



CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH JUNE 2023 AT 1.30PM

PRESENT:

Councillor S. Morgan – Chair

Councillors:

C. Andrews (Cabinet Member for Education and Communities), N. George (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Property, Highways), J. Pritchard (Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change), S. Cook (Cabinet Member for Housing), E. Forehead (Cabinet Member for Social Care), C. Morgan (Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces) and E. Stenner (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance).

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services and Housing) and M.S. Williams (Corporate Director Economy and Environment).

Also in Attendance:

R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), E. Tong (Theatre and Arts Services Manager), E. Sullivan (Senior 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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P. Leonard (Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE HELD ON 25TH JANUARY 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2023 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 (BMI).

Cabinet noted that Blackwood Miner's Institute had delivered 3 successful seasons with attendance figures higher than initially projected, and this was a good indication that the venue was recovering strongly after the pandemic. The BMI continued to deliver high quality performances, projects and support to artists and companies which saw the Autumn 2022 season deliver 35 different shows and the Spring 2023 season run 25 scheduled performances to date.

Clarification was sought on school collaborations and the Theatre and Arts Services Manager confirmed that this was the second year that the venue was working with Heolddu School, and they would be working with them on another project soon. The BMI were actively working to rebuild relationships with schools and colleges and reference was made to the Summer School Showcase project as an example of collaboration. The Officer also updated Cabinet on how the BMI was working with children not in education, employment or training to provide them with opportunity to perform, which was truly inspiring.

Cabinet was pleased to note increases in ticket sales and queried if this saw the beginning of the BMI's road to becoming subsidy free. The Officer confirmed that the venue was definitely on the right path and outlined the work being done by the BMI's new Marketing Officer to map weaknesses and address them, identifying different audience groups and using all media platforms, not just social media to highlight events and reach as many people in as many ways as possible.

Clarification was sought on the impact of increased operating costs, and possible energy efficiencies. The Officer confirmed that energy costs had increased, and this was an area of concern, however the BMI was working towards Green Dragon certification and would be looking to improve efficiency wherever possible. This included looking at programming and co-productions so that performances can be delivered in a sustainable way.

Cabinet felt incredibly encouraged by the update and the tremendous work being undertaken by the BMI Team and formally placed on record their thanks to all those involved.

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

The content of the report be noted, considered and endorsed.

The meeting closed at 14:08.

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

CHAIR