

<b>Report to</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of meeting</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cllr Emrys Wynne, Lead Member for Welsh Language, Culture and Heritage / Gary Williams, Corporate Director: Governance and Business
<b>Report author</b>	Gary Williams, Corporate Director: Governance and Business
<b>Title</b>	National Eisteddfod of Wales – Expression of Interest

## **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1. The report is about the expression of interest in hosting the National Eisteddfod of Wales

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1. To seek Cabinet's approval of the submission of an expression of interest on behalf of the Council to host the National Eisteddfod of Wales

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. That the Cabinet approves the submission on behalf of the Council of an expression of interest in hosting the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

## **4. Report details**

- 4.1. The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) has formed partnership agreements to fund both the National Eisteddfod of Wales and Urdd Eisteddfod on an annual basis via top sliced funding from the local government settlement. This allows these important cultural festivals to travel to the length and breadth of Wales

and visit many new communities. The location of both Eisteddfods traditionally rotates between North and South Wales each year.

- 4.2. Locations for the National Eisteddfod and Urdd Eisteddfod have been agreed up to and including 2025.
- 4.3. The WLGA is now at the stage where it wishes to plan and prepare locations for future years and has written to invite local authorities to express an interest in hosting either the National Eisteddfod or Urdd Eisteddfod between 2026 and 2031.
- 4.4. The Urdd Eisteddfod was held in Denbighshire in 2022. It is unlikely, given the geographical rotation, that Denbighshire would be considered as a potential host authority for the Urdd Eisteddfod between 2026 and 2031. It is not therefore suggested that the Council should submit an expression of interest in hosting the Urdd Eisteddfod during this period.
- 4.5. According to the traditional geographical rotation the National Eisteddfod would, during the period for which expressions of interest are sought, be potentially in North Wales in 2027, 2029 and 2031. Denbighshire last hosted the National Eisteddfod in 2013.
- 4.6. The National Eisteddfod is one of the great cultural festivals of the world, typically attracting in the region of 150,000 visitors each year. It is an opportunity for the local area to benefit both economically and culturally. It has been estimated that the National Eisteddfod generates an economic impact of c£22million for the local economy during the festival week.
- 4.7. There are many non-economic benefits too. The Eisteddfod is considered to encourage more people to learn Welsh and to use the language as part of their everyday lives. The Eisteddfod also creates an increased interest in local culture and heritage and seeks to create a legacy of inclusivity whereby people of all backgrounds feel more confident about Welsh, and believe that the language and culture belongs to everyone, so that they choose to attend Welsh and bilingual events.

4.8. In terms of site location, the Council has been approached by Rhuddlan Town Council who are keen for a site in their area to be considered. The site location of the festival will be a matter for the Eisteddfod, taking into account their requirements, but local authorities are asked to help identify possible sites for consideration by the Eisteddfod in conjunction with stakeholders such as the Police and Natural Resources Wales.

4.9. At this stage, all that is sought by the WLGA is an expression of interest in hosting the Eisteddfod. Detailed consideration of any potential site will be a matter to be considered at a later stage.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

5.1. The benefits of hosting the Eisteddfod, as set out in the report, contribute to the theme of 'A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language', 'A prosperous Denbighshire', 'A learning and growing Denbighshire', and 'A fairer, safe and more equal Denbighshire'.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1. There are no direct costs associated with the decision to express an interest. The host local authority is not expected to make a financial contribution to the cost of running the Eisteddfod which is predominantly met by a top slice of the Welsh Local Government Settlement. There will be costs associated with the provision of in kind support and the host authority will have a significant presence on the Maes which will come at a cost.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1. An assessment is not required for this report

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. There have been no consultations with Scrutiny.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. As set out in section 6 there are no direct costs from the decision to express an interest. There is likely to be modest resources implications involved in hosting the event – but these can be planned for without significant implications for the Council. Any event is also likely to have a positive economic, cultural and reputational impact for Denbighshire.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. There are no risks associated with the decision to express an interest.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

11.1. s24 Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021