

Culture Committee - CC-2-02(p.2)

Date: 17th January 2002
Time: 2.00pm-3.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly

REPORT OF THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, SPORT AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE

The Culture Strategy – Creative Future : Cymru Creadigol

The Culture Strategy is currently at a late proof stage and the national launch will take place in the afternoon of Thursday 7 February in the Pop Factory in Porth.

I will ensure that the actions identified in the Strategy for ASPBs will be taken into account during the corporate planning process and will ensure that the remit letters for ASPBs reflect the action points identified for them.

I will be taking advantage of the opportunity to discuss the Strategy at the next meeting of Cymru'n Creu on 16 January.

At the November meeting of the Committee, members asked that an additional sentence be included in the strategy about sport in Wales. This has been done and recognises that the Committee will be undertaking a review of sport in 2002.

National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW)

The initial Business Case from the NBGW has been reviewed by officials but there is insufficient detail to enable the Assembly to make a decision on the funding request and further information has been requested. NBGW accept that more information is required and will provide that before the end of January.

The NBGW are also making a bid for additional funding to the Millennium Commission. The Commission have also sought additional information from the NBGW.

Meetings with Lottery Distributors

In order to emphasise the Assembly's Plan for Wales commitment to ensure that all main Lottery funding streams have a distinctive Welsh direction, I will be meeting the five Lottery distributors in Wales during January and early February to discuss their strategic priorities, how they fit with overall Assembly priorities and the key issues facing each distributor.

Mountain Safety Forum

The Outdoor Pursuits Group met in December and have expressed their wholehearted support for setting up a Forum to look at mountain safety issues.

Assembly Officials will be meeting with representatives of the Outdoor Pursuits Group and Sports Council on 25 January to determine the areas that will Forum will look at as well finalising membership and terms of reference.

Sports Council for Wales Bi-annual Meeting

I met with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Sports Council for Wales on 4 December 2001 to discuss progress against targets and current issues. I will be attending the Council meeting on 28 January, where I will be discussing the Council's performance achievement, current and future activities, and general policy developments.

Film Studio and Academy

On 10 December, I met some of the key individuals involved in the proposed development at Llanhilid, where it is proposed that a film studio and film academy will be built. I am making further investigations on the scope for Assembly involvement in this. The position on planning approval for the project is not yet certain, but the Rhondda Cynon Taff Authority is expected to make a decision this month.

Welsh Language Board

I have had a recent meeting with the Welsh Language Board in which we discussed the themes which were emerging from the Welsh Language Review and our shared aspiration that a report based on strong consensus will be produced by the Committee. I also discussed with them the work they are setting in train as a result of the Quinquennial review. I am confident that the recommendations of the review which have been accepted by the Assembly Government provide the Board with a strong basis for their work in the future.

Cartoon Forum

I have had discussions with organisers of the Cartoon Forum which is being planned to be held at Plas Faenol near Caernarfon in September. The attraction of this event to Wales is one of the aspirations contained in the Culture Strategy. This will be a very exciting event for Wales as a whole and presents wonderful opportunities for Welsh animators to engage with prospective partners from Europe. Up to 800 delegates will attend. I am looking at ways of offering support to this event and have agreed to present the Cartoon D'or on the final night of the Forum.

Public Library Standards

I advised previously that I had arranged for Professor Hywel Roberts, who helped write the standards, to run workshops for authorities early in the New Year on how to prepare concise 3 year library plans, starting from this April, and short annual progress reports. The workshops were held last week. They were well attended and the participants found them very helpful. I shall arrange for the workshops to be followed up shortly by a letter to all public library authorities, outlining examples of the best practice discussed.

Visits

Details of engagements between 5 December 2001 and 16 January 2002 are listed in Annex 1.

VISITS 5 DECEMBER 2001 – 17 JANUARY 2002

December

Attend Reception at Irish Consulate Cardiff

Attend Academi Christmas Literary Dinner Cutting Edge, Cardiff

Address WNO Event Cardiff

Visit Tasker Millward School – Sports Bubble Haverfordwest

Visit Ceredigion Museum Aberystwyth

Visit Y Tabernacl Machynlleth

Attend The BBC Singers Concert Cardiff

Visit Llandudno Museum Llandudno

Visit Oriel Mostyn Gallery Llandudno

Visit ACW Offices Colwyn Bay

Visit Bangor Museum Bangor

Visit Ty Newydd Llanystumdwy

Burying of Time Capsule in Site of Swansea

National Pool Swansea

Discussion/Dinner with S4C Board Members Cardiff

January 2002

Attend BBC Wales Sports Personality of the Year

Awards Cardiff

Paul Robeson Launch Swansea

Cymru'n Creu Meeting Treforest