

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	EXTRAORDINARY COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	13 JULY 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	HOSTING THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD IN ANGLESEY
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To consider the invitation by the Welsh Local Government Association [WLGA] to local authorities to express interest in hosting the Urdd Gobaith Cymru and National Eisteddfodau in the period between 2017 – 2022
ACTION:	Members of the County Council are requested to consider the contents of the report and to resolve on the recommendations made by the Chief Executive

HOSTING THE URDD GOBATH CYMRU OR NATIONAL EISTEDDFODAU 2017 - 2022

1. A letter was received from Dr Chris Llewelyn, Director of Lifelong Learning, Leisure and Information, at the Welsh Local Government Association, dated 1 June 2011, inviting local authorities in Wales to express interest in hosting either the Urdd Gobaith Cymru Eisteddfod or the National Eisteddfod in their areas in the period 2017 – 2022.

A response to the letter is requested by **15 July 2011** [see appendix attached to this report].

2. The former Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Executive at the time, had authorised the officers to write to the Welsh Local Government Association to express the wish of the Isle of Anglesey County Council to be considered for hosting the National Eisteddfod in the county in 2017 if such an opportunity should arise.

3. On 20 June 2011 the matter was raised by the Chief Executive in the Board of Commissioners meeting requesting further guidance on this matter following receipt of the WLGA's formal letter. The Commissioners were of the opinion that hosting the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey would bring economic and cultural benefit to the county, and they were keen to press ahead with the expression of interest on condition that it was supported by members of the County Council.
4. The last National Eisteddfod was held in Anglesey in 1999 and the Urdd Gobaith Cymru Eisteddfod in 2004. On both occasions the County Council provided a substantial contribution from its own budget towards supporting the activities, with the remainder of the costs being made through local contributions from the communities, sponsorship from the business sector and the fees and charges raised in respect of traders and attendees.

By now, however, the local authority contribution is met centrally through the WLGA by the top-slicing mechanism from the rates support grant received by local authorities. This means that the financial pressures on the County Council would not be anything similar to that experienced in 1999 and 2004, but of course there would be some additional costs in kind – officer time, support services etc.

5. Although the financial forecast for the County Council is critical, together with the financial position within the local economy to support activities of this nature, it is contended that the advantages through having a substantial contribution by the WLGA towards the costs, outweigh the disadvantages and that there would be support within the communities across the Island to take advantage of this opportunity.

On this basis, it is recommended that the County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Anglesey, confirms its expression of interest in hosting the National Eisteddfod in the county in 2017 or as soon as possible after this date, and authorises the officers to inform the WLGA accordingly of this position.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i) That the Isle of Anglesey County Council supports the guidance given by the Board of Commissioners at its meeting on 20 June 2011, and forwards a formal expression of interest to the WLGA in hosting the National Eisteddfod in the county in 2017 or as soon as possible after this date.
- ii) Following its formal expression of interest that the County Council liaises with the Town and Community Councils on the Island to inform them of the steps taken and invite them to support the application and collaborate with the Council on behalf of the communities to respond to the situation as appropriate.

Our Ref/Ein Cyf:

Date/Dyddiad:

Please ask for/Gofynnwch am:

Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:

Email/Ebost:

**U:/Education, Leisure and
Culture/Eisteddfod/010611**

01 June 2011

Heledd Bebb

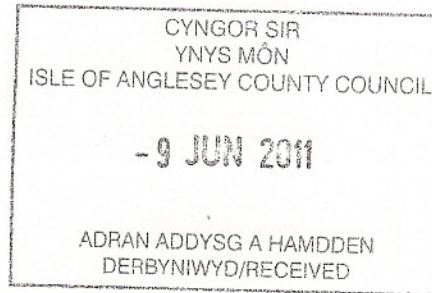
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David Bowles
Managing Director
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Y Swyddfa Addysg, Ffordd Glanhwfa
LLANGFNI, Ynys Môn
LL77 7EY



Dear David Bowles,

Hosting the National or Urdd Eisteddfod: 2017-2022

As you are aware, the Welsh Local Government Association has formed partnership agreements to fund both the National 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.

It is important for both the host local authority and for the National and Urdd Eisteddfod that the future locations are agreed as early as possible so that arrangements for local fundraising and the search for suitable locations can be instigated.

Locations for the National and Urdd Eisteddfod have been negotiated up to and including 2016. We are now at an appropriate stage to plan and prepare locations for future years and we would like to invite local authorities to express and interest in hosting either the National or Urdd Eisteddfod up until 2022.

The decisions will be made based on a number of strategic and operational criteria, including site requirements and current risk assessment tools used by both the National and Urdd Eisteddfod.

We would be grateful if you could fill in the enclosed form to notify us if your local authority is interested in hosting the Eisteddfod during any of the years between 2017 and 2022 inclusive.

This expression of interest does not constitute a formal contract of any kind and further dialogue and additional details would need to be agreed by all parties before any final decision could be made. Please reply by filling in the attached form and send it back to Heledd Bebb, WLGA, Local Government House, Drake Walk, Cardiff, CF10 4LG or via email to: heledd.bebb@wlga.gov.uk **by Friday, 15th July 2011.**

Steve Thomas CBE
Chief Executive
Prif Weithredwr

Welsh Local Government
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Local Government House
Drake Walk
CARDIFF CF10 4LG
Tel: 029 2046 8600
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www.wlga.gov.uk

Some local authorities have already been in contact with us and have expressed an interest in hosting an Eisteddfod during a particular year. Those authorities do not need to do so again unless they want to be considered for additional dates. You are welcome to provide any additional information which you might deem to be useful at this stage but you are under no obligation to do so.



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Following receipt of all expressions of interest, a working group consisting of the WLGA, the National Eisteddfod, the Urdd Eisteddfod and the Welsh Government will convene to discuss the possibilities.

We will be in touch with all prospective host authorities in due course for further information and possible site visits. If you have any further queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Llewelyn

Director of Lifelong Learning, Leisure and Information

cc. **Elfed Roberts**, *Chief Executive, National Eisteddfod*
Efa Gruffudd Jones, *Chief Executive, Urdd*
John Howells, *Director of Regeneration, Housing & Heritage, Welsh Government*



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO HOST

- THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD
- THE URDD EISTEDDFOD

2017-2022

Local Authority:

We would like to express an interest in hosting the National Eisteddfod or the Urdd Eisteddfod in one of the following years:

(please tick all potential options)

	National Eisteddfod	Urdd Eisteddfod	Additional comments (please make a note of any specific preferences here)
2017			
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
2022			

Please provide details of the lead contact in your authority for any future discussions:

Lead Contact Name:	
Job Title:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	

Please return this form by Friday, 15th July 2011 to: Heledd Bebb at the WLGA,
Local Government House, Drake Walk, Cardiff, CF10 4LG or email:
heledd.bebb@wlga.gov.uk

National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod: A guide to choosing venues

Background

One of the key aims of both the National and the Urdd Eisteddfod is to promote and safeguard the Welsh language and culture.

In support of this aim, this guide outlines a series of criteria to be used when selecting suitable future venues for an Eisteddfod.

National Eisteddfod and Urdd officials, the Welsh Language Board, the Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association have recognised the criteria as part of the new joint working agreement. They can be summarised as follows:

- Contribution to strategic priorities
- Linguistic effect
- Financial considerations
- Site requirements

Following the ground-breaking agreements between the Association and the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd in 2006 and 2007 respectively, both Eisteddfodau are now on a sounder financial footing. The criteria will be used to inform long-term planning discussions between the National and Urdd Eisteddfod and its main sponsors in order to ensure that the festivals are a success every year and maximise their contribution to the viability of our language and culture in all parts of Wales.

Eisteddfod venue selection criteria

1. Contribution to strategic priorities

The Assembly Government gives key financial support to the National and Urdd Eisteddfod. Following the recent pioneering agreements, the Welsh Local Government Association also provides crucial sponsorship to the festivals to enable them to plan ahead and develop on a more solid foundation.

The National and Urdd Eisteddfod also contribute substantially to the economic and social welfare of the areas they visit. As Wales' major culture and arts festival, the Eisteddfod is a means of promoting various communal and social activities as well as giving an additional boost to the local economy.

On the basis of an Eisteddfod's major role in culture, the community and the economy, its contribution should be considered with regard to:

- promoting a diverse and competitive economy that adds significant value, with high education and skill levels, whilst having as little effect as possible on the environment;
- action in the field of social justice to give everyone an equal chance to play a part in their community, helping them to help themselves and enjoy new experiences that will be of future benefit to them;
- action in the built and natural environment to promote pride in the community, improving biodiversity, promoting local employment and helping to keep the waste created and the demand for energy and transport as low as possible;
- strengthening Wales' cultural identity and helping to create a bilingual country;
- ensuring that all our children and the generations to come enjoy better prospects in life and do not inherit the burden of our problems;
- helping people to live healthy and independent lives;
- promoting openness, collaboration and participation.

2. Linguistic effect

Promoting the Welsh language and its culture is one of the core aims of the National and Urdd Eisteddfod, and one of the Assembly Government's policy objectives. Through the recent agreement, the Welsh Local Government Association has also made a major commitment towards promoting the use of Welsh.

An Eisteddfod's visit to any area is a great chance to promote Welsh at many levels and in many different ways. There is a great deal of voluntary activity amongst the appeal committees that serves to strengthen and develop local community networks. There is also an important chance to raise people's and organisations' awareness of the Welsh language and its culture. In addition, there is a special opportunity to increase the use of Welsh in business and in local public and voluntary bodies.

The ways in which an Eisteddfod's visit could have a positive effect on the Welsh language should be considered as follows:

- raising awareness and changing attitudes;
- offering a chance to use Welsh socially;
- encouraging and helping people to learn Welsh;
- encouraging organisations in all sectors to use Welsh more.

3. Financial considerations

The National and Urdd Eisteddfod are registered charities and are companies limited by guarantee. Both these organisations have a responsibility to maintain and develop themselves as viable businesses. Although the chief sponsors' grants contribute to their financial position, the festivals also need to make sure they have enough turnover each year. Therefore, consideration has to be given to the financial risk of conducting and developing activities.

These are the obvious considerations as regards the financial position:

- the ability of local volunteers to contribute to the local fund;
- weather;
- fixed costs or those that can be planned for;
- specific costs that may vary from year to year;
- contributions or financial sources aside from the chief sponsors;
- the higher risk of visiting areas consecutively.

4. Site requirements (see supporting paper)

There are specific and essential requirements for the National Eisteddfod and Urdd Eisteddfod venues. These are the basic requirements:

- about 140 acres for the National Eisteddfod/about 80 acres for the Urdd Eisteddfod for the combined areas with, preferably, the entire site belonging to the same owner;
- at least two roads in and out of the festival areas;
- a substantial water supply to the main area

There are also some other more generic operational requirements to be considered which are relevant to the hosting of both the National and the Urdd Eisteddfod.

These include:

- convenient distance to the nearest town;
- good and convenient road system;
- suitability for heavy vehicles;
- no electricity cables or gas/water pipes crossing the land;
- natural water level of the land not too close to the surface;
- no ancient ruins on or under the land;
- no rare wildlife species.

Full details of the site requirements for both Eisteddfodau are available in an appendix and a full assessment of possible sites will be made in line with that document.