

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Arts Council of Wales
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Arweinydd y Cyngor / Leader of Council
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 643225
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Karen Williams

Ein cyf / Our ref: HD/KLW/ART
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 17th March 2023

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Awen Cultural Trust – Investment Review Application

I am delighted to write in support of Awen Cultural Trust in relation to their application for Arts Council of Wales revenue investment. As a local authority we have demonstrated our commitment to supporting the arts via a long term arts and cultural partnership being established.

Awen are one of this Council's most valued and trusted partners. Their ambition to support the cultural regeneration and to enhance community wellbeing through engagement with the arts, aligns to our wellbeing objectives and the creation of healthy and resilient communities. There is a shared vision to create towns and spaces that inspire people to live within and visit our communities. Awen's impact since 2015 has been evident to all and they are very well placed to deliver on local and national priorities into the future.

As a strategic partner, by investing in Awen, the Arts Council will ensure that funding is injected in such a way that meets local need and also supports a wider agenda linked to the Wellbeing of Future Generations here in Bridgend. Through their Advisory Group, myself as Leader, along with Cabinet Members and other key strategic partners, are regularly invited to contribute, challenge and share ideas that in turn Awen are able to translate into tangible and impactful action.

What gives us as a Council further confidence in Awen, is that Awen's creative vision is soundly underpinned by good governance and robust financial management.

Bridgend County Borough has such a rich cultural and artistic heritage and I am eager to see more Arts Council investment into the area to help us celebrate this heritage but also to create

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new work, attracting new audiences and supporting a local creative economy. I do not think there is another Council in Wales at this time investing more into developing its arts venues. Through Awen, we have projects totalling £35 million at Maesteg Town Hall and the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. These will result in landmark cultural facilities with the potential to have significant socio-economic and wellbeing benefit.

I am excited by Awen's plans through this application, especially those to support diversity through the arts and reaching our more vulnerable residents, utilising the arts to improve population level wellbeing and also their continued contribution to this Council's commitment to tackle our climate emergency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw David". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in David.

Cynghorydd / Councillor Huw David OBE
Arweinydd y Cyngor / Leader of Council