

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	19 January 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-being and Independence
Report author	Gary Williams, Head of Legal HR and Democratic Services
Title	Establishment of Sport North Wales Partnership

1. What is the report about?

This report is about the establishment of the Sport North Wales Partnership (SNW)

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek Cabinet's support in principle for the establishment of the Sport North Wales Partnership.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That Cabinet supports in principle the establishment of the Sport North Wales Partnership subject to it approving the final Inter-Authority Agreement.

3.2. That Denbighshire Leisure Limited be appointed to represent the Council on the Governance Board of the Sport North Wales Partnership acting as an agent of the Council.

4. Report details

4.1. Sport Wales is the national organisation responsible for increasing participation and improving performance in sport in Wales, and historically has provided annual funding to each Local Authority and other partners to undertake a number of sporting programmes and interventions across North Wales;

including ‘Active Young People’ and the ‘Free Swimming Initiative’, which are delivered by Wrexham’s Active Wrexham Team.

- 4.2. The Vision for Sport in Wales is to transform Wales into an ‘Active Nation’, supported by the Sport Wales Strategy, which envisages a Wales where everyone is Active, and was the starting point to establish a Sport Wales Partner Investment Strategy.
- 4.3. In response to this Strategy, a collaborative partnership was established in 2018, tasked with developing a shared vision and business case, leading to the formation of Sport North Wales (SNW) – the thirteen partners include the six north Wales Local Authorities, BCUHB; Public Health Wales, Housing Associations; Universities; GwE; and Disability Sport Wales – who have worked together to develop the shared Business Case and shared vision: *‘To empower our communities in North Wales to be more active, leading healthier and happier lives’*
- 4.4. It is proposed that there will be five regional organisations across Wales in the future, however SNW will be the pilot region, and the structures and processes implemented in the formation of SNW will provide learning to help establish the other four regional bodies.
- 4.5. The agreed Business Case has been submitted to Sport Wales for their consideration and decision at their Board on 26 November 2020. All partners (Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn/Isle of Anglesey County Council, Cyngor Gwynedd/Gwynedd Council, Cyngor Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire County Council, Cyngor Sir y Fflint/Flintshire County Council, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy/ Conwy County Borough Council, Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr/Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, GwE (Regional Education Consortium), Chwaraeon Anabledd Cymru/Disability Sport Wales, Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru/Public Health Wales, Prifysgol Bangor/Bangor University, Prifysgol Glyndŵr/Wrexham Glyndwr University, Cymdeithasau Tai Rhanbarthol/ Regional Housing Associations) are currently seeking formal approval from their respective organisations to support the establishment of Sport North Wales. A template report has been prepared for submission to each partner body and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The template report

has appended to it the Heads of Terms for the Inter-Authority Agreement that will need to be entered into by each of the partners.

- 4.6. 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. The indicative total 5-year funding for SNW from 2021/22 to 2025/26 is £13,529,494.
- 4.7. The collaborative partnership has agreed to adopt a local authority ‘hosted model’ approach pursuant to section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, whereby Local Authority Members enter into an Inter-Authority Governing Agreement, which sets out clearly their roles and responsibilities in relation to the governance and structure of SNW.
- 4.8. As a consequence of the governance model which has been proposed, it is necessary to identify a Host Organisation to support this collaborative work, and, following partner engagement workshops, Conwy CBC registered an expression of interest in becoming the Host Authority, and submitted a Business Case to undertake the role for an initial term of five years. It is therefore proposed that Conway CBC will be the Host Authority.
- 4.9. The Governance Board of SNW will be made up of representatives of each of the six North Wales local authorities. It is proposed that Denbighshire Leisure Limited (DLL) represent the Council at this Board acting as agent of the Council. Any significant decisions that are required to be made by the Board may be submitted through the Council’s decision making processes for ratification. DLL will report on the work of the Board through the existing contract management meetings and the Strategic Governance Board.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The provision of activities funded by Sport North Wales will contribute to the physical well-being of residents of all ages.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

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.

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).

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

SNW has undertaken an internal assessment of the SNW Vision against the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Sport Wales Strategy priorities and outcomes. 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. A separate Well-being Impact Assessment has not therefore been completed.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Engagement has taken place with the following partners/stakeholders:

- Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn/Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Cyngor Gwynedd/Gwynedd Council
- Cyngor Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire County Council
- Cyngor Sir y Fflint/Flintshire County Council
- Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy/Conwy County Borough Council
- Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr/Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- GwE (Regional Education Consortium)
- Chwaraeon Anabledd Cymru/Disability Sport Wales
- Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru/Public Health Wales

- Prifysgol Bangor/Bangor University
- Prifysgol Glyndŵr/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

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The level of funding will not change as a result of the new arrangements. However, there is a risk going forward that the regional priorities do not match local ones which may mean that further investment is required in order to meet those local priorities. Having a constructive and strong representation on the SNW Boards will help mitigate that risk.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There is a risk that if the Council is not a party to the Sport North Wales Partnership, it will not be in a position to influence the transformation of sport in North Wales and ensure Denbighshire continues to receive investment to develop participation in sport and physical activity

11. Power to make the decision

s2 Local Government Act 2000

s111 Local Government Act 1972