

Cyfarfod gyda S4C - adleoli posib / Meeting with S4C - possible relocation

20/01/14– 10.00 am

Yn bresennol / In attendance:

S4C:

X
XX

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government:

Y, Welsh Language Division
YY, Arts and Media
YYY, Arts and Media
Z, Creative Industries team
ZZ, Construction Sector
ZZZ, Welsh Language Unit

Apologies

Kathryn Morris, Head of Finance [KM]

1. X updated the meeting on developments since the last meeting in December and the project was on target. If the proposal to relocate from Cardiff goes ahead it is expected that around 50 posts will move from Cardiff which will probably generate a further 150 jobs in whichever area they decide to relocate. Whichever option is taken forward, S4C will continue to have a presence in Cardiff. Currently 135 people were working for S4C including 10 in Caernarfon. It was likely that technological and marketing posts would remain in Cardiff.
2. S4C officials had been liaising closely with both consortiums and advising them accordingly on their respective bids. Both consortiums were in the process of finalising linguistic/cultural/economic studies of moving S4C to their respective areas. Although both bids were very different the possible new headquarters in either Caernarfon or Carmarthen will be at the centre of a creative industries hub.
3. X reminded the meeting of both bids. The Caernarfon proposal was based on revamping an existing building where S4C already had a presence. There was a plan to develop the area around the building with new units aimed at contributing to the creative industries and technology of the area. ZZ enquired about the role of Gwynedd County Council in the bid. X confirmed that the Council was involved in the bid including the proposed new units. The intention was to develop a creative hub in the area but also conscious of the presence of Galeri in Caernarfon and the new cultural centre in Bangor, Pontio, and did not want to compete with those centres.
4. In Carmarthen the bid was based on developing a creative cluster in the area which would be a catalyst for other companies to move to the area. The proposed new building would be located across the road from the Trinity Saint David Campus in Carmarthen and the near the headquarters of the Theatr Genedlaethol.

Timescale

5. X outlined the timescale for the next few months:
 - 10 March – Chair of S4C Authority and delegation of about four Members of the Authority to visit Caernarfon
 - 11 March – Chair of S4C Authority and delegation of about four Members of the Authority to visit Carmarthen
 - 12 March – All paperwork to be considered
 - 13 March – Full S4C Authority meeting where hopefully a decision on the location of the preferred bid will be taken

XX noted that S4C was liaising closely with both consortiums. All deadlines were currently being met and by the end of January hopefully S4C will have received all the necessary paperwork to present to the S4C Authority. S4C Authority Members will not receive any paperwork before the site visits in March.

Relocation of BBC

6. XX noted that the relocation of BBC Cymru Wales' headquarters in Cardiff was an additional factor that had to be considered with the possibility of sharing transmissions. BBC Cymru Wales was likely to announce the location of its new headquarters in February with the aim of moving by 2018. The S4C Authority meeting in March will also decide whether S4C should co-locate its broadcasting function with the BBC in Cardiff. ZZ enquired whether the BBC would be interested in having a presence at S4C's new headquarters. X said that was a possibility and the BBC had already expressed some interest.

Financial

7. X noted that the financial implications of both bids were different. In Caernarfon there was unlikely to be much capital funding needed as the aim was to develop an existing building. However, in Carmarthen capital funding would naturally be required for a new building. The Carmarthen bid was dependent on grant applications as well as contributions from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David.
8. XX noted that S4C would be in a position very soon to identify any gaps in funding and be in a position to submit business plans to the Welsh Government in the early part of February. Z reiterated what was said in the previous meeting that in order for the Welsh Government to consider providing any financial support, S4C would need to submit fully worked up business proposals, articulating the economic and other benefits of the proposals as well as identifying the type and extent of any funding gaps.

Welsh Government reports - Welsh Language

9. ZZ explained that the Welsh Government's Welsh Language and Economic Development Task and Finish Group was in the process of finalising its report. He noted that the Group's recommendations reflected significant support for the development of a joint approach entitled "special economic language zones". Specific areas such as Bangor, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen and their hinterlands were put

forward as locations where such an approach could be adopted to address the challenges and opportunities facing the language in those areas.

10. The report would be presented to the Minister in the near future. That report would also complement another task and finish group chaired by Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan which was considering how to increase the number of communities where Welsh is the main language. Y noted that the Welsh Government would be responding to these reports and other reports such as Welsh for Adults in March (about the same time as the S4C Authority meeting). It was therefore important that S4C liaise closely with the Welsh Government on the timing of any announcement in relation to the relocation. X agreed.

Next Steps

11. XX noted that S4C will receive the impact studies from consortiums very soon. The impact studies were likely to be made public. S4C will be putting internal business plans together during the next couple of weeks.