



Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026-27

19 November 2025

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1. Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

A breakdown of the 2026-27 Draft Budget allocations (as relevant to Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport) by MEG, Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL).

1. The table below provides an overview of the budgets allocated to Arts, Culture, Heritage, Creative Industries and Sport that are within the Economy, Energy and Planning MEG as published in the Draft Budget 2026-27 on 3 November.
2. This confirms a total allocation of £216.0m which includes £148.1m resource funding and £67.9m capital funding. The resource funding includes £135.9m revenue and £12.2m non-cash. The capital funding includes £68.9m traditional capital and financial transactions capital repayments of £1.0m.
3. There is also Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) funding of £33.0m included for pension adjustments relating to Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) and provision for Cadw debts which has not been utilised to date.
4. A full breakdown of this funding by BEL is provided at annex A.

	Plans as per 2025-26 Final Budget February 2025	Baseline Adjustments for 2026-27	2026-27 Revised Baseline	Changes	2026-27 Draft Budget October 2025
	£'000				
Fiscal Resource (Revenue)	122,467	10,725	133,192	2,709	135,901
Non-Fiscal Resource (non-cash)	12,190	-	12,190	-	12,190
Total Resource	134,657	10,725	145,382	2,709	148,091
Capital	73,787	-	66,435	2,477	68,912
Capital - FT	-	500	-	-	1,000
Total Capital	73,287	-	66,435	1,477	67,912
Total Resource & Capital	207,944	3,873	211,817	4,186	216,003
Resource AME	33,000		33,000		33,000
Total AME	33,000	-	33,000	-	33,000
Total	240,944	3,873	244,817	4,186	249,003

5. Our cultural, heritage and sport sectors, particularly our ALBs and Cadw, have been critical in supporting local, regional and national economies, communities and supporting our agenda to tackle inequalities, particularly

racial inequalities and enabling greater access to communities across Wales. They provide great places for people to live, visit, work and study. Funding through our cultural and sporting bodies benefits the lives of children and young people, who are active consumers and contributors to arts, heritage and the cultural sector. Through this Draft Budget, funding to ALBs has increased to £125.4m which consists of £99.5m revenue; £6.7m non-cash; and £19.2m capital. Further information is provided later in this paper on the funding of the ALBs.

6. The remaining funding of £90.6m remains within Welsh Government to provide funding to Cadw (£17.5m revenue, £5.5m non-cash and £9.2m capital), Creative Wales (£8.4m revenue, £0.01m non-cash and £7.5m capital), the National Botanic Garden of Wales (£0.6m revenue and £0.2m capital, and also to drive forward our priorities for Culture and Sport (£9.9m revenue and £32.8m capital). There are no FT allocations in this budget and the £1.0m reduction reflects the agreed repayment profiles in respect of a loan issued in prior years to the Welsh Rugby Union.
7. The Draft Budget total allocations for Support for Local Culture and Sport are £9.9m revenue and £32.8m capital which enables us to maintain our investment in this area. This funding enables us to support local museums, archives and libraries in line with our responsibilities as the development agency for those sectors. We will work strategically with key sector support bodies to build capacity and resilience of the sectors, ensuring that statutory obligations are met, and professional standards maintained for the benefit of users. We support collaborative initiatives to provide efficiency, value for money, service resilience and ensuring equality of access to collections across the sectors. We will continue to support the sector to put in place the infrastructure to support the delivery of digital services.
8. Through funding partnerships with our key sector support bodies, training and workforce development and discrete projects and programmes, we will ensure the management, preservation, protection, accessibility of and engagement with both physical and digital assets within archive, museums and library collections.

9. Within the libraries sector, in addition to monitoring delivery of library services in line with the Welsh Public Library Standards, we will continue to support digital access to electronic resources through the National Digital Library Service and [Libraries.Wales](https://libraries.wales).

10. The Transformation Capital Grants programme will continue to fund capital developments and improvements, including digital projects, to support decarbonisation and promote equalities. Further rounds of the Priorities for Culture Capital Grant Scheme are also planned. These will, for example, enable local museums and archives and libraries to improve their collections storage and invest in improving local infrastructure. All this activity will be aligned to the Priorities for Culture.

Final out-turns for 2024-25 and forecast out-turns for 2025-26.

11. Final out-turns for 2024-25 and forecast out-turns for 2025-26 are provided at annex A.

An analysis and explanation of changes between 2025-26 and 2026-27.

12. There have been changes to the baseline totalling £10.725m for revenue and a reduction of £6.852m capital as part of the Draft Budget for 2026-27. There have also been revenue allocations of £2.709m and £0.977m capital allocations as part of the budget. Detailed tables with the changes are included at annex A.

Revenue

13. The primary change to the revenue baseline results from a capital to revenue swap for Cadw (£7.352m), which reflects the change in the accounting policy for conservation. This expenditure previously classified as capital, now appears as revenue and there is a corresponding reduction in the capital allocation.

14. Other changes to the baseline include an allocation of £1.97m to Medr to support performance-based music and drama conservatoire provision, an increase for staff pay (£0.439m) and employer National Insurance contributions

(£1.164m) for ALBs and to Welsh Government Programme staff to reflect changes in 2025-26 and a reduction of £0.2m for the Wyeside Arts Centre.

15.Total allocations of £2.709m have been made as part of the budget which includes an additional allocation of £1.4m to NDR Studios. The revaluation will not be completed by April 2026 which means additional revenue to support the 3rd year of the NDR grant will be required and confirmed prior to business planning stage. The funding will enable studios in Wales to remain competitive and not be disadvantaged compared to other studios also receiving rates relief across the UK.

16.As well as the additional funding baselined in 2025-26 for public sector pay, as part of the 2026-27 budget we have allocated a pay award of £1.117m and National Insurance Costs of £0.192m to our ALBs and to Welsh Government Programme staff.

Capital

17.As outlined above, the main change to the capital baseline reflects the change in the accounting policy for conservation.

18.We have increased the capital allocations in grant in aid by £2.477m to Amgueddfa Cymru (£0.500m); the National Library of Wales (£0.250m); Sports Wales (£0.500m) and the Arts Council of Wales (£0.500m), to enable them to continue investment in their core estates, facilities and in their capital investment grant programmes. There has also been an allocation to Cadw of £0.227m to support investment and grants to the wider heritage sector.

19.An increase of £0.500m from 2025-26 has been made to the Creative Wales BEL which supports Wales-based production and games development companies who are looking to develop productions intended for international audiences and create jobs also for those productions from outside of Wales that are seeking to film in Wales.

Financial Transactions Capital

20. There has been a change to the financial transactions capital budget to add back the repayments for 2025-26 to the baseline.

21. There are no FT allocations in this budget and the £1.0m reduction reflects the agreed repayment profiles in respect of loan issued in prior years to the Welsh Rugby Union.

2. Other information

Information on how the delivery of the Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport portfolios and their associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate value for money.

22. Since being appointed the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership last year, I have continued to be pleased with the positive developments we have taken forward, including the launch of the Priorities for Culture in May. Effective resource management remains key to advancing our work and the Programme for Government.

23. The policy areas within my portfolio reach across many aspects of Government. They have the potential to make profound and lasting change to the lives of people and communities across Wales. They are the things people enjoy doing and that attract people to visit Wales.

24. We want to be ambitious about ensuring people have access to, benefit from and are represented by our culture, heritage and arts organisations. We all recognise that these have been tough times and that years of austerity have damaged our cultural as well as our social fabric. As we build the foundations of recovery, we must remember the benefits of delivering growth should be done inclusively.

25. We have well-established processes in place to ensure that resources are used effectively for the purposes intended. For example, there are governance and monitoring procedures in place for our national organisations which reflect the nature of our relationships with them.

26. Key priorities for each ALB are set out in their remit letters, which they use as a basis for their operational plans and key performance indicators. I meet at least biannually with each of the organisations, and officials formally monitor progress against their operational plans at quarterly meetings and more regularly through close working relationships with the senior executive teams at the ALBs. At the invitation of the bodies, officials also attend Board meetings as observers, allowing Welsh Government to maintain a good overview of

potential issues. Monthly grant in aid claims are scrutinised to ensure that progress is being achieved against specified lines of expenditure.

27. Major projects are monitored using Welsh Government's Business Information Report Tool. Each major project has governance arrangements in place related to the specific project. These are frequently reviewed to ensure they reflect the stage of the project. Major capital investments are supported by business cases which are scrutinised to ensure they are robust and provide value for money. This includes a range of Welsh Government officials and independent gateway reviews.

28. Smaller capital and revenue grants and contracts are awarded based on either an open application process or a direct commission. They are monitored by officials throughout the project life cycle, with agreed deliverables and check-in points.

29. All funding provided to support projects and programmes which deliver against the Priorities for Culture are tracked in line with our grants and procurement processes. Officials will maintain close contact with those in receipt of funding, meeting regularly for updates on progress, challenging where necessary, ensuring spend is aligned with the original plans and delivering the intended outcomes.

30. The Culture Division's Evidence Plan presents the research, evaluation, and data collection projects that the Division is either undertaking or committed to. It is updated yearly, based on discussions with staff and wider stakeholders, to ensure activity is supporting key divisional priorities and Programme for Government commitments.

31. All complex high value capital projects are subject to project governance in line with Treasury guidance, which includes key gateway decisions and project assessment reviews. Cadw operates a Capital Programme Board which actively monitors the delivery of its capital projects including managing changes and post-completion assessment reviews. Individual projects must demonstrate value for money as well as deliver measurable benefits and economic objectives aligned with Cadw and Welsh Government aims.

32.Cadw's business plan and operations are also subject to scrutiny by an independent advisory Board comprising members with the necessary expertise to provide constructive challenge. The Board meets quarterly to scrutinise Cadw's performance against its business plan and financial reporting.

33.There are processes in place for Creative Wales funding schemes, to assess applications against criteria covering economic impact as well as delivery against broader thematic priorities. Monitoring arrangements are in place, during delivery and post completion, to assess achievements against intended outputs. Creative Wales's business plan is also scrutinised and noted by the Creative Wales Non-Executive Board who meet up to four times annually and review progress against its performance and delivery. Independent evaluations of Creative Wales production and development funding are underway to assess their impact.

Details of specific policies or programmes within the relevant MEGs (relevant to Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport) that are intended to be preventative and how the value for money and cost benefits of such programmes are evaluated.

34.These budget proposals reflect my continuing commitment to protect and prioritise investment that supports preventative measures as far as possible. The spending decisions have not only considered how best to meet the current demand for services but have also focused on supporting interventions that are able to prevent problems arising in the future. This preventative approach is an important part of our planning for public services, both now and in the future.

35.Arts, culture, sport and heritage play an important role in tackling disadvantage and preventing poverty. Participating in cultural activities such as volunteering at a museum can boost skills, self-esteem, learning and aspiration, particularly in areas experiencing economic disadvantage.

36.Culture, the creative industries, the historic environment and sport are essential components of our national life and an integral part of our individual and collective mental and physical well-being. Museums, archives, libraries, arts and sports clubs, facilities and historic sites are the focal point for many communities throughout Wales.

37.Cadw delivers a range of opportunities to support positive mental health and wellbeing including an award-winning volunteering programme across the sites in its care. Cadw also funds community archaeology and heritage projects managed by Heneb the Trust for Welsh Archaeology that provide opportunities for communities to engage with the experience of excavation and exploration of local heritage. New initiatives include Cadw's participation in the Wild Sounds of Wales pilot working with residents at care homes so they can also experience the sounds and 360 images of nature at Castell Dinefwr, and intergenerational projects such as the tapestry project at Caernarfon with Rhosgadfan Young Custodians and ladies from Age Cymru. Cadw also provides free school visits and support towards transport costs to historic sites to encourage outdoor learning.

38.The culture, sport, creative and heritage sectors play a vital role in creating jobs and supporting the economy of Wales. They demonstrate strong economic benefits in terms of the visitor economy, regeneration and place-making and strong environmental benefits through decarbonisation and support for biodiversity and the natural environment. Cadw has an extensive and perpetual programme of gentle maintenance for the 132 historic monuments in state care across Wales, supported by its own in-house specialist craft team that includes trainees. All work is tendered to ensure value for money and cost effectiveness.

39.Cadw is engaged in a programme of work to fundamentally improve the management of the greenspace at its monuments in favour of biodiversity in support of the Welsh Government's commitment to combat the nature emergency risks associated with climate change. All investments and programmes are assessed for the impacts on climate change and how they can contribute to resilience of the historic environment. A research project led by Professor Carolyn Hayles and funded by the UK Research and Innovation

concluded this year and is supporting development of a strategic pathways approach to climate change adaptation.

40.The creative industries play an important role in supporting health and wellbeing and positive outcomes. The Books Council of Wales' Reading Well scheme and its work on the promotion of reading and the provision of books and educational resources plays an important part in improving literary standards and educational attainment in both Welsh and English languages. In the screen sector, Creative Wales' support for the broadcasting and independent sector makes an important contribution to social cohesion and inclusion, connecting people from different backgrounds, as well as building a sense of national identity and belonging. Creative Wales is working with priority sectors to improve health and wellbeing in creative workplaces, through the Wellbeing Facilitators project and the alignment of funding mechanisms to the Economic Contract wellbeing pillar, as well as supporting a range of projects to develop skills and talent, in an inclusive, open and accessible way.

41.The Priorities for Culture are clear on how we view the importance of participation in cultural activity as being important for individual and community well-being.

42.In 2025-26, we invested significant capital funding in museums, libraries, archives, heritage sites and arts venues across Wales, with much of this support coming from funding ringfenced to deliver the Priorities for Culture. The drivers for decision-making focused on enabling people to access culture more easily; supporting the culture sector to become more resilient to things like the effects of climate change; caring for our collections, and supporting the needs of children, young people and families.

43.We also recognise the preventative nature of sport in supporting the health and wellbeing of the nation. Our investment in sporting facilities, for example, with a £10.5m capital investment to Sport Wales next year will help drive participation in sport and physical activity.

44. Other capital investment has included funding for the nine partner galleries for Celf, the sharing of the national collection of contemporary art across Wales, making more of this available to people much closer to where they live, work, study and visit. I would argue that the funding has all been focused on addressing prevention – preventing exclusion, lowering risks, and preventing harms.

45. Revenue schemes, such as funding for the Group for Education in Museums' bursary scheme to enable schools to visit local museums, funding for the Welsh Books Council to deliver the Stars on the Shelves scheme in libraries, and funding for Arts Council of Wales to run targeted rounds of funding for schools in poorer communities or learners with additional learning needs all focus on addressing exclusion. All these schemes will include an evaluation of impact.

46. Other projects focus on supporting well-being, preventing ill-health, loneliness and isolation. For example, the long-standing Reading Well scheme is a joint initiative to help people understand and manage their health and well-being using helpful reading recommended by health experts. Our continued investment in House of Memories Cymru has improved the quality of life of people living with dementia. Over the past two years we have provided additional funding to this project to build packages within the Welsh content that represent LGBTQ+ and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Wales.

Information on allocations (and their location) in your portfolio to provide for legislation which has the potential to impact in the financial year 2026-27 as relevant to Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport.

47. Assessing the costs of legislation and the impact on those it affects is an essential part of the policy development process. I recognise there cannot be a blank cheque for legislation and that every new commitment in this area will have to be paid for by a cutback somewhere else.

48. This is why every bill is subject to a robust assessment of costs and benefits, achieved through consultation and engagement with our stakeholders in the

development of the regulatory impact assessments prepared for Government Bills. This is to ensure our decisions are informed by the people who will be affected by them.

49.Steps are being taken to improve the clarity and consistency of RIAs but changes to the bill during scrutiny and other factors will inevitably result in some variances between estimated costs at the published RIA stage and actual costs during implementation. In accordance with the commitment given by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language to the Finance Committee, a table showing the cost of implementing legislation proposed by the Welsh Government is included in the Budget Narrative document published on 3 November. There are no implementation costs associated with any legislation in this area for 2026-27.

Implications of the ongoing effect of the UK exit from the EU and the cost of living crisis on the Arts, Culture, Heritage, Communications, Creative Industries and Sport portfolios and how the Welsh Government will manage ongoing impact.

50.One of the priorities for culture is to create opportunities for all. At the reopening of the Great Hall at Caerphilly Castle, I announced the new £1 ticket for those on Universal Credit to enjoy the staffed historic sites, making heritage more inclusive and accessible to everyone. The majority of Cadw sites are already free. Since the launch on 17 July 5,051 people have used the ticket, of which 4,454 are new visitors to the monuments. This initiative also supports Cadw's ambition to attract new audiences.

51.Energy costs continue to cause significant concern. Since the cost-of-living crisis started, officials have been made aware of impacts such as local museums and heritage attractions reducing opening hours, closing throughout the winter period, significantly decreasing heating levels on site, and museums increasing charges for services. On the sport side, Sport Wales has invested in sports clubs and sporting facilities through its Energy Saving Grant that support its decarbonisation agenda but also reduces overheads for those organisations.

52. Concerns are also being expressed regarding knock-on impacts on the mental health and well-being of staff, volunteers, community participants and visitors (many of whom are vulnerable) not being able to spend time at some sites due to cold or the cost of travel.

53. The Creative Europe programme has been superseded by the Global Screen Fund (GSF) which has run since 2021. While a small number of Welsh businesses have benefited from this programme, the overall benefit to Wales is limited. The UK Global Screen Fund continues to provide updates on regional activity and awards and have also held briefing session in Wales. However, the devolved nations have raised concerns about their limited involvement in the programme delivery. There has been no direct replacement to date for the Creative Europe cultural sub-programme and that the Welsh Government continues to engage with DCMS and other devolved nations to raise issues and identify options for support for the sector.

54. Sectors across the creative industries continue to be affected by increasing costs and decreasing budgets. This includes broadcasters and Film and TV productions concerned that increased costs and inflationary issues are adding to existing budget challenges and wider impacts on trainees on screen productions who are struggling with the cost of living. The publishing sector is also being affected by increasing costs related to energy prices and the cost of materials, as is the music sector, which is also being hit by reducing revenues linked to changing trends in audience behaviour and reduced rates relief for venues.

Information on allocations in your portfolio to deliver the new Priorities for Culture.

55. The Draft Budget maintains the level of investment in culture, heritage and the arts in 2026-27, with small increases for pay, national insurance contributions and capital requirements in our ALBs. Funding to deliver the Priorities for Culture will include specific grant programmes, commissioned work and investment in our ALBs. The relevant ALBs will be required via their grant in aid, strategies and operational plans to ensure that they are delivering on the Priorities for Culture.

56. There was a strong level of interest in the arts and the museums, archives and libraries capital grants schemes in 2025-26, suggesting there will be continued demand for significant capital funding across the sectors. In 2026-27, we will continue to deliver these grant schemes, repeating the call outs and seeking to award funding earlier. During 2026-27, work on the review of infrastructure will complete, with the findings informing a long-term strategic plan for capital investment, starting from 2027-28.

57. Revenue funding will enable local authorities, via a grant scheme established in 2025-26, to support their own local cultural priorities, aligned with the Priorities for Culture. We will seek to also extend funding to our independent sector providers. We will continue to focus on improving equality and diversity of access, with a focus on access to cultural experiences for children and young people; delivering workforce improvements, supporting the sector in its approaches to the climate and nature emergencies; building good digital practice, and ensuring our intangible cultural heritage is recorded and supported to thrive. Funding will also support existing national programmes such as People's Collection Wales and Fusion, with a focus on delivering activities aligned with the ambitions of the Priorities for Culture, such as cultural inclusion.

3. Cadw

Allocations and commentary in respect of Cadw including revenue generation targets, and recent annual income generation figures (including net profit).

58. Income generation is key to the financial sustainability of Cadw. In 2026-27, Cadw estimates that total income will reach £10.880m based on an inflationary increase in admission prices and against the current trend of flat visitor number trends. The 2025-26 income target of £11.402m is unlikely to be reached due to economic climate and industry trends. It is a challenging environment in the tourism attraction sector. The [Tourism Barometer: summer wave 2025](#) reported that, 45% of tourism businesses had the same level of customers and 26% reported a decrease. Currently Cadw forecasts £10.664m which is still an increase of 2% on income compared to £10.455m in 2024-25.

59. The conservation of the monuments, health and safety measures and visitor facilities is an important priority in enhancing the Cadw offer and ability to generate income. The capital budget of £9.196m includes provision for a new welcome centre and developing Caerphilly Castle as a world class heritage destination supporting the **Caerphilly Town 2035** regeneration. This will contribute to growing audiences and promoting wellbeing through widening access to, enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment for everyone.

Allocations towards funding for owners of historic assets.

60. In 2026-27 capital of £3m grant funding is allocated to support historic buildings and monuments, making provision for existing grant projects and pipeline projects in development. There are more than 30,000 listed buildings and 4,200 scheduled monuments in Wales, the majority of which are in private ownership. These heritage assets range from prehistoric monuments to 20th century buildings. All play a role in defining our cities, towns, villages and landscapes today and collectively are a legacy of our history to pass to future generations.

61.Cadw's grants are based on significance of the historic assets, community benefits, contribution against objectives of the Priorities for Culture and wider benefits of the project at local and national level. All funding is subject to rigorous due diligence appraisal and internal scrutiny. Cadw grants are targeted to support projects which would not go ahead without public funding and cannot attract funding via traditional routes due to market failure or conservation deficit. The projects funded by Cadw grants have the following positive benefits:

- Economic Development: attracting tourism and creating jobs in the sector
- Economic Regeneration: the adaptive reuse of historic assets can help revitalise local economies and communities.
- Educational Opportunities: offering valuable learning experiences, allowing people to engage with history and culture firsthand. Historic buildings serve as physical reminders of past eras, offering insights into the lives, values, and craftsmanship of previous generations.
- Maintaining Identity: Historic assets can be a vital part of a community identity, reflecting its unique history and character.

62.To support historic asset owners to care for their monuments and buildings Cadw also provides specialist advice, publishes an extensive range of guidance and provides signposting to sources of available grant funding which can be downloaded without charge from the Cadw website.

63.**Listed Building Regeneration Grant Scheme** supports the repair, conservation, and sustainable reuse of listed buildings in Wales and aims to safeguard heritage assets while contributing to local regeneration and community benefit.

64.**Historic Monument Grants:** support owners of monuments to carry out conservation, manage and provide public access to monuments and archaeological sites ranging the prehistoric to buildings of the industrial revolution.

65.Urgent Works for Buildings at Risk: for local authorities to meet the costs of preparing and serving Urgent Works Notices to secure the condition of at risk and vulnerable listed buildings.

66.Cadw also funds the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) which can provide advice and support for community organisations looking to promote the conservation and sustainable re-use of historic buildings for the benefit of communities across the UK, they are able to offer support to local communities at every point in the life-cycle of a project – from start-up advice and grants for early development work and project planning, through to loans for acquisition and as working capital for project delivery.

4. Amgueddfa Cymru and National Library of Wales

Allocations and commentary in respect of Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library of Wales, including any revenue generation targets.

67.The Draft Budget 2026-27 allocation to Amgueddfa Cymru is £28.504m revenue and £5.5m capital. The allocation to the National Library for Wales (NLW) is £12.364m revenue and £2.25m capital.

68.Whilst I appreciate that this remains a challenging time for culture sector, the increase to their revenue grant in aid in 2026-27 will help Amgueddfa Cymru and the NLW deliver Programme for Government commitments, such as Celf, and increase pay in-line with the rest of the public sector. This will support staff whose specialist skills help to care for our national collections and help to deliver the Priorities for Culture.

69.In line with the arm's-length principle, it is for Amgueddfa Cymru and NLW to set their income generation targets. Free access to the national collection remains the Government's policy to encourage a diverse range of visitors. Whilst this limits Amgueddfa Cymru's options to raise income, it sets annual income generation targets, and it continues to trial options for further income-generation.

70.NLW does well in attracting charitable donations and bequests but finds the commercial income generation target challenging, with less on-site options for generating revenue when compared to Amgueddfa Cymru for example. It is not appropriate for the NLW to charge for most of its services, and it has limited means of generating additional funds except through donations, commercial activity or for project activities, although it does fundraise.

71.All 16 Priority for Culture ambitions are relevant to Amgueddfa Cymru and NLW's work, and they both continue to deliver a range of activities to support them.

An assessment of the capital needs of Amgueddfa Cymru (including the redevelopment of the National Slate Museum and ongoing work at the Cardiff site) and the National Library of Wales, and how relevant funding allocations relate to this need.

Amgueddfa Cymru

72. We acknowledge the challenges that Amgueddfa Cymru is facing in caring for historic buildings and keeping our national collections safe. Amgueddfa Cymru estimates some £68m of essential work is required to its estate over 10 years. The increase in its capital grant-in-aid, which will be £5.5m for 2026-27, reflects this. Subject to affordability and robust business cases being provided, Amgueddfa Cymru may also receive additional capital funding towards specific projects at its venues, particularly National Museum Cardiff.

National Library of Wales

73. The National Library's increased capital grant-in-aid of £2.25m in 2026-27 will help ensure the safety of the collections as well as support it meet its objective to be carbon neutral by 2028. Subject to affordability and a robust business case being provided, NLW may also receive additional capital funding to take forward development of critical projects to help with its sustainability.

5. Arts and Arts Council of Wales

Allocations and commentary in respect of the Arts Council of Wales.

74. Welsh Government funding for the arts is channelled through the Arts Council of Wales (ACW), who operate under the arms-length funding principle, within the strategic framework we provide. The Draft Budget revenue allocation in 2026-27 is £33.522m, and the capital allocation is £0.9m.

75. As the development agency for the arts sectors in Wales, ACW distributes over 90% of its annual funding to the arts sector through multiyear funding, to 81 organisations across Wales as well as project support. Allocations made to ACW directly supports the arts sectors as well as impacting people's access to the arts across Wales.

Allocations and commentary in respect of funding to promote access to the arts.

76. ACW supports arts activity based in every local authority across Wales and the allocations in 2026-27 will continue to support and promote the vital contribution that the arts make to Wales. Increasing and diversifying levels of access and participation in the arts continues to be a priority in the Government's Remit letter to ACW. ACW uses the majority of its Grant in Aid to core fund strategic arts organisations, and we expect them to continue to prioritise access and engagement work.

77. Widening Engagement continues to be a strategic priority for the Welsh Government and ACW, requiring all funded organisations and projects to actively reach underrepresented communities, including those facing socio-economic deprivation. It supports organisations such as Disability Arts Wales, Hijinx, and Valleys Kids, and is developing Memoranda of Understanding with local authorities in areas of low arts activity.

78. ACW's initiative Hynt, a Wales wide access scheme that works with theatres and arts centres, will continue to make accessing arts experiences easier and fairer for disabled people and carers in 2026-27.

79. Investment in major culture capital projects, especially Theatr Clwyd and the National Contemporary Art Gallery, is designed to tackle inequalities and provide better access, including particularly in north and mid Wales.

Allocations and commentary in respect of funding aimed at encouraging/enabling arts organisations to generate more of their own income.

80. ACW actively encourages applicant arts organisations to generate more of their own income. ACW expect organisations to contribute toward the cost of any project or grant award, usually through its own earned income or external fundraising. Future opportunities for the sector to receive support in the form of training and workshops is likely to include business resilience as one of the major themes.

81. ACW encourage and support investment in organisations in the form of capital investment. In 2025-26, an £8m Arts Sector Strategic Capital Programme has supported 40 organisations across Wales, we are looking at whether the scheme could be extended into 2026-27 and, if so, at what level. In most cases, capital improvements made have an impact on ability to attract audiences and raise additional income.

An assessment of the extent to which audiences have returned to pre-pandemic levels, and how this is factored into allocations.

82. Audiences have not returned to pre pandemic levels. Across ACW multi-year funded organisations, the figures show that in 2024-25 there were 3.5m attendances to events compared to 4.0m attendances in 2019-20.

83. There are also variations in attendance at specific events. For example, attendances at film screenings are down by 37.7% when compared to 2019-20 figures and attendances at presenting venues is up by 16.8% from the same year.

84. Funding priorities in this difficult environment have seen a demand for live Theatre and Music as drivers for returning audiences.

Total capital investment in the National Contemporary Art Gallery since the project began, and an estimate of ongoing revenue costs, and where these will come from.

85. Since the 2017-18 financial year, the Welsh Government has made capital payments totalling £7.36m in support of Celf.

86. The three partner organisations (Arts Council Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru and National Library Wales) have submitted estimates for the ongoing revenue costs for Celf. In this, a request was made for Welsh Government to provide a contribution of £350k per annum for the first two years, towards the annual revenue costs of £2.6m. Funding will be provided from a number of sources including external funders and the partners themselves.

87. An estimate of proposed revenue costs for Celf in 2026-27, and where these will come from, is provided in the table below.

Celf Cost Contribution Table 2026-27: In Principle Agreement

Income	2026-27
Arts Council of Wales (Lottery)	£40,000.00
Amgueddfa Cymru Grant in Aid	£197,558.50
National Library of Wales Grant in Aid	£75,084.50
Arts Council of Wales Grant in Aid	£1,985,330.00
Trust & Foundations	£52,957.00
Welsh Government Revenue Contribution	£350,000.00
Welsh Government Capital Contribution	£45,000.00
Total	£2,745,930.00

88. Amgueddfa Cymru is now leading on delivery through the partnership. The focus for 2026/27 will be to further embed and strengthen the existing operating model. In due course, as the lead organisation, it will be for Amgueddfa Cymru to work with the other partners to develop and submit future proposals for further investment in the network, for the Welsh Government and other funders to consider.

6. Media and Broadcasting – Creative Industries

Allocations and commentary in respect of Creative Wales (including funding to be distributed by Creative Wales).

89. In 2025-26 Creative Wales total budget allocation is £7.008m revenue & £7m capital (£14,008m). In addition, £1,367m was transferred from HLG MEG to support the second year of the NDR (Non-Domestic Rates Relief) grant for eligible studios in Wales. This increased the total revenue allocation to £8,375m.

90. The focus of our investment is on the priority sectors of screen (Film & TV), music, digital and publishing alongside broadcasting and journalism commitments, as well as delivering on the Programme for Government commitments in improving skills for the industry.

91. Through providing capital support to creative production, Wales is now considered as a very favourable location to produce major film and television shows. Our production funding is supporting an important pipeline of opportunities. Since 2020, Creative Wales has provided £30.8m of production funding to 64 productions (signed offer letters) with another two recommended by Panel (66 in 6 years) on the condition that £376.7m will be spent back in the Welsh economy.

92. We have supported 540 paid entry level and upskilling trainee placements within Creative Wales' funded projects, including 67 paid apprenticeship placements. This is helping to support both new entrants as well as existing crew to gain valuable skills and experience and build their careers.

93. Since April 2025, we have invested in 8 capital production projects totalling £1.9m and these projects are expected to generate over £26m in projected Welsh spend. The aim of the scheme is to support the growth of Wales as a destination to produce world class content. The funding supports Wales-based production and games development companies who are looking to develop productions intended for international audiences and for productions from outside of Wales that are seeking to film in Wales.

94. Working with Ffilm Cymru (FfC) £3.475m has been allocated to 14 feature film projects from July 2022 to March 2026 on the condition that £30m will be spent back in the Welsh economy. A planned review of the programme is underway in order to allow for appropriate scrutiny of the economic impact of the previously funded productions and to consider the most appropriate route to maximise the impact of the new IFTC for film production in Wales.

95. In 2025-26 we launched the second year of the NDR Studios fund, which was established in 2024 to support studios that are impacted by the Non-Domestic Rating Re-evaluation. The latest UK Government NDR (Non-Domestic Rating) Revaluation came into effect on 1 April 2023 and assigned revised business rates to reflect changes in rental market conditions. As a result of this change some sectors, including studios, have seen significantly increased rates. Continuation of the fund means that Welsh Government support is available via Creative Wales to help mitigate the impact of these increases. Three of the four eligible studios have been awarded grants to date to the value of £914,707 grant under this scheme.

96. We continue to provide funding to support the commercial music sector. Our recent agreement to award over £731k of capital funding to 22 innovative Music projects in 2025/26 takes Creative Wales total support for music venues and businesses to over £11 million since its inception in 2020. This is in addition to over £400k in revenue via strategic support to programmes such as Focus Wales, PRS Momentum, Pyst and Beacons programme delivery.

97. We continue to prioritise skills development in the sector in line with the Programme for Government Commitment, through our Creative Skills Action Plan and Creative Skills Fund. Round 2 of the Skills Fund was launched in Spring 2024 and supported a further 17 projects to the value of £1.5m. Many of these projects have a particular focus on ensuring greater diversity and inclusion within the creative sector in Wales.

98. This financial year 51 trainees to date have completed paid placements on Creative Wales funded productions with an additional 95 currently on placements.

99. In addition to this, Creative Wales is continuing to work in partnership with Sgil Cymru to deliver over £900,000 of funding from the BFI for the delivery of the Skills Cluster for Wales programme. This funding is directly allocated from the BFI to Sgil Cymru to deliver the programme until March 2026 and requires the match funding from Creative Wales of £150,000 in 2025/26 which takes our budget commitments on skills to over £1m per year.

Allocations and commentary in respect of any funding for the media, journalism broadcasting.

100. In 2025-26, £200,000 has been set aside to run a Public Interest Journalism Fund, which launched in July 2025. Options are currently being explored to commit a further £150,000 on activity to support the media sector in Wales.

101. A total of £3,760,000 revenue and £30,000 capital funding has been awarded to the Books Council of Wales in 2025-26 to support the publishing sector. This includes annual revenue funding for the Welsh Language Digital News Service. In addition, £150,000 has been awarded to secure Wales' representation at the London, Bologna and Frankfurt Book Fairs as well as additional capital of £270,000 for an essential IT project.

102. Our work with the screen sector and broadcasters, including through our Memorandums of Understanding with the BBC and S4C has continued to support production to film in Wales in 2025-26. The full list of productions supported to date is included in Annex D.

103. The budget to support media, journalism and broadcasting for 2026-27, including for the Books Council of Wales will be agreed as part of the formal budget process.

7. Support for film and television production

The latest figures for production funding provided by the Welsh Government including total investment and Welsh spend (broken down by project).

104. In summary, since 2020, £30.8m in production funding (which now also includes games investment as a result of amended criteria) has been provided to 64 projects, generating over £376.7m into the Welsh economy. On these funded productions, Creative Wales has supported a total of 540 paid placements.

The latest figures regarding the Welsh Government's loan to Bad Wolf Studios including total repayments and Welsh spend (benchmarked against Welsh Government targets).

105. Total interest due on the loan arrangement is £1.064m and repayments commenced in 2020-21. Bad Wolf has now repaid in full.

Details of any ongoing grant arrangement between the Welsh Government and Great Point Studios.

106. Great Point Studios is run as a private business. An award for capital funding was issued to Great Point Studios in 2023. Building work is planned for end of 2025 and will see this site expanded to a total of 257,000 sq ft.

107. In addition to this, as part of the Creative Wales NDR Studio grant launched in 2024, GPS has received grant support in 2024 and 2025.

A description of the strategy and targets for investments in screen productions made by Creative Wales.

108. The refreshed Production Funding which was launched in May 2023 continues to be the main mechanism for supporting screen activity in Wales. The aim of the scheme is to support the growth of Wales as a destination for the production of world class content. The funding supports Wales-based production and games development companies who are looking to develop

productions intended for international audiences and also for those productions from outside of Wales that are seeking to film in Wales. Whilst one of the main outputs continues to be the impact on the Welsh economy through spend on crew, facilities, locations etc, the fund also seeks to maximise the amount of training and skills development opportunities available on funded productions. The fund prioritises content that shows the best of Wales in Culture, language and geography, with this successfully being demonstrated by some of recent Creative Wales supported productions such as *The Guest*, *Cleddau / The one that got away*, *Hafiach*, and *Death Valley*; all of which showcased an authentic portrayal of Wales to network audiences. The Fund also prioritises the development of a sector that provides equal and diverse opportunities for a long term, skilled employment base and one that looks after the wellbeing of existing staff.

An assessment of the impact of production funding provided via Ffilm Cymru, and allocations for the coming financial year.

109. Across the initial 3-year programme, 14 feature films have received production funding totalling £3.5m generating an expected boost to the Welsh economy of over £30m.

110. The SAG-AFTRA actors' strike of 2023 led to delays in principal photography for some of the funded productions, with some productions also collapsing and funding re-allocated to other projects. Due to the delays caused by the strikes, 2025 was the year where the first funded productions were eligible for festival entries and subsequent commercial release. Examples of Creative Wales funded productions succeeding in 2025 include the feature film *Brides* which premiered in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition of Sundance before succeeding at Munich Film Festival and Edinburgh Film Festival later in the year; the *Man in My Basement* which premiered at Toronto International Film Festival in the Discovery category and *H is for Hawk* which was Wales' first ever showcased film at the prestigious Telluride Film Festival 2025 (In 2024 this festival launched the award season success of *Conclave*, Emilia Perez and eventual Best Picture Oscar winner – *Anora*). In addition, *Madfabulous*, the Ynys Môn based story of the 5th Marquess of Bute Henry Paget, was

showcased as part of the UK's Great8 Showcase at Cannes Film Festival and is scheduled for a January 2026 premiere and cinematic release.

111. Commercially, cinemas have seen the cinematic release of Creative Wales funded productions Mr. Burton, Brides and Man in My Basement in 2025. Mr Burton, released in April 2025 and co-produced by Wales-based Severn Screen and LA production company Brookstreet Pictures of Oscar-winning The Brutalist, is in the top 10 independent films in the UK for 2025 in terms of box office sales and was released in Australia and New Zealand in August, charting at number 3 in Australia and number 1 in New Zealand. A US release is planned for November to coincide with what would have been Richard Burton's 100th birthday and discussions are underway with the Welsh Government's US office to maximise exposure for this launch. Brides and Man in My Basement both released in September 2025.

8. Sport

Allocations and commentary in respect of Sport Wales.

112. In this Draft Budget we have provided an allocation of £23.239m revenue and £10.5m capital to Sport Wales to continue to support key programmes, such as capital investment in facilities, and the development of grassroots and elite sport.

Details of spend from other departments that contributes to sport and physical activity.

113. Other budgets which contribute to sport and physical activity include Education (Sustainable Communities for Learning programme), Communities and Social Justice (Community Facilities Programme), Health (Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales) and Local Government, through its investment in leisure services and facilities. It is not possible to quantify the exact allocations on sport and physical activity from these areas of spend from other departments.

What work the Welsh Government is undertaking to “make sport the nation’s greatest preventative health tool”.

114. Our Programme for Government commitments are to promote equal access to sport, support young and talented athletes and grassroots clubs, and invest in our world-class sporting facilities and in new facilities. This recognises that sport is of vital importance to both our economy, to health, and to our national life. The funding we provide to Sport Wales to deliver the Vision for Sport seeks to make Wales an active nation where everyone can have a lifelong enjoyment of sport and reap the associated health benefits, both physical and mental.

115. With an enhanced capital grant of £10.5m in 2026-27, Sport Wales will continue to invest in new and refurbished sporting facilities that is key to supporting increased participation in sport, with the positive health and wellbeing benefits they provide.

Allocations relevant to preparations for major sporting events (e.g. Tour de France Grand Depart and EURO 28)

116.The funding will be used to support readiness preparations for the successful delivery of these major events. For example, the Welsh Government, in partnership with the other home nations, UK and Ireland Ltd and UEFA are working together to stage the best-ever EUROS tournament in 2028. These events will engage and excite fans worldwide and inspire positive change through sport – delivering meaningful benefits for local communities across all the nations.

117.Funding will be used to ensure these major events are delivered to the highest operational and governance levels – in line with international event management best practices - in the interest of fans, teams, the wider public and all stakeholders.

9. Programme for Government commitments

Funding allocations for commitments outlined in the Programme for Government under the heading ‘Push forward towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive’.

Ensuring that Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic histories are properly reflected throughout our cultural and heritage sectors including in National Museums

118.Targeted funding has been provided to national, regional, local, and grassroots organisations to authentically tell these stories and reflect contributions. These investments focus on widening access and participation, while building sector capacity to recognise, address, and dismantle institutional and systemic racism.

119.In 2025-26 we extended this scheme to include other forms of diversity, building on progress and strengthening impact through sustained targeted initiatives and sector wide capability development and investing in community-led cultural projects. We particularly focused on supporting grassroots organisations, which we know often feel excluded from culture funding streams. Going forward, we are considering how best to mainstream this work within our wider grant programmes.

Creating a Creative Industry Research and Development Fund

120.Creative Wales has facilitated a number of R&D funding initiatives since inception. R&D was included as a key priority area as part of the Creative Wales Development Fund (CWDF) which was launched in 2021-22. Development funds have been fully allocated for delivery throughout 2021-22 and 2022-23 to the value of £1.1m to 51 creative companies. In July 2023, a second round of development funds was launched and 35 projects totalling over £0.980m for spend in 2023-24 and 2024-25. In 2025-26 the third round of CWDF fund was launched with Games with over £628k being awarded 13 projects. A further fund for screen/animation will be launched in the Autumn with a total budget of £500k. The TV and Digital Development Funding is designed to provide

focused support to aid the growth of indigenous companies across TV and Digital, supporting companies to develop new products and IP and secure new business.

121.The £50m media.cymru programme being delivered between 2022 and 2026 is funded through £22m from UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) flagship Strength in Places Fund, £3m from Cardiff Capital Region, £500k from Welsh Government, through Creative Wales, and £23m match funding from industry and university partners. The Media Cymru programme, supported by Creative Wales, includes a work package to deliver a Wales wide R&D fund for the Creative Industries. The full funding award of £500k has been claimed. Creative Wales is currently in exploring opportunities for supporting R&D programmes for 2026-27.

Establishing a National Music Service

122.The National Music Service was established in 2022, in line with a Programme for Government commitment to support children and young people to benefit from opportunities to play a musical instrument, to sing, and to engage in music-making activities. The new phase of the National Music Service programme (2025-2028) is supported under the Curriculum for Wales Grant Support Programme, with funding of £12 million over this three-year period.

Investing in Theatr Clwyd

123.The capital investment and works at Theatr Clwyd will be completed shortly and will not continue into the 2026-27 financial year and therefore it does not feature in the Draft Budget for that period.

124.The Welsh Government will have contributed £24.5m towards the total redevelopment project cost of over £47m, in addition to an earlier contribution of £3m in the project feasibility stage.

Establishing a Football Museum

125.The capital contribution toward the construction works at the Welsh Football Museum in Wrexham Museum will conclude at the end of the 2025-26. No further capital investment is planned through 2026-27 at present.

126.The Welsh Government has contributed £5.5m towards the £11.8m construction cost covering both elements of the museum i.e. the creation of a Football Museum and redevelopment of Wrexham Museum.

Establishing a National Contemporary Art Gallery

127.Information in relation to the National Contemporary Art Gallery is provided above.

Explore the creation of a shadow Broadcasting and Communications Authority for Wales and provide additional investment to develop enterprises to improve Welsh-based media and journalism

128.The commitment to explore the creation of a shadow Broadcasting and Communications Authority for Wales was fulfilled in March 2024, when the Welsh Government responded to the Expert Panel to Explore the Establishment of a Shadow Broadcasting and Communication Authority for Wales' report.

129.In 2025-26, £200,000 has been set aside to run a Public Interest Journalism Fund, which launched in July 2025. The Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group updated its terms of reference in 2025 and continues to meet and play an important role in helping to identify options to support actions to improve Welsh-based media and journalism.

Pursue the case for devolution of broadcasting and communication powers

130.Work is underway with a view to supporting a research project to explore, in more detail, the five devolution pathways set out in the expert panel's report.

131.In 2025-26, Creative Wales has continued to work with broadcasting stakeholders including the UK Government Department for Culture, Media

and Sport, Ofcom, public service broadcasters, TAC and Pact to ensure Wales' needs are considered in the development of relevant regulation, policy and interventions. This has included discussions on Ofcom's PSM review, the Future of TV Distribution project and the BBC Charter Review.

132. In addition, the activities undertaken by the Books Council of Wales deliver against a number of Programme for Government priorities and demonstrate links with all ten of its wellbeing objectives. It supports activity over and above its creative industries remit related to the Welsh Government's ambitions for the Welsh language, cultural identity, education, health and wellbeing and promoting Wales to the world.