

Economy Secretary welcomes report on heritage services in Wales

The Cabinet Secretary is responding to a report entitled “Historic Wales – A roadmap towards Success, Resilience and Sustainability for the Heritage of Wales” which he commissioned last year.

The report was produced by a steering group established to consider the future of heritage services in Wales which is chaired by Justin Albert, Director of the National Trust Wales, and made up of representatives from Wales’ national heritage institutions and trade unions.

It was submitted to the Economy Secretary in February for his consideration.

Ken Skates said:

“I was delighted to receive this report on the future of heritage services in Wales and have considered its content with great interest.

“I would like to record my thanks to the Chair of the group and the representatives of our heritage institutions and trade unions involved and commend them on producing such a measured and well considered report that has secured the agreement and consensus of all organisations involved.

“I am genuinely excited by the opportunities the report’s recommendations will create for the sector as a whole. Cadw in particular is performing exceptionally well at the moment and I believe these proposals will enable us to sustain and build on those successes, and cascade them across the wider sector.

“As I have said previously I am determined we will work together to strengthen the success and resilience of our heritage services. That means our national institutions fulfilling their commercial potential through greater collaboration and partnership working which the proposal for a strategic partnership absolutely supports.

“I have written to Justin Albert today to welcome the steering group recommendations subject to a number of caveats which I have set out in my letter.

“I remain absolutely committed to enabling our heritage institutions to maximise the economic benefits that they bring to the people of Wales, and look forward to working with our heritage services to achieve this.”

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services to achieve this.”

A new Board and a new era for HCC

Appointed to the HCC Board with effect from 1 April 2017 are:

Barrie Jones
Catherine Smith
Claire Louise Williams
Gareth Wynn Davies
Helen Howells
Huw Davies
Illtud Dunsford
John T Davies
Ogwen Williams
Rachael Madeley Davies

The recruitment exercise for the new Board sought to attract a more diverse field of candidates with broad experience and a good knowledge of the agriculture sector in Wales.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

“I was seeking to deliver a Board able to support and challenge the executive around the key areas of strategic planning, corporate governance and marketing. Reflecting on Kevin Roberts’ recommendations from his recent review of HCC, I wanted individual Board members able to communicate and engage directly and effectively with levy payers.

“I am particularly pleased the process has delivered a gender-balanced Board reflecting the diverse talent within agriculture in Wales. I want to see more women in important leadership roles.”

While ten candidates were recommended for Board appointment, the Selection Panel did not feel able to recommend any of the applicants for appointment to the vacant Chair role.

The Cabinet Secretary added:

“The role of HCC in a post Brexit world will be even more important. We need a Chair able to lead the organisation into this new uncertain era and I will shortly launch a new recruitment exercise to find the person able to take on that important role. In

the meantime, I have asked Kevin Roberts, who undertook the recent review of HCC, is the current independent Chair of Amaeth Cymru, and who has considerable experience of the industry and levy bodies, to take on the role of Chair on an interim only basis. I am grateful Kevin has agreed to serve for the short period needed while the new recruitment exercise runs its course.”

Funding boost announced for South Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone – the largest wave energy seabed lease in the world.

Speaking at today’s Marine Energy Wales conference in Swansea, Economy Secretary Ken Skates said £324,000 of EU and Welsh Government funding has been approved for a technical and commercial feasibility study – a vital next step for developing the zone.

The news comes just a week after the £1.3b Swansea Bay City Region deal was signed which includes a £76m project to establish a marine energy centre around the Port of Milford Haven for marine energy development, fabrication, testing and deployment.

Leased from the Crown Estate, the South Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone will enable technology developers to deploy and test multi-device arrays of wave energy converters, to generate up to 100MW of green electricity from the sea and act as a catalyst in the establishment of a centre for marine energy production in Wales.

The two phased study will be led by Wave Hub Ltd who are managing the site. The Zone, one of two in Wales, covers 90 sq km area of seabed located between 13-21 kms off the South Pembrokeshire coast near the Milford Haven Waterway.

Ken Skates said:

“The marine sector presents a very real and exciting opportunity for the Welsh economy and developers from around the world are showing an active interest in developing projects in Welsh waters. They recognise that Wales has one of the best marine energy resources and support structures to be found anywhere and the demonstrator zones will play a key role in attracting development and investment.

“The funding boost announced today also coincides with the latest report on the sector in Wales that has seen direct investment in marine energy in Wales increase from £45.5m in 2015 to £68.3m in 2017.

“To date €100m of EU funding has been secured to develop marine energy in Wales and increase the number of wave and tidal energy devices being tested in Welsh waters.

“This growing sector is already supporting supply chain diversity, creating low carbon jobs closer to home and playing a key role in creating sustainable regional economies in Pembrokeshire and Anglesey that are based on developing their own prioritised and specialised sectors.”

He told delegates that Wales’ profile as a location for marine energy has increased dramatically in recent years with Marine Energy Wales hosting visits to the Port of Milford Haven from world leading marine energy companies from the USA, Singapore, Australia, Sweden, Holland, Ireland, Italy and Scotland.

He concluded by saying that supporting the development of more renewable energy projects, including tidal lagoons, is a Welsh Government priority.

[‘The Daily Mile’ officially launched in Wales](#)

Team GB weightlifter Michaela Breeze and sprinter Christian Malcolm, adventurer Tori James, Public Health Minister Rebecca Evans, founder of The Daily Mile Elaine Wyllie, and head of physical activity at Public Health Wales Robert Sage, will officially launch the initiative at Pontllanfraith Primary School in Blackwood .

The Caerphilly primary school is the latest school in Wales to sign up to The Daily Mile – an easy, fun way to improve children’s health and wellbeing. The initiative is the brain-child of Elaine Wyllie, former headteacher of a large Scottish primary school in Stirling. The initiative sees primary-aged children run, walk or jog for 15 minutes every day in school. It is inclusive, simple and free, with no equipment or set up required.

Minister Rebecca Evans said:

“The Daily Mile is an easy and fun way for children to improve their health and wellbeing. It is a fantastic way to support young

people to get the recommended amount of physical activity each day, and will help them grow up healthier and happier. Well done to everyone at Pontllanfraith Primary for getting involved! I encourage schools across Wales to follow hot on their heels and sign up to The Daily Mile.”

Elaine Wyllie, former headteacher and founder of The Daily Mile, commented:

“I’m delighted to see The Daily Mile being launched today in Wales and congratulate the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales in recognising the long lasting benefits that this simple, effective and free initiative will bring to the children of Wales – better physical, emotional, social and mental health now and into their future lives.”

Christian Malcolm, World and European 200m Medallist, said:

“I’m thrilled to be joining the staff and students of Pontllanfraith Primary School for the national launch of The Daily Mile Cymru. It’s such a simple yet effective initiative – within a month the children are much fitter, and feel happier and more confident in themselves. By instilling these healthy habits at a young age, we’re helping our children to live full and healthy lives.”

Michaela Breeze, Commonwealth Games weightlifting gold Medallist, said:

“Getting children active at a young age is key to setting them up for a healthy lifestyle. The Daily Mile is so simple. There’s no set up, tidy up, or equipment required. Children simply run outside in the fresh air. It’s fully inclusive; every child, whatever their circumstances, age or ability, succeeds at The Daily Mile.”

Angela Talor, Headteacher of Pontllanfraith Primary, said:

“Some of our year 6 pupils took part in Young Ambassador training with the local Sports Development team, and came back really enthusiastic about The Daily Mile. We discussed it with staff and they were keen to do it too. The Young Ambassadors have really got involved in organising and planning for our Daily Mile – we’ve had a few practices to work out how to make it work. We’ve decided that we’re going to be out running or walking every day during afternoon play.”

Robert Sage, Physical Activity lead for Public Health Wales, said:

"We are delighted to have helped bring The Daily Mile to Wales and look forward to encouraging all schools in Wales to adopt The Daily Mile as one of their Healthy School actions. The best way to establish and maintain an active life is to make it part of your day to day routine. The Daily Mile is an excellent way for children to develop good habits that can last throughout life."