

# Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee meeting via Zoom

Meeting date: 1 October 2020

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

**Martha Howells**

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales)

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## **Pre- meeting registration**

(09.00 – 09.30)

### **1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

### **2 COVID-19: Evidence on the impact of the outbreak on the Welsh language**

(09.30–10.30)

(Pages 1 – 12)

Aled Roberts, Welsh Language Commissioner

Dyfan Sion, Strategic Director, Welsh Language Commission

## **Break**

(10.30–10.45)

### **3 Annual Scrutiny of the Welsh Language Commissioner: Annual Report**

(10.45–11.30)

(Pages 13 – 26)

Aled Roberts, Welsh Language Commissioner

Dyfan Sion, Strategic Director, Welsh Language Commission

Gwenith Price, Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner



#### **4 Annual Scrutiny of the Welsh Language Commissioner: Assurance Report**

(11.30 – 12.00)

(Pages 27 – 29)

Aled Roberts, Welsh Language Commissioner

Gwenith Price, Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner

Guto Dafydd, Senior Compliance Officer

#### **5 Paper(s) to note**

##### **5.1 Letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government on the National Development Framework consultation**

(Pages 30 – 31)

##### **5.2 A letter regarding music education in Wales**

(Pages 32 – 34)

#### **6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting**

#### **7 Private debrief**

(12.00–12.30)

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# Agenda Item 5.1

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol  
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref:

To: Committee Chairs

21 September 2020

Dear All,

Following extensive consultation on the draft National Development Framework (NDF) last year, I have today laid the draft NDF before the Senedd for a 60-day consideration period.

The NDF is accompanied by a consultation report setting out the issues raised during the consultation, a schedule of changes I intend to make following consideration of the consultation responses, and an updated integrated sustainability appraisal. They can be viewed [here](#).

To support the scrutiny process I have today published two documents. The first sets out how I intend to monitor the NDF after its publication; and the second is a version of the schedules of changes document that has been laid in the format of the draft NDF document that was consulted upon last year. These documents are available to view [here](#).

I will be tabling an amendable motion in government-time to provide an opportunity for the Senedd to express its views on (but not approve) the draft NDF. The debate will take place during the Senedd's 60-day consideration period so the Government can reflect on the issues raised together with any recommendations from Senedd Committees in a timely manner.

During last year's consultation on the draft NDF, Senedd members expressed to me the importance of everyone being able to understand what the NDF was and what it would mean for them. Some thought the name 'national development framework' did not set out what the NDF was or would do. I have reflected on this and asked Children in Wales to help develop a new title. They suggested the name 'Future Wales – The National Plan 2040'. On publication, the NDF will be known by this new name and referred to in short as Future Wales. You will see this new name appearing on some of the documents that will support the scrutiny process.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I look forward to working with the Senedd on the completion of Future Wales, our first National Development Framework.

Yours sincerely,



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**Julie James AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol  
Minister for Housing and Local Government

# Agenda Item 5.2

Kirsty Williams  
Minister for Education  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Ms Williams

We are writing on behalf of the music education providers in Wales, who believe that music education in all its forms must be an integral part of every Welsh pupil's school life. We call on you to publicly support and commit to this ambition.

Music is an indispensable subject in a broad and balanced curriculum. There is strong evidence – not least gathered from all over the UK in the last six months – that it has a hugely positive impact on children and young people's health and wellbeing. The skills learnt through practical music making provide valuable transferable skills supporting employability. Moreover, music is at the heart of many parts of the creative sector, on its own generating over £124M of spending in Wales in 2018.

Despite all this, there is significant inequity of access to musical learning across Wales. The country's music service provision has been eroded over many years, which largely appears to have gone unnoticed. Whether you now have access to instrumental learning, ensemble opportunities and the chance to perform and attend inspiring professional music events depends on where you happen to live.

A review of music education in Wales by the Culture and Welsh Language Committee two years ago highlighted many challenges. Subsequently, the sector warmly welcomed the Welsh Government's initiative in commissioning a feasibility study to look at key recommendations in the 'Hitting the Right Note' report. The establishing of a stakeholder group was also welcomed, and their conclusions that the overarching recommendation in the CWLC report for the writing of a national plan for music education in Wales and that further interim funding was essential, was reported back to the Welsh Government. Neither the money nor the plan have been forthcoming and, while the challenges identified two years ago remain, the pandemic has further weakened music services and other organisations and impacted opportunities for a whole cohort of pupils.

Urgent action is required to save the music education services across the country that are still, some of them only just, striving to provide opportunities for children and young people. Only with urgent action and a clear pathway to grow and sustain their work can these services assure to children and young people access to a broad and diverse range of musical opportunities.

In England, the National Plan for Music Education, published in 2012, clearly articulates the responsibilities of all those involved in children and young people's music education, particularly schools and a network of music partnerships made up of schools, local, regional and national providers. These Music Education Hubs have seven roles defined in the plan and the English Department for Education provides funding to support delivery of these roles. Funding is allocated to



each local authority area according to a formula, based on numbers on roll and deprivation. Music Mark, in partnership with other organisations is currently campaigning in England for increased funding in recognition of year-on-year growth in pupil numbers and inflationary increases to costs. The request equates to £12.50 per pupil, per year.

Music Education Hubs in England achieve considerable impact with this modest funding through partnership working. Welcome bi-products were a focusing education strategies within cultural providers and a new willingness to work at a local level. This has created closer partnership working in many areas, with many Hubs now playing key roles in local cultural education partnerships (LCEPs).

A similar scale of commitment with a Welsh-appropriate structure from the Welsh Government, at a cost of a little over £5,850,000 per annum, would reinvigorate music education providers in Wales, reversing years of underinvestment nationally and locally, and ensuring the highest quality of music education for children and young people, wherever in the country they live.

In addition to a clear plan and appropriate funding, and perhaps more urgently, it is essential that clear guidance is produced to clarify how music education can resume in Wales during the ongoing pandemic. The many social and health benefits of music making are well documented and therefore we ask the Welsh Government prepare national guidance to ensure that local interpretation of what is possible does not prohibit the ability for teachers to provide musical learning which must be part of the recovery curriculum for Wales.

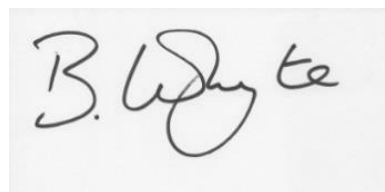
We, the organisations who have co-authored this letter, stand ready to work with the Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association to develop a National Music Education Plan for Wales. The sector in Wales is already coming together to support each other through a discussion forum. With a national plan and funding towards that plan from the Welsh Government, our partnership would also be one of action.

We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you to ensure that every child in Wales has access to music education and its many immediate and long-term benefits.

Yours Sincerely



Deborah Keyser  
Tŷ Cerdd



Bridget Whyte  
Music Mark



Kevin Price  
Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama



Rhian Hutchins  
Anthem

CC: Deputy Culture Minister  
Culture & Welsh Language Committee  
Arts Council Wales  
Welsh Local Government Association

**This Letter is supported by the following members of the Music Partnership Forum Wales:**

Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias  
Cardiff County and the Vale of Glamorgan Music Service  
Cardiff University  
Carmarthenshire Council Music Service  
CAVMS  
Cerdd  
Cerdd NPT Music  
Making Music  
Mid Wales Music Trust  
Music Education Council  
National Children's Orchestra  
National Youth Jazz Orchestra  
Rhondda Cynon Taf Music Service  
Sinfonia Cymru  
South Powys Youth Music  
Theatr Clywd  
Trac  
Upbeat Music and Arts Service Ltd  
WNO