

**Board of Trustees, Public Session - Minutes**

**24 July 2025 at 13:00**

**Microsoft Teams**

**Apologies:**

*Owen Hathway, Trustee*

*John Hunt, Trustee*

*Ameerah Mai, Trustee*

*Daniel Richards, Trustee*

*Richard Thomas, Trustee*

*Cai Wilshaw, Trustee*

*Steve Hudson, Director of Finance & Resources*

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**Present Board Members:**

*Kate Eden*

*Rhys Evans*

*Hywel John*

*Llion Iwan*

*David Aled Jones*

*Abigail Lawrence*

*Freya Stannard*

*Jan Williams*

*Emma Yhnell*

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**Present Executive Team Members:**

*Jane Richardson, Chief Executive*

*Phil Bushby, Director of Priority Programmes*

*Kath Davies, Director of Collections and Research*

*Nia Elias, Director of Relationships & Funding*

*Nia Williams, Director of Experience, Learning & Engagement*

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**Additional Attendees Present:**

*Chris Pyrah, Governance Officer (Secretariat)*

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**1. Open Meeting**

Sponsor and Presenter: Kate Eden

- I. The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- II. No additional declarations of interest were made known to the Chair.
- III. The Chair explained the circumstances behind calling an additional Board meeting to retrospectively approve the current Five-Year Business Plan 2021-26. She noted that this was an unusual step to supplement minutes taken contemporaneously, but a critical act in order to ensure Museum Accreditation.

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**2. Museum Accreditation – Approval of Five-Year Business Plan 2021 – 2026**

Sponsor and Presenter: Kath Davies, Director of Collections & Research

- I. Kath Davies, Director of Collections & Research introduced the item, and reported that:
  - i. Amgueddfa Cymru resubmits an application for Museum Accreditation to Arts Council England every five years. Accreditation is a public confirmation that Amgueddfa Cymru meets a minimum set of museum standards and can have an important bearing on what types of funding Amgueddfa Cymru could apply for.
  - ii. Last application cycle started in November 2024. As part of this an application has been made for each of the seven sites, with the overall application made under the broad umbrella of Amgueddfa Cymru. Each site application included bespoke documentation detailing, for example, security arrangements, salvage plans and details of the collections held on site.
  - iii. A number of discussions had been held with the Arts Council England assessor, noting that submitted reports and policy documents were well received, but a request was made for key documents noting approval of Amgueddfa Cymru's Five-Year Business Plan 2021 – 2026. Staff were unable to locate meeting minutes specifically noting this approval, and evidence of how the Five-Year Plan was being monitored was not deemed to be sufficient for ACE requirements. Therefore, there was a need to retrospectively approve the Five-Year Plan.
  - iv. As part of the Accreditation, an Access Statement was also requested by Arts Council England, a document summarising legislative commitments to accessibility of Amgueddfa Cymru sites. As this document was a new item, introduced during Amgueddfa Cymru's assessment period, it had not received prior approval by the Board of Trustees.
  - v. At present, Amgueddfa Cymru sites had been granted provisional accreditation status. This included the National Slate Museum, which will retain provisional status until the site reopens.

- vi. Following retrospective approval of the Five-Year Plan and approval of the Access Statement, the Board minutes would be submitted to Arts Council England for reassessment to take place in autumn 2025 in the hope of gaining full accreditation status.
- II. Discussion followed during which it was highlighted that:
- i. Trustees were familiar with the Five-Year Plan 2021 – 2026, as in year versions were presented for sign off by the Board of Trustees on an annual basis and monitoring against the plan was done on a regular basis.
  - ii. Some amendments to the Access Statement had been requested by Arts Council England, namely requesting more detail on community engagement activities and approaches to safeguarding. These amendments had been actioned prior to the Access Statement being presented to the Board of Trustees.
  - iii. The Access Statement was now considered a core working document of Amgueddfa Cymru, and would be reviewed regularly in the future, with revisions being brought to the Board of Trustees for approval.
  - iv. Policies submitted as part of the current re-accreditation cycle were approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2024. As part of the preparation for future re-accreditation cycles, all policies related to accreditation would be reviewed to ensure that they continued to be fit-for-purpose.
  - v. Once the policy review work had been completed by the Leadership Team, all policies, including the Access Statement would have a clearer line of scrutiny into one of the Permanent Committees of the Board of Trustees.
  - vi. Ameerah Mai, Trustee, had requested that her approval of the motion outlined in the paper be noted in absentia.

**RESOLVED: The Five-Year Business Plan 2021 – 2026 was retrospectively APPROVED.**

**The Amgueddfa Cymru Access Statement was APPROVED.**

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### **3. Any other Business (AoB)**

Sponsor & Presenter: Kate Eden

- I. No items of AoB were raised.

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**End of Board of Trustees Public Session Meeting**