

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

**“C187       SPORTS DEVELOPMENT REGIONALISATION (LSW) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek approval for the Vale of Glamorgan to become part of the Central South Sports Development initiative as a Strategic Partner. Sport Partnerships had already been set up in West and North Wales and it was hoped that the Central South Region would be next.

The Leader said that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had worked productively with Sport Wales in the past.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1)     T H A T the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to agree the governance arrangements and enter the Vale of Glamorgan Council into the Central South Sports Partnership as a Strategic Partner.

(2)     T H A T the report be referred to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

(3)     T H A T the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee receive regular reports on the progress of the Central South Regional Sports Partnership.

Reasons for decisions

(1)     To ensure that Sports Development continued to function efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the Council's communities.

(2)     To keep the Scrutiny Committee informed of the development and to allow for any comments to be considered prior to entering into the partnership.

(3) To monitor the performance of the Central South Sports Partnership from the perspective of the Vale of Glamorgan and to have the ability to share any appropriate information with Cabinet.”

Attached as Appendix – Report to Cabinet: 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 14 December 2023</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Sports Development Regionalisation
Purpose of Report:	To seek approval for the Vale of Glamorgan to become part of the Central South Sports Development initiative as a Strategic Partner.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing
Responsible Officer:	Director of Environment and Housing Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Accountant Environment and Housing Legal – Committee Reports Operational Manager – Accountancy
Policy Framework:	This Report is within the Policy Framework and Budget and for Executive decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport Wales has been progressing a regionalisation model for Sports Development for approximately 5 years.</li> <li>• The proposed geographical model follows that established for the Regional Educational Partnerships with the Vale of Glamorgan placed within the Central South region.</li> <li>• Sport Wales is keen that the partnerships include additional partners such as Health Boards, and regional educational establishments. The choice of operating model for the partnership needs to be agreed by the partners and is likely to vary across Wales.</li> <li>• Central South discussions have concluded that the establishment of a company limited by guarantee (with an option to explore charitable status later) that will distribute funds to Local Authorities based primarily on existing levels, would be the most advantageous operating model. This conclusion is based on the vast geographical and population differences between the various partners. Clearly where opportunities exist to work in partnership with another member or all members of the Central South sports partnership these will be fully explored.</li> </ul>	

- It is therefore recommended that the Vale of Glamorgan Council plays an active role as an executive member of the new Central South Sports Partnership.

## **Recommendations**

- 1.** That the Director of Environment and Housing Services, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to agree the governance arrangements and enter the Vale of Glamorgan Council into the Central South Sports Partnership as a Strategic Partner.
- 2.** That this Report be referred to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.
- 3.** That the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee receive regular reports on the progress of the Central South Regional Sports Partnership.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 1.** To ensure that Sports Development continues to function efficiently and effectively for the benefit of our communities.
- 2.** To keep the Scrutiny Committee informed of this development and to allow for any comments to be considered prior to entering into the partnership.
- 3.** To monitor the performance of the Central South Sports Partnership from the perspective of the Vale of Glamorgan and to have the ability to share any appropriate information with Cabinet.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1** Sports Wales announced several years ago their preference to establish regional Sports Partnerships.
- 1.2** Discussions have been on-going with Sport Wales and the 5 Local Authorities (Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Vale of Glamorgan) to be included in a Central South Region. These discussions have considered the benefits of regionalisation and the potential models that could be adopted to deliver an effective and efficient partnership. Given the variation that exists between existing delivery models for Sports Development, land areas (mainly urban to large areas of countryside) and significant population variations, it has proven challenging to choose a model where everyone feels an equal partner.
- 1.3** Sport Wales is also keen to ensure that all regional partnerships involve more than just Local Authorities in their structure, as all parties recognise the importance of health, education and other organisations in growing physical activity levels across Wales. The Cardiff Metropolitan University, who directly deliver Sports Development for Cardiff Council, as well as representatives from both Health Boards and the Police commissioner's office have therefore also been directly involved in on-going discussions regarding the proposed Sports Partnership. It is expected that further representation will come from other educational establishments and other interested organisations as the regional partnership establishes itself.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1** The objective is to have a Central South Sports Partnership in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
- 2.2** The model proposed for the Central South Sports Partnership and supported in principle by all of the Local Authorities representatives on the project board, is the establishment of a company limited by guarantee (with an option to explore charitable status later) that will distribute funds. Each Local Authority is presently preparing a similar report to this to seek approval to become a Strategic Partner of the Central South Sports Partnership. Further details regarding this proposal and the discussions that have taken place can be found at Appendix A (this appendix is being included in each Cabinet report).
- 2.3** Understandably, each Local Authority is keen to protect the funding it currently receives from Sport Wales to deliver important wellbeing services in its communities and to prevent redundancies. For year 1 of the partnership all funding will be distributed based upon approximate allocation individual Councils received in previous years. Any changes in year 1 are not related to the regionalisation process but as a result of changes to the funding formula from Sport Wales, and in turn, the settlement they receive from Welsh Government and the National Lottery. Early indications suggest it unlikely that there will be any significant changes given the value Welsh Government places on physical activity and health related services.
- 2.4** Currently, Sport Wales provides separate funding directly to the five local authorities located in Central South. These local authorities are then responsible for spending this funding in their respective area. When the Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical Activity becomes fully operational, it will then receive and distribute the regional investment into Central South from Sport Wales. This investment will be based on the new investment criteria and will be communicated to all current partners from September 2024.
- 2.5** The Regional Partnership will then decide how this money is spent in Central South to deliver on its priorities. A draft budget for the initial 5 years will be agreed with Sport Wales considering the following transitional arrangements.

### Timescales:

2023-24: Establish the regional governance structures (Board, independent chair and staff as required). During this year local authorities will continue to receive Sport Wales funding directly.

2024-25: A single Sport Wales payment will be made into the new Sport Partnership and be distributed accordingly with partners. This year will continue to a transition year supporting Local Authority partners, as well as identifying new partners and collaborative opportunities.

2025-26: The Sports Partnerships will make decisions on partner funding based on data and insight. This will be agreed and signed off by Sport Wales.

- 2.6** Clearly it is expected that the Partnership will provide the opportunity to share resources on projects, to generate further external funds and to consider where resources are needed if members of staff leave the service. However, should at any stage any Local Authority feel disadvantaged by decisions made by the Board, in relation to either resources or policy, representations can be made to Sport Wales and reported through an individual Council's reporting mechanisms. It is hoped that this will not be necessary as all Local Authority representatives are committed to the principles of the partnership with the objective of improving both Sport Development services and providing more opportunities for communities to become healthier.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** Sports development work is a significant contributor to the Wellbeing Outcome of 'An Active & Healthy Vale', particularly to the objective of 'encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles. However, sports development is also cross cutting and can impact across all of the well-being goals including tackling inequalities, education/learning goals and enabling people to participate and contribute in their local communities. In delivering the actions identified in the Vale Sport & Physical Activity Plan, the Council are also contributing to the national well-being goals, in particular 'a Healthier Wales'.
- 3.2** Throughout the sports planning and delivery process consideration is given to the five ways of working. Partnership working is an essential element to identify priority areas for development and to successfully implement the identified actions. The Sports Development teamwork with more than 130 statutory and non-statutory organisations / groups to maximise the impact of the respective sports plans. Clearly, the proposed regional partnership will be most significant move in terms of partnership working.
- 3.3** Participation in sport and physical activity has known long term preventative health and wellbeing benefits and the inclusion of sport and physical activity in key corporate and partnership plans highlight this contribution.
- 3.4** An integrated multi partnership approach to the development of sport/physical activity services in the Vale of Glamorgan is the only way in which a service can be realistically delivered within the current climate, where resources within both the voluntary and statutory sector are reducing. This continues to be the basis on which sports and physical activity opportunities are being developed. The proposed regional partnership will create further opportunities for the benefit of local communities.

- 3.5** The Sports Development team consult with existing and potential participants about future requirements through a variety of mechanisms including surveys, consultation at events and through links to partner groups /organisations. Consultation with targeted groups also take place to ensure the service delivered meets their needs and works to overcome barriers faced. Such examples include data obtained from the national School Sport Survey and through peer-led consultation. These are used to inform delivery of initiatives such as the extra-curricular school programme where pupil voice is used to plan provision. Existing data gathered through consultation mechanisms such as S106 consultation, community mapping consultations and the Schools Health Research Network (SHRN) survey also inform planning and ensure involvement of the local community and potential /existing partners.
- 3.6** Cabinet is asked to note that the provision of ‘Play’ services is not part of the regional Partnership proposals.

## **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** The Vale of Glamorgan Sport Development and Play team is committed to reducing any impact on the environment and to reducing climate change.

## **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 5.1** There are no immediate financial implications at this stage of the process as detailed in the report. All costs associated with the establishment of the Sports Partnership are being met by Sport Wales. The Vale of Glamorgan received a grant of £333,302 from Sport Wales for Sports Development activities in 2023/24. Any significant future financial changes to this grant will be reported to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees as appropriate. During recent conversations with Sport Wales all funded partners, including Local Authorities and Governing Bodies for Sport, have been warned that there could be a cut in grants for 2024/25 because of reduced funding for Sport Wales from Welsh Government and not regionalisation proposals.

### **Employment**

- 5.2** During discussions regarding the establishment of a regional Sports Partnership employment issues have been a key consideration. Each Local Authority, either directly or via delivery partners, is committed to having no adverse implications for existing employees. Sports Development staff employed directly by the Vale of Glamorgan will continue to be directly employed for the foreseeable future. A discussion did take place about having a hosting authority, but this was rejected as the employment implications could become significant for one Authority should funding be significantly reduced at some point in the future.



### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.3** The legal implications of entering into the regional Central South Sports Partnership are presently being assessed and no formal agreement to join the partnership will be progressed until the Council's legal department have been fully consulted. Given that Sports Partnerships have already been established in other regions of Wales, albeit some are operating under different models, this is not seen as being a major issue.

### **6. Background Papers**

None.

## **Creation of a Regional Sport Partnership in the Central South Region**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this paper is to request Partner Organisations to confirm their involvement in the further development and creation of a new Regional Sport Partnership in the Central South Region.

#### **Background and context: The Aspiration**

Sport Partnerships are aiming to be a game changer for future generations, transforming the way community sport is created, delivered, lead, and funded, to overcome ongoing and stubborn inequalities in participation in sport and physical activity; transforming Wales into an active nation where everyone can have a lifelong enjoyment of sport.

There will be five Sport Partnerships operating across Wales:

- Actif North Wales (Operational since 2021)
- Central South
- Gwent
- Mid Wales
- West Wales

The context behind the formation of a Regional Sport Partnership 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/>)

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 Sport 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, it's purpose and how best it should be structured to meet the needs of local communities.

## Progress to Date

A Central South Sport Partnership Project Working Group was formed in the summer of 2022 to respond to the new vision for regional working and to progress thinking on the structure and purpose of a Sport Partnership.

The current organisations within the Regional Partnership Project Working Group are:

Bridgend County Council	Cardiff Metropolitan University
Cardiff Council	South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board
Vale of Glamorgan County Council	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Council

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.

The Project Working Group has been through several exploratory stages of discussion, which have begun to shape early thinking for the Sports Partnership. In summary the Project Working 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.
- Explored shared areas of strategic common interest.  
Received an Options Appraisal of some governance models and explored approaches to operational delivery that might be appropriate to support a regional partnership of this type in Central South.
- Sport Wales, the sponsor of the Sport Partnership project, anticipate that the Central South Sport Partnership will be firmly established as an effective and robust regional body providing clear leadership for the region, insight and evaluation, and the opportunity to generate increased resource from diverse funding streams 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 Central South.

## Establishing a Sport Partnership

Sport Wales have previously received expressions of interest from partners to help shape the future of Sport Partnership for the Central South Region,

Over the coming months, partner organisations will be invited to develop a business case inclusive of transitional arrangements to support the creation of a Sports Partnership. The business case will be informed by existing arrangements with the four individual Local Authorities and other partner interests across the region and will include:

- Structure of Sports Partnership
- Vision and Strategic Outcomes Framework
- Governance Framework
- Operational Approach (including Executive Team)
- Sports Partnership 5-year Budget

- Evaluation and Insight
- Action Plan for transition to a regional Sports Partnership

### **Timeline and Approval Process**

It is anticipated that the full business case for the creation of a Sports Partnership will be presented to the partner organisations in Central South for final approval in the summer/autumn of 2023.

The agreed business case will then be submitted to Sport Wales for final approval.

Subject to partner/Sport Wales approval, it is anticipated that the Sports Partnership for in the Central South region could be operational from 01st April 2024.

### **Funding**

As has been highlighted above, the new Regional Sports Partnership will be the entity that receives and manages the investment funding from Sport Wales. It is the intention that the partnership board will be responsible for disseminating this funding across the region. Initially, the funding allocation will remain un-changed from current allocations to each Local Authority, however as the Partnership matures, we envisage more robust and evidenced driven insight to shape and inform the dissemination of this funding.

### **Recommendation**

It is requested that *each* Partner Organisation decides which of the following options it wishes to pursue:

- a) To continue to be an active partner within the Project Working Group to support the further development and creation of a new regional Sports Partnership for Central South.
- b) To withdraw from the Central South Sport Partnership Project Working Group but seek to become a commissioned partner for the delivery of sport and physical activity when the Sport Partnership goes live.

Partner organisations are requested that they confirm their preferred option with the Chair of the Central South Project Group by the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023. .

## **Creation of a Sport Partnership in the Central South Region**

### **1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this paper is to request Partner Organisations to confirm their involvement in the further development and creation of a new Regional Sport Partnership in the Central South Region.

### **2. Background and context: The Aspiration**

Sport Partnerships are aiming to be a game changer for future generations, transforming the way community sport is created, delivered, lead, and funded, to overcome ongoing and stubborn inequalities in participation in sport and physical activity; transforming Wales into an active nation where everyone can have a lifelong enjoyment of sport.

The context behind the formation of a Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical Activity 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 SWW Partner Investment Strategy and the rationale for a Regional Partnership for Sport and Physical activity in West Wales.

Sport Partnerships are aiming to be a game changer for future generations, transforming the way community sport and physical activity is created, delivered, lead, and funded, to overcome ongoing and stubborn inequalities in participation in sport and physical activity; transforming Wales into an active nation where everyone can have a lifelong enjoyment of sport.

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.

### **3. 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.

They will be led by insight and be person centred in their 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, it's purpose and how best it should be structured to meet the needs of local communities.

#### **4. Why do we need to change?**

The ambition of Sport Wales is to want Wales to be an active nation where everyone has the opportunity to have a lifelong enjoyment of sport. For some this is already the case, but despite multiple efforts and interventions, others are still unable to access the same level of opportunities to take part and enjoy being physically active.

For many years, as a sector, Sport Wales have been aware of stubborn inequalities in participation. It has become apparent that despite everyone's best efforts the current model of delivery can only take us so far; it cannot bring about the scale of change required. These are long standing issues over many years and coupled with the recent effects of Covid-19 the need to act with purpose has never been greater.

Sport Wales believe the creation of the 5 Sport Partnerships across Wales will provide the infrastructure to support great initiatives across Wales, combining insight and resources where greater and more sustainable outcomes can be achieved, and introducing new partners to better engage with different communities.

The way in which Sport Wales currently funds community sport through 22 individual Local Authorities does not always allow for these new collaborative and innovative approaches and as such, have been working on a transformational approach that will remodel the delivery of local sport opportunities through the creation of 5 Sport Partnerships.

This is not an easy task and requires a collective and coordinated commitment.

#### **5, The Facts**

Despite concerted effort across the sector over a number of years participation levels among those taking part the least have, on mass, barely changed.

The following data is from the most recent insight at national and regional level:

##### **Children (School Sport Survey 2022): Data for Central South**

Ethnically diverse communities – 64% do not participate at least three or more times a week.

Disabled children – 65% do not participate at least three or more times a week.

Schools with highest FSM claimants - 68% do not participate at least three or more times a week.

Girls – 64% do not participate at least three or more times a week (72% for 'other').

93% have a demand to do more (56% have a demand to do more and participate less than 3 times a week).

##### **Adults (National Survey for Wales 2021-22): Data for Central South**

66% participated in sport three or more times a week.

31% of adults want to do more.

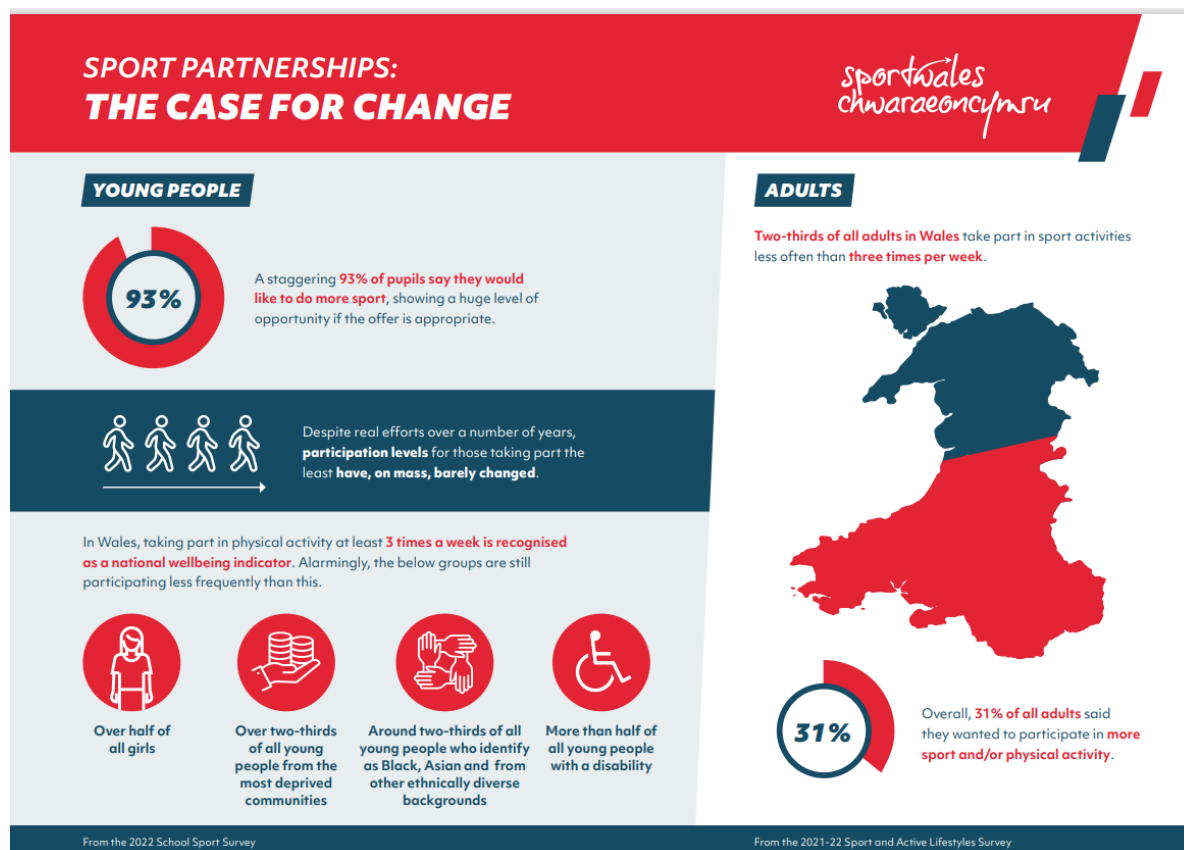
The Covid-19 pandemic has only increased the inequalities that already existed. Most recent research shows that women (18%), those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds (22%) and those aged 55+ (23%) were more likely (than their counterparts) to report that they had participated in 'no activity' at all during summer 21. The need for urgent and largescale action has hugely increased.

(Source: Sport Wales Insights Team)

The World Health Organisation report “Building a strong physical activity system for more active people” 2021 identifies an urgent need that “To accelerate progress, recover from the impact of COVID-19 and unlock the full potential of physical activity, we must come together in strong partnership to affect change”.

We know that there is a huge amount of potential both within the sector and beyond to make a real difference against these inequalities if we come together and look at innovative approaches.

Below is the update 2023 edition:



## 6. The Opportunity that Sport Partnerships Present

Sport Partnerships will champion the power of sport, demonstrating and celebrating the benefits it can provide on local health, community cohesion, reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, skills development, and lifelong learning.

They will bring together the sport and leisure sectors alongside representatives from other key social and equalities areas, allowing them as a body to better understand the different communities within their area, and to then engage and make better connections especially within those communities where participation is low.

Sport Partnerships will bring a collective power. They will support those currently delivering sport and physical activity by ensuring the pooling of resources across a region, by limiting duplication, by better facilitating the sharing of learning and insight and, over time, by having the flexibility and ability to seek funding from other sources to support their work.

## 7. How Sport Partnerships could work

Sport Wales recognise that current partners are doing great things and see a continued and key role for them within the Sport Partnerships. But recognising the need for change, we also hope that each partnership will combine a wide range of contributing stakeholders unique to each Sport Partnership and reflective of the population they are seeking to serve.

Placing local needs and make up at the centre of how a Sport Partnership will operate, we recognise that each individual body may look different to the next and will be led by those best placed to understand and reach those groups who are not currently participating.

The greatest level of success will only be achieved through a collective buy-in. Through a Sport Partnership there will be a commitment and responsibility for all organisations to work together better, to put the participant at the forefront of our thinking, and to be more innovative in our approaches, limiting duplication of effort and missed opportunities

## 8. Progress to Date

In North Wales, a multi-sector partnership has worked with Sport Wales to develop an innovative approach to the delivery of sport and physical activity. Actif North Wales is now operational as the first Sport Partnership in Wales.

Across the rest of Wales, there is positive engagement with a wide range of traditional and new partners, with good progress being made in West Wales and Mid Wales regions. The project is currently on track to see at least 2 more Sport Partnerships established in 2023.

It is expected that all Sport Partnerships will be operational by April 2024.

## 9. The Central South Sports Partnership

A Central South Sport Partnership Project Working Group was formed in the summer of 2022 to respond to the new vision for regional working and to progress thinking on the structure and purpose of a Sport Partnership.

The current organisations within the Sports Partnership Project Working Group are:

Bridgend County Council	Cardiff Metropolitan University
Cardiff Council	South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board
Vale of Glamorgan County Council	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Council

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.

The Project Working Group has been through several exploratory stages of discussion, which have begun to shape early thinking for the Sports Partnership. In summary the Project Working 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.
- Explored shared areas of strategic common interest.



Received an Options Appraisal of some governance models and explored approaches to operational delivery that might be appropriate to support a regional partnership in Central South.

#### **10. The Transition toward a Sport partnership in Central South.**

Over the coming months, partner organisations are invited to collectively develop a business case inclusive of transitional arrangements to support the creation of a Sports Partnership.

The business case will be informed by existing arrangements with the four individual Local Authorities and other partner interests across the region.

The ambition of the partners and the commissioning body, Sport Wales, is to launch an operational regional partnership from April 2024 onward. Moving forward, Partner plans will seek to align to the regional (draft) Vision and Strategic Outcomes Framework.

The following key principles will underpin a regional vision and strategic outcomes framework, Central South Regional Operational Plan, and local partner plans:

- Partners will commit to working with the Sports Partnership in 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 Sport 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 Central South, as well as meeting their local needs.
- 2023-24 will be a transition year where all partners will need to be proactively and collectively contributing during this period, to ensure we adopt a truly collaborative and coordinated approach to Central South; and
- The Key Principles for the continuation of funding Central South LA's during the transition period 2023/24 will be:
  - LA Partners will commit to working with the Sports Partnership on the ongoing development of a shared understanding of what collaborative regional leadership, planning and delivery will look like going forward.
  - LA Partners recognise that future decisions will be based on collective insight and learning, building on the successful aspects of the current delivery system across West Wales, as well as meeting their local needs; and
  - 2023-24 will be a transition into a new way of working. All LA Partners will need to be proactively and collectively contributing during this period, to ensure we have truly collaborative and coordinated approach to the Central South region.

- As the Sport Partnership gathers momentum future editions of the regional plan will be informed by the wider collaborative and commissioned partners who collectively will support the implementation of the regional vision.

The business case will be informed by existing arrangements with the four individual Local Authorities and other partner interests across the region and will include:

- Structure of Sports Partnership
- Vision and Strategic Outcomes Framework
- Governance Framework
- Operational Approach including Executive Team
- Sports Partnership 5-year Budget
- Evaluation and Insight
- Action Plan for transition to a regional Sports Partnership

## **11. Governance and Legal Framework**

The Project Working Group members understand that good governance is a key foundation for the success of a Sports Partnership, and this is not only the management of day-to-day operations but rather the framework of strategy, risk management controls and processes and an organisational approach to ensure the culture, values and integrity are observed by all.

The creation of the Sports Partnership will facilitate spending across a wider platform and support the regions vision for sport and physical activity and value approaches that promote healthy lifestyles and quality of life for all, which in turn aligns with the Sport Wales strategy and ultimately contributes to the sector-wide vision of "an active nation where everyone can have a lifelong enjoyment of sport".

To support the final business case for the creation of a Sports Partnership, the Project Working Group will need to present a legal and governance framework with their business case, to demonstrate that a strong structure is in place which will ensure that the interests of the Central South region are represented within a decision-making process which is effective and will support achievement of the:

- 1) Objectives.
- 2) Vision; and
- 3) Sport Wales Governance and Leadership Framework; and
- 4) Sport Wales Capability Framework.

The LA Partners have the power to enter into a Regional Partnership to promote sport and physical activity in the Central South region pursuant to section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972. The LA Partners will not delegate their discretionary functions to the Sports Partnership but will be looking to support the delivery of the objectives through the formation and active engagement in a Sports Partnership.

The other current parties (the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Cardiff Metropolitan University) will ensure that internal governance requirements are satisfied prior to becoming a partner of the legal entity set up to operate as a Sports Partnership.

The creation of a Sports Partnership will create a separate legal entity that will be able to:

- (i) contract as a recipient of grant funding from Sports Wales.
- (ii) invite bids and applications for financial and other assistance from third parties; and
- (iii) contract with grant recipients to ensure that outcomes and objectives are delivered.

Following approval, by all Regional Partners, of the principle of adopting the preferred legal entity structure, the Central South Project Working Group will prepare Heads of Terms which will set out how a Sports Partnership will operate in practice (e.g., day to day decision making, strategic approvals, appointment and removal of representatives, reserved matters, and other corporate governance decision making structures).

Once the Heads of Terms have been considered and approved by each of the Regional Partners then a full suite of corporate documents to form a Sports Partnership will be prepared and agreed with the Regional Partners. These corporate documents will include a strategic partnership agreement, draft minutes of the first meeting of the legal entity and the appointment of representatives and other skills-based people to the board of the Sports Partnership.

## **12. Regional Investment**

Currently, Sport Wales provides separate funding directly to the five local authorities located in the Central South region. These local authorities are then responsible for spending this funding in their respective area.

When the Sports Partnership becomes operational, it will then receive regional investment into Central South from Sport Wales, which is estimated to be circa £3 million per annum. The regional partnership will then decide how this money is spent in Central South to deliver on its priorities.

A draft budget for the initial 5 years of the Regional Partnership life will be set out in the final business case.

## **13. Timeline and Approval Process**

- The business case for the creation of a Sports Partnership will be presented to the partner organisations for final approval in the summer/autumn of 2023.
- The agreed business case will then be submitted to Sport Wales for final approval by Sport Wales by the end of February 2023.
- Subject to approval, it is anticipated that the Sports Partnership in Central South could be operational from 01st April 2024.

## **14. Funding**

As has been highlighted above, the new Regional Sports Partnership will be the entity that receives and manages the investment funding from Sport Wales. It is the intention that the partnership board will be responsible for disseminating this funding across the region. Initially, the funding allocation will remain un-changed from current allocations to each Local Authority, however as the Partnership matures, we envisage more robust and evidenced driven insight to shape and inform the dissemination of this funding.

We are aware however, that in each Local Authority the Sport Wales investment only represents a proportion of total investment into Sport and Physical Activity. It is therefore crucial for policy

makers to understand that moving to a regional model will not replace or provide alternative funding streams to cover any locally funded delivery by Partners. The size of the Regional Sport Partnership investment will remain largely un-changed, certainly during its infancy. It is the aim that by working collaboratively additional funding streams will be sourced to enhance local delivery in line with the agreed strategic objectives of the Regional Sports Partnership.

## **15. Conclusion**

Sport Wales anticipate that the Central South Sport Partnership will be firmly established as an effective and robust regional body providing clear leadership for the region, insight and evaluation, and the opportunity to generate increased resource from diverse funding streams to effectively encourage and support those delivering sport and physical activity across the region.

The Sports Partnership will add value and drive change in its approach to community commissioning and delivery, resulting in benefits to all communities across Central South.

This will be measured through a regional output and outcome system. This Performance Management Framework will be developed to support and benefit cross sector collaboration and will be based on learning, evidence, and impact.

The Regional Partnership will also provide a powerful, collective voice that will advocate and represent West Wales at both a regional and a national level.

## **16. Recommendation**

It is requested that (insert name of each Partner Organisation) decides which of the following options it wishes to pursue:

- a) To continue to be an active partner within the Project Working Group to support the further development and creation of a new Sports Partnership for Central South.
- b) To withdraw from the Central South Sport Partnership Project Working Group but seek to become a commissioned partner for the delivery of sport and physical activity once the Sport Partnership goes live in April 2024.

**Partner organisations are requested that they confirm their preferred option with the Chair of the Central South Project Group by the 17th of March 2023.**