



CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH JUNE 2022 AT 3PM

PRESENT:

Councillor S. Morgan – Chair

Councillors:

J. Pritchard (Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration & Climate Change), N. George (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Property), C. Andrews (Cabinet Member for Education & Communities), S. Cook (Cabinet Member for Housing), J. Simmonds (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation), E. Forehead (Cabinet Member for Social Care), P. Leonard (Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection) and C. Morgan (Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces).

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Chief Executive), D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), M. S. Williams (Corporate Director – Economy and Environment), and S. Harris (Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer).

Also in Attendance:

R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), A. Bolter (Visitor Economy and Destination Manager), E. Tong (Theatre and Arts Services Manager), A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer), J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer) and M. Afzal (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click Here To View](#).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs E. Stenner (Cabinet Member Finance & Performance) and R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J. Simmonds declared a personal interest in relation to **Agenda Item No. 4 - Blackwood Miners' Institute Update Report** in that his wife is a member of the Blackwood Miners Theatre and Operatic Society, as this was a personal interest only, in the context of the present report, there was no requirement for him to leave the meeting and he could take full part in the debate and vote

3. CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

4. BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which provided Cabinet as Trustees with a progress report on the artistic and operational activity at Blackwood Miners' Institute. The report also updated the Trustees on the Advisory Board process.

Blackwood Miners' Institute (BMI) had reopened in February 2022 following a long period of closure during the Covid-19 pandemic and the Institute's income and artistic output had been impacted. Thus, the Institute was still in a recovery phase. Members were advised that even though restrictions had been lifted there was still a level of uncertainty surrounding the Institute's recovery as it was unclear as to whether audience and participant numbers would recover to pre-covid levels.

Cabinet Members welcomed Eloise Tong, the new Theatre and Arts Services Manager who updated the Trustees on the key areas. She advised that income levels had improved, and participant numbers were increasing however they were still a long way off pre-Covid levels. Officers were pleased to confirm that a comprehensive programme was in place for the Autumn season and that information pertaining to the programme would be revealed in due course.

Cabinet as Trustees were advised that the Institute was looking to trial an Outdoor Programme in the Summer, which would include The Rascally Diner at Llancaiach Fawr, the Great Insect Games at Cwmcarn Forest Drive, outdoor workshops and live music. Essentially, the Institute was looking to build on these pilot events during the holiday season and use them as the foundation for a more comprehensive programme next year.

In terms of staffing, it was confirmed that the Institute was currently looking to recruit a third Technician and temporary maternity cover for the Arts Development Officer

Cabinet as Trustees were pleased to note that the new Marketing Officer and Theatre and Arts Manager were settling in well and making good progress

In terms of the recruitment process for the Advisory Group, it was noted that the Institute had received 15 expressions of interest and it was confirmed that the recruitment exercise was due to take place shortly. This would be comprised of an informal conversation with the Theatre and Arts Services Manager followed by a more formal discussion with several members of the Team.

The report was welcomed by Cabinet as Trustees and Members were pleased to note that the Institute was making good progress.

RESOLVED that subject to the reasons contained in the Officer's Report:

The content of the report be considered and endorsed.

The meeting closed at 14:45.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the next meeting.

CHAIR