

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th November 2020
Report Subject	Establishment of Sport North Wales Partnership
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sport Wales is the national organisation responsible for increasing participation and improving performance in sport in Wales, and one which has historically provided annual funding to each local authority and other partners to undertake a number of sporting programmes and interventions across North Wales. These have included *Active Young People* and the *Free Swimming Initiative*.

The vision for sport in Wales is to develop an Active Nation supported by the Sport Wales Strategy.

In response to this Strategy a collaborative partnership was established (2018) tasked with developing a shared vision and business case. This led to the formation of Sport North Wales (SNW) with thirteen regional partners.

It is proposed that there will be five regional organisations across Wales in the future. SNW will be the pilot region. The business case has been submitted to Sport Wales with a decision due by their Board this month. All 13 partners are being invited to formally support the formation of Sport North Wales under a local authority 'hosted model'. Conwy council is to be host.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To support the establishment of Sport North Wales Partnership (SNW).
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPORTS NORTH WALES PARTNERHIP
1.01	<p>The context for the formation of SNW is the national Vision for Sport in Wales which seeks to transform Wales into an Active Nation (https://visionforsport.wales/) and also the Sport Wales Strategy which envisages a Wales where everyone is Active (https://www.sport.wales/sport-wales-strategy/). This is the starting point for the Sport Wales Partner Investment Strategy and the rationale for SNW.</p>
1.02	<p>The Vision for SNW has been developed through a new collaborative partnership. This is made up of a number of well-established organisations who operate across the region – organisations that share a collective ambition to work together and to make a significant change and impact which will benefit the people of North Wales.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘To empower our communities in North Wales to be more active, leading healthier and happier lives’</p>
1.03	<p>SNW’s collaborative approach reflects the fact that no one organisation can achieve this ambition on its own and it is vital that we work in partnership with communities and other public sector organisations, private sector and third sector to make the improvements happen.</p>
1.04	<p>The Progress of SNW to Date</p> <p>In responding to the new vision for regional working, SNW has been through a number of important developmental stages since the summer of 2018. In summary it has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="416 1608 1366 1675">i) Obtained collective local authority permission to proceed with an Expression of Interest and subsequent Business Case.<li data-bbox="416 1720 1302 1787">ii) Undertaken an Options Appraisal of the best governance models.<li data-bbox="416 1832 1382 1899">iii) Developed consensus of the governance framework i.e. a host authority for an initial term of 5 years.<li data-bbox="416 1944 1374 2056">iv) Developed insight piece to identify key regional issues aligned to the outcomes and identify the delivery partners / projects who are able to provide the solutions and innovation.

1.05	<p>Transitional Arrangements</p> <p>The SNW Strategic Outcomes Framework contributes to the Sport North Wales Year 1 Business Case 2020/21 Transition Phase.</p>
1.06	<p>Following the partner engagement workshops and the creation of the Strategic Outcomes Framework, the first North Wales Regional Plan was developed. This plan was developed and informed by the submission of six individual council-based plans for 2020/21, detailing local commitment and approach to implementing the emerging Sport North Wales Strategic Framework.</p>
1.07	<p>The following key principles underpin the Strategic Outcomes Framework and the regional and local plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partners will commit to working with Sport North Wales (SNW) on the ongoing development of a shared understanding of what collaborative regional leadership, planning and delivery will look like going forward; in considering regional collaboration it will be fundamental to ensure that this happens at all levels and in all possible directions so that priorities, the thinking about how best to address these and the sharing of learning is embedded in and around the SNW Partnership; • partners recognise that future decisions will be based on collective insight and learning, building on the successful aspects of the current delivery system across North Wales, as well as meeting their local needs; • 2021-22 will be a transition year where all partners will need to be proactively and collectively contributing during this period, to ensure we have a truly collaborative and coordinated approach to North Wales; and • partners to continue to consider their Free Swim Plans, within the context of Sport North Wales, and will continue to commit to working with the Sport North Wales and Project Team, Sport Wales and Swim Wales.
1.08	<p>The key principles for funding as part of the transition phase will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils will commit to working with Sport North Wales (SNW) on the ongoing development of a shared understanding of what collaborative regional leadership, planning and delivery will look like going forward; • Councils recognise that future decisions will be based on collective insight and learning, building on the successful aspects of the current delivery system across North Wales, as well as meeting their local needs; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-22 will be a transition into a new way of working. All councils will need to be proactively and collectively contributing during this period, to ensure we have truly collaborative and coordinated approach to North Wales.
1.09	As SNW gathers momentum future editions of the Regional Plan will be informed by the wider collaborative and commissioned partners who will collectively support the implementation of the regional vision.
1.10	In future regional planning exercises, the process of developing the Regional Plan will be wider than just local authorities.
1.11	<p>Host Authority – Conwy CBC</p> <p>It was recognised early on that the transition phase and the early years of SNW will require support from a host organisation. There are three main reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will enable SNW, through the SNW Regional Director, to focus on establishing the partnership and the outcomes to be delivered, as opposed to recruiting staff to deliver back office support. It will enable SNW as a partnership to develop internal learning about the nature and extent of resources it needs internally, and which it can source externally. It will enable understanding from the outset about the budget for organisational operation as distinct from that which will be focussed on the collaborative working to deliver identified outcomes.
1.12	The initial hosting of SNW will be the responsibility of Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC); this was agreed through a competitive process whereby interested parties were invited to bid to be the host organisation.
1.13	<p>The SNW Members agreed that CCBC will be the lead authority for the initial 5 years of the Partnership. The specific role of CCBC is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be the lead and host authority and accountable body for the Sport North Wales Collaboration; Be responsible for the appointment and employment of the Regional Director; As lead and host authority, be allocated an agreed proportion of the Sport Wales Funding to contribute towards the Regional Director role and CCBC's role as the lead and host authority; As the host authority of the Collaboration, be the principal contact for engagement with Sport Wales in relation to the Sport Wales Funding and adherence to the Sport Wales governance requirements on behalf of the Collaboration;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the SNW Account and be responsible for the allocation of funding from the SNW Account as determined by the Governance Board; • Engage employees to roles related to the management and operation of the Collaboration; and • Ensure that Partnership Board and Governance Board meetings are undertaken in accordance with the provisions for the board set out in Appendix 1 of the full Business Case.
1.14	In addition to the above, CCBC will provide organisational and administrative support to SNW.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Policy Framework – The SNW Partnership will have a positive impact on all seven goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, by delivering the vision of Sport Wales.</p> <p>This partnership will contribute to the Council priority of Living Well.</p>
2.02	<p>Budget – Currently, Sport Wales provides separate funding directly to the six local authorities as well as other organisations, which are then responsible for spending in their respective areas. However, if SNW is approved, the cumulative funding from Sport Wales (estimated at c. £2.7m million per annum for the region) will be directed through SNW and decisions on priority investment will be undertaken by the Partnership Board with over-sight by the Governance Board.</p> <p>The indicative total 5 year funding for SNW from 2021/22 to 2025/26 is £13,529,494. This is for community sport; free swimming; Lottery local grant scheme; an Innovation fund; and strategic operating support. (The Lottery and Innovation Funds will be held and administered by Sport Wales but will be available for SNW to draw against).</p> <p>There is no financial risk to the Council. Aura Leisure and Libraries will still be able to apply for the funding to deliver regionally significant projects.</p>
2.03	<p>Legal – The draft Heads of Terms (HOT) for the SNW Partnership is set out in full in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Pursuant to section 2 Local Government Act 2000 and section 111 Local Government Act 1972 the SNW Members will enter into the Inter-Authority Governing Agreement to set out clearly their roles and responsibilities in relation to the governance and structure of SNW.</p> <p>SNW Partners will sign up to the Partnership and the Head of Terms for an initial term of five years from the date on which the Agreement is validated by the SNW Members.</p>

2.04	<p>Staffing – There are presently no staffing implications or TUPE implications. Employees funded from within the identified grants will remain employed by Aura Leisure and Libraries Ltd.</p>
2.05	<p>Equality/Human Rights –</p> <p>Members are advised of their duty to consider the full Equality Impact Assessment which is available at http://vmwinqld/equalityisalive/Menu.aspx report number [E&EI/EIA00085/2020]. Members of the public can request a copy of the full Equality Impact Assessment from the Contact Officer named in the header box of this report.</p> <p>A summary of the Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2.</p> <p>A further draft Equalities Statement has been prepared as part of the submission to Sport Wales, and subject to approval and establishment of SNW, this will be formalised in accordance with the Host Authority’s policies and procedures.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Delays may impact the time frame to recruit both the Regional Director and an independent chair to the Partnership Board.
3.02	There may be a delay in obtaining the final agreement from all partners.
3.03	The risk that the Regional Director Job Description, currently with Conwy’s Job Evaluation team, may not achieve the appropriate grade and salary for a post of this level, as identified in the Business Plan, thereby impacting the recruitment of a candidate of the desired calibre.
3.04	Slight risk that Sport Wales may not approve the Business Plan, although they have been kept informed throughout the process, and have seen drafts of the Business Plan.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>Engagement has taken place with the following partners/stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Anglesey County Council • Gwynedd Council • Denbighshire County Council • Flintshire County Council • Wrexham Borough Council • Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board • GwE (Regional Education Consortium) • Disability Sport Wales

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Wales • Bangor University • Wrexham Glyndwr University • Adra • Cartrefi Conwy • Wales and West Housing Clwyd Alun Housing Association • Grwp Cynefin Housing Association • Tai Gogledd Cymru (North Wales Housing) • Cartrefi Cymunedol
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Establishment of Sport North Wales Partnership Summary Report. Appendix 2 – SNW Business Case.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Full Sport North Wales Business Case.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Chief Executive Telephone: 01352 702101 E-mail: chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None.