideration of extending the term.

In witness whereof the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding have hereunto set their hands the day and year first before written

Signed on behalf of **Bridgend County Borough Council**

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Name

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Designation

Signed on behalf of **Merthyr County Borough Council**

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Name

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Designation

Signed on behalf of **Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council**

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Designation

Signed on behalf of **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

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Designation

Signed on behalf of **Caerphilly County Borough Council**

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Name

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Designation

Signed on behalf of **Torfaen County Borough Council**

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Name

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Designation

Dated the day of 2014