

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
EDUCATION SKILLS AND WELLBEING CABINET BOARD

24th November 2022

Rhiannon Crowhurst
Head of Support Services and Transformation

Matter for: Decision

Wards Affected: All

Creation of a Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical activity in West Wales

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this paper is to request approval for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to support the further development and creation of a new Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical Activity in West Wales.

2. Executive Summary

The context behind the formation of a Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical Activity is the national Vision for Sport in Wales (<https://visionforsport.wales/>) and also the Sport Wales Strategy which envisages a Wales where everyone is Active (<https://www.sport.wales/sport-wales-strategy/>).

3. Background

Aligned to Welsh Government policy and the Vision for Sport in Wales, Sports Partnerships will be the entity through which all local investment from Sport Wales will be coordinated. Empowered to bring about system change, they will be the catalyst to tackling two long standing issues

- I. Ensuring there is the right support and opportunities in place for those who are not regularly physically active - with a clear focus on removing barriers for those who need most help
- II. Taking steps to meet the high latent demand from those who are active but want to do much more

What do we mean by Sport Partnerships.

With the ethos of true collaboration at the heart of this approach, a Sport Partnership will bring together key stakeholders within a defined region who understand the importance and have a focus on delivering the benefits of sport and physical activity.

The Partnership will be led by insight and be person centred in its approach, providing strategic leadership, planning, and commissioning at a regional level, with a common purpose delivered at a local level ensuring that everyone has equal access to sport and physical activity through a range of opportunities that best meet their needs.

Key stakeholders within a region will be empowered to determine how a Sport Partnership evolves, its purpose and how best it should be structured to meet the needs of local communities.

The regional organisations are:

Swansea City FC

Carmarthenshire County Council

Scarlets Regional Rugby

Neath Port Talbot County Council

Ospreys Regional Rugby

Pembrokeshire County Council

Swansea University

City and County of Swansea

University of Wales Trinity St David

This collaborative approach reflects the fact that no one organisation can achieve this ambition on its own, recognising that it is vital to work in partnership with communities and other public sector, private sector and third sector organisations to make the improvements happen.

Progress to Date

A West Wales Project Group was formed in the autumn of 2021 to respond to the new vision for regional working and to progress thinking on the structure and purpose of a Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical activity in West Wales. The Project Group has been through several important developmental stages, which are beginning to shape the regional partnership. In summary the Project Group has:

Explored the benefits of a collaborative approach and aligned behaviours with the concept of regional working

- Shared organisational expertise and insight across the region
- Developed a draft Vision and a strategic outcomes framework to support direction of travel
- Undertaken an Options Appraisal of the appropriate governance models that might support the regional partnership
- Reached consensus on the preferred governance model for West Wales i.e., the formation of a new company limited by guarantee (with an option to explore charitable status)

Once operational it is expected that the West Wales Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical Activity will be firmly established as an effective and robust regional body. It will be seen and recognised as providing clear leadership, insight, as well as generating increased resource to effectively encourage and support those delivering sport and physical activity across the region. The partnership will add value and drive change in its approach to community commissioning and delivery, resulting in benefits to all communities across West Wales.

Governance and Legal Framework

The West Wales Project Group have undertaken an Options Appraisal of the governance models that might be best suited to support a Regional Partnership for sport and physical activity. The preferred model is to establish a company limited by guarantee (with the potential to adopt a charitable status in due course).

The West Wales Project Group are in the process of preparing a final business case, for submission to Sport Wales and Welsh Government, in relation to the creation of a Partnership which will receive funding directly from Sport Wales for expenditure on sport and leisure activities and projects across West Wales.

The Transition toward a Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical Activity in West Wales

Over the coming months, partner organisations will collectively develop a business case inclusive of transitional arrangements to support the creation of a Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical Activity. The business case will be informed by existing arrangements with the four individual Local Authorities and other partner interests across the region.

Timeline and Approval Process

The full business case for the creation of a Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical activity will be presented to the partner organisations in West Wales for final approval in January 2023.

The agreed business case will then be submitted to Sport Wales for final approval by Sport Wales at the end of February 2023.

Subject to partner/Sport Wales approval, it is anticipated that the Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical activity in West Wales could be operational from 01st April 2023.

4. Financial Impact

To secure the annual grant for the Active Young People and free swimming the council will need to support and be part of the new sports partnership.

5. Integrated Impact Assessment

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken and is appended as (Appendix 4) to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required.

6. Valleys Communities Impacts

There is no direct overall impact on any valley community as a result of this proposal.

7. Workforce Impacts

At this stage there are no direct impacts on Council staff.

8. Legal Impacts

At this stage there are no legal implications.

9. Risk Management

Failure to ensure a budget could affect the delivery of the Active Young People Programme.

10. Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this report

11. Recommendations

Recommendation 1.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council supports the further development and creation of a new Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical Activity in West Wales.

12. Reasons for Proposed Decision

To continue working in Partnership with Sport Wales and secure funding for the Active Young People Programme. Ensuring there is the right support and opportunities in place for those who are not regularly physically active - with a clear focus on removing barriers for those who need most help.

13. Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

14. Appendices

Appendix 1 Impact Assessment - First Stage

15. List Background Papers of

None

Officer Contact

Paul Walker Operations Coordinator. p.walker@npt.gov.uk 07899923478