











## SUSTAINING AND DEVELOPING THE SKILLS BASE IN CARDIFF'S PARKS SERVICE

#### JON MAIDMENT

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## SUSTAINING AND DEVELOPING THE SKILLS BASE IN CARDIFF'S PARKS SERVICE

- About the Service
- Issues and Challenges Faced
- Approach Taken
- What's Been Delivered
- Benefits Derived
- Future Aspirations



#### **CARDIFF COUNCIL'S PARKS SERVICE**

- Strategy & Development
- Landscape Design
- Land Management
- Grounds Maintenance
- Arboriculture
- Park Ranger Service (Urban & Community)
- Plant Production Nursery
- Technical Support







#### CARDIFF COUNCIL'S PARKS SERVICE





- 1,600 hectares of POS
- 140 fte
- £5.1 Million Revenue Budget
- Mixed Economy of Provision
- Members of Green Space Wales
- Members of APSE
- Part of the Core Cities Network



#### **ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FACED**

- Long Periods of Inactivity
- Local Government Act 1988
- Ageing Workforce
- Poor Perception of recognition for the Industry
- Inability to recruit the right people
- Reducing budgets/resources to manage
- Absence of career pathways
- Loss of skills



UCHELGAIS PRIFDDINAS CAPITAL AMBITION



#### **APPROACH TAKEN**





- Creation of an Internal Improvement Group
- Development of a Simple Strategy for Introducing a Comprehensive Programme of Apprenticeships & Traineeships
- Commitment to Resource Switching
  - Seasonal Labour Budget
  - Vacancy Provision
- Continuous Challenge
- Develop Relationships with Partner Organisations



#### **APPROACH TAKEN Cont.**

- A Clear Focus on Quality of Provision
- Make it Special
- Recruit Train & Retain











#### WHATS BEEN DELIVERED

- Parks & Cemeteries Apprenticeship (3yr & 1yr Ext Option)
- Arboriculture Traineeship (2yr & 1yr Ext Option)
- Plant Production Traineeship (2yr & 1yr Ext Option)
- Playground Management Apprenticeship (3yr & 1yr Ext Option)
- Sports & Turf Traineeship (3yr & 1yr Ext Option)



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#### WHATS BEEN DELIVERED Cont.

- Trainee Florist (2yr & 1yr Ext Option)
- Creation Of Strategic Partnerships:-
  - Training Providers
  - Royal Horticultural Society
  - Core Cities
  - Twin Cities
  - National Rose Society
  - Mount Stuart Gardens
  - LANTRA



#### **BENEFITS DERIVED**

Demonstrated Commitment

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- Secured Political And Corporate Buy In
- Achieved Recognition Of Skills Requirement
- Generated Interest
- Reduced Recruitment Time/Costs
- Achieved Excellent Retention Rates
- Enabled Mentor Development







#### **BENEFITS DERIVED**

- Expansion Of Apprenticeships & Traineeships Into A Wider "People Programme"
- APSE Recognition Employee And Employer
- Protection Of Service
- Enjoyment!



#### **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS**





- Development of New Schemes
  - Landscape Trainee
  - Apprentice Park Ranger
  - Management Trainee
- Development of the Technician Role
- Develop Programme For Aspiring Managers
- Creation of a Training and Development Co-ordinators Role

