

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: The purpose of the report is to brief Members on the proposed Comedy Festival planned to take place over 16 days across the county borough this autumn.
Service Area: Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture
Directorate: Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	x	
Staff	X	
Wider community	X	
Internal administrative process only		X

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected
Disability		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected
Gender Reassignment		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected.
Marriage/Civil Partnership		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected.
Pregnancy/Maternity		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected.
Race		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected.
Religion/Belief		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected.
Sex		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected.

Sexual orientation		x				The protected characteristic will not be affected.
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4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language	x				L	There will be a positive impact here as the festival will include Welsh language acts which will ensure that the Welsh language is promoted and integrated into our communities.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English	x				L	As above

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		x				The proposal will have no impact due to the nature of the planned activity.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	x				L	The festival will have a positive impact as by providing a good number of shows in the local valley communities it will avoid the need for driving and therefore mileage and associated pollution will be reduced.



6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	x		By developing the Comedy Festival into an annual and sustainable addition to our events calendar, the initiative will benefit residents and visitors. Spreading activity and events across the county borough will ensure inclusivity enabling both residents and visitors to access cultural activities within the county.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		The proposal positively impacts on Wellbeing Objectives 2 & 3 by increasing the range of cultural activities offered within our local communities and bringing local communities together in social settings to enjoy shared experiences near where they live.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		<p>The Culture strategy was developed after lengthy consultation.</p> <p>In May 2023 a working group was set up to explore and develop the idea of staging a Comedy Festival for Neath Port Talbot. The objective early on was to design a festival that would take place at venues in our valley communities as well as our main town venues.</p> <p>The working group is comprised of: Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture, NPT Council Commercial Coordinator, NPT Council Operations Co-Ordinator, NPT Council General Manager, The Gwyn Hall (Celtic Leisure) Operations Manager, The Princess Royal Theatre, NPT Council Operations Manager, Pontardawe Arts Centre, NPT Council Business Development Manager, NPT Council Founder of Neath Comedy Festival/Stand Up Comedian & Agent Port Talbot born actor/comedian/writer Portfolio holder</p>
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		The working group referred to above is itself a collaboration which draws on the relevant experience of all involved.

Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		The working group referred to above is itself a collaboration which draws on the relevant experience of all involved. Well planned promotion and marketing will help maximise ticket sales and engagement. Financial risk to the council will be managed at the highest level and kept to an absolute minimum. Additional funding and income opportunities will continue to be explored.
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7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	X
Reasons for this conclusion	
There is no negative impact on people with protected characteristics, or on biodiversity and for the reasons identified above.	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Andrew Griffiths	Commercial Coordinator		27/02/2024
Signed off by	C Saunders	Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture		07/03/2024