

**COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG**  
**RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

**Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision**



**Mae'r Penderfyniad Wedi'i Ddirprwyo hwn wedi'i bennu yn 'Benderfyniad Allweddol' gan ei fod yn debygol o:**

This Delegated Decision has been established as a 'Key Decision' as it is likely:

**a) arwain at y Cyngor yn ysgwyddo gwariant sylweddol neu wneud arbedion sylweddol;**  
*to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant;*

**neu / or:**

**b) fod yn arwyddocaol o ran sut mae'n effeithio ar gymunedau sy'n byw neu'n gweithio mewn ardal sy'n cynnwys dwy etholaeth neu adran etholiadol neu ragor.**  
*to be significant in terms of its effects on Communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards.*

**c) Eraill / Other:**

**PWNC | SUBJECT: UK TOWN OF CULTURE 2028**

**DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To seek the authority to submit an Expression of Interest to the UK Government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport competition for Pontypridd to be the UK Town of Culture in 2028, in partnership with Pontypridd Town Council.

**PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:**

**AGREED:**

To submit an Expression of Interest to the UK Government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport competition for Pontypridd to be the UK Town of Culture in 2028, in partnership with Pontypridd Town Council.

## Llofnod y Prif Swyddog

Chief Officer Signature



Louise Davies	Director, Community Services	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Enw (priflythrennau)</b> Name (Print Name)	<b>Swydd</b> Designation	<b>Dyddiad</b> Date

**Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.**

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.

## YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION

	Cllr Scott Emanuel, Cabinet Member for Communities	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET   CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE</b>	<b>ENW A SWYDD   NAME AND DESIGNATION</b>	<b>DYDDIAD   DATE</b>

<b>LLOFNODSWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL   CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE</b>	<b>ENW A SWYDD   NAME AND DESIGNATION</b>	<b>DYDDIAD   DATE</b>

### A FYDD Y PENDERFYNIAID YMA'N CAEL EFFAITH AR Y WARD?

WILL THIS DECISION HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WARD?

**BYDD | YES ✓      NA FYDD | NO**

### Unrhyw sylwadau pellach/Oes angen rhoi gwybod i'r Aelod Lleol: ✓

Any further comments/Need for Local Member to be informed:

## RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

**A YW'R PENDERFYNIAID YN UN BRYS A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:**

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

YDY | YES      NAC YDY | NO

**Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:**

*Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:*

*If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member 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:*

..... (Llywydd | Presiding Member) ..... (Dyddiad | Date)

**DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.**

**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.**

AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Council's Website:- 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAID | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

**Note:** This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 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.

**Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar:**

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be:

14th February 2026

DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI:  | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :

**Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:**

Cyfadran   Directorate:	Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswllt   Contact Name:	Caroline O'Neill
Swydd   Designation:	Head of Arts, Culture and Libraries
Rhif Ffôn   Telephone Number:	07786523614

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**A REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

**UK TOWN OF CULTURE 2028**

**Author(s): Caroline O'Neill, Head of Arts, Culture and Libraries**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the authority to submit an Expression of Interest to the UK Government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport competition for Pontypridd to be the UK Town of Culture in 2028, in partnership with Pontypridd Town Council.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To submit an Expression of Interest to the UK Government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport competition for Pontypridd to be the UK Town of Culture 2028, in partnership with Pontypridd Town Council, by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Pontypridd Town and Culture Partnership expressed an interest in submitting an application to become the UK Town of Culture during a meeting in January 2026. Following discussions between Pontypridd Town Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, there is ambition to complete an Expression of Interest for Pontypridd.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The UK Town of Culture is a brand-new UK Government Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) competition. For the first time, DCMS is inviting towns across the UK to enter the competition to showcase original storytelling, and empowering, accessible culture. Inspired by the success of the flagship UK City of Culture, which is a proven model for cultural placemaking, this competition aims to spotlight the cultural contribution of towns to our national story.
- 4.2 The winning town will be awarded £3 million to deliver a cultural programme in 2028 of around six months. Additionally, the two finalists will receive £250,000 each to deliver elements of their bid.
- 4.3 There is a simple Expression of Interest (EOI) phase that has been designed to keep costs to a minimum at the outset. DCMS will award bid development

grants of £60,000 to each of the shortlisted places which are invited to submit a full application.

- 4.4 The competition focuses on building a more socially cohesive country where communities feel proud of their place and empowered to celebrate it. The UK Town of Culture is an opportunity for places and communities to use culture and creativity to tell their story and why they are proud of their community.
- 4.5 There are three prize categories and from these three finalists, an overall UK Town of Culture winner will be selected. DCMS will be using the Office of National Statistics definitions for [towns/urban areas based on population size](#) to determine categories.

Category	Population Size
Small Town	Under 20,000 people
Medium Town	20,000 - 75,000
Large Town	Over 75,000

- 4.6 The key timeline is as follows:

Key Milestones	Dates
Expression of Interest Submission Deadline	31 March 2026
Shortlisted places announced	Spring 2026
Full application period	Spring – Autumn 2026
Panel Visits	Autumn 2026
Finalists and Winner announced	Early 2027
Delivery period	2028

## **5. UK TOWN OF CULTURE 2028**

- 5.1 The UK Town of Culture, along with the UK City of Culture competition, complements other UK government initiatives to support culture to thrive, such as the £270 million Arts Everywhere Fund, which will ensure that everyone, everywhere has the opportunity to experience great culture and access to high quality institutions in the places they call home.
- 5.2 The UK Government recognises that local government is foundational to the sharing of cultural opportunity across the UK, and to the successful delivery of UK Town of Culture, and competition guidance states that local authorities should work with local people to ensure that their bid and creative vision is reflective of their communities.
- 5.3 The aims of the UK Town of Culture competition are:
  - **Your Story:** to tell a town's unique story and culture.
  - **Culture for Everyone:** to design a cultural programme that provides visible, accessible culture and boosts a town's profile.
  - **Making it happen:** to deliver a successful cultural programme.

- 5.4 The Pontypridd Town and Culture Partnership was established in 2021, recognising its significance within the Capital City Region and investment in the town dedicated to its transport infrastructure and town centre regeneration, including major building developments such as the redevelopment of the YMCA, Y Muni, and Llys Cadwyn, as well as to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.
- 5.5 The partnership members include the County Borough Council, Town Council and key cultural organisations within the town, with a purpose to identify key opportunities to help shape a shared and progressive approach to develop and support the cultural infrastructure in Pontypridd.
- 5.6 The town is also an established Business Improvement District (BID), Your Pontypridd, a non-profit organisation that is responsible for investing in improvements for Pontypridd town.
- 5.7 Following the hosting of the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol in 2024, Pontypridd has shown that it has a rich cultural heritage to be celebrated locally, nationally and internationally, be that at places such as Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, the National Lido, the Library, Y Muni, Clwb y Bont, YMa, Pontypridd Museum, Capel y Bont or at the newly-developed artist-led Penuel Lane Studios;
- 5.8 Hosting the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2024 at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and across venues in the town, highlighted the culturally significant tangible and intangible heritage of Pontypridd, from the bridge to the National Anthem, through to stories of days gone by and their significance in the social, industrial and cultural history of the UK and beyond.
- 5.9 There are also a number of festivals that have developed in celebration of its culture, from the Morfydd Owen Festival established in 2024 to the Brass Band Festival and a new Choir Festival on the cards for 2026.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 6.1 There is no Equality Impact Assessment required for this report.

## **7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There is no Welsh Language Impact Assessment required for this report.

## **8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 8.1 In developing an Expression of Interest, community engagement sessions will be held for those with an interest in sharing information relevant to the application to attend.

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

- 9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to the proposal in this report.

**10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to the proposal in this report.

**11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

11.1 Expressing an interest in Pontypridd becoming the UK Town of Culture supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan 'Working with our Communities', and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act's seven national wellbeing goals through supporting a thriving town centre in celebrating its social, industrial and cultural heritage.

11.2 It is consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:

- Long-term – building on the legacy of the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol and supporting the development of grass-root led initiatives to celebrate Pontypridd's culture.
- Prevention – providing creative opportunities to celebrate and share cultural experiences for all.
- Integrated – working with partners to celebrate Pontypridd through investing in its cultural assets and sector.
- Collaboration – working with other Council services and partners and embedding good practice to work with Pontypridd's communities.
- Involvement – developing opportunities to learn, record, understand and experience Pontypridd's cultural offer.

**12. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS (please specify)**

12.1 This is a proposal to submit an Expression of Interest for Pontypridd town centre; however, the impact will be wider in terms of social, cultural, economic and environmental benefit.

**13. CONCLUSION**

13.1 This report seeks the authority to submit an Expression of Interest to the UK Government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport competition for Pontypridd to be the UK Town of Culture in 2028, in partnership with Pontypridd Town Council.

13.2 Pontypridd has an established Town and Culture Partnership, chaired by Pontypridd Town Council and attended by cultural organisations leading cultural venues in the town, as well as an established BID.

13.3 The Council and its partners investment in the cultural assets of the town is supporting the celebration of local, national and international culture, be that

at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, the National Lido, the Library, Y Muni, Clwb y Bont, YM, Pontypridd Museum; as well as investment from independent organisations, such as the Presbyterian Church of Wales and Capel y Bont and the newly-developed artist-led Penuel Lane Studios.

- 13.4 Hosting the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2024 at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and across venues in the town, highlighted the culturally significant tangible and intangible heritage of Pontypridd, from the bridge to the National Anthem, through to stories of days gone by, and their significance in the social, industrial and cultural history of the UK and beyond; and has also led to a number of festivals being developed in celebration of its culture, from the Morfydd Owen Festival to the Brass Band Festival, and a new Choir Festival on the cards for 2026.