

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting:	18 May 2021
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gareth Thomas
Contact person:	Sioned E Williams, Head of Economy and Community
Contact number:	32547
Subject:	Hosting authority for the Sport North Wales Partnership

DECISION SOUGHT

Cabinet approval for Gwynedd Council to be the host authority for the Sport North Wales Partnership.

Delegate the power to agree and complete a revised joint working agreement to the Head of Economy and Community in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and Head of Finance

REASONS FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

Request to review the Partnership's hosting arrangements changing the host authority from Conwy Council to Gwynedd Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Cabinet approved a report on 15/12/2020 for Gwynedd Council to be part of the Sport North Wales Partnership (SNW) along with twelve other partners. The intention at that time was that Conwy Council was the host authority.

1.2 Following further discussions with Sport Wales over recent months, it became clear that Conwy Council would no longer be in a position to be the host authority. The main reason for this is the Authority's ability to meet the employment requirements of a Regional Director post as agreed between the Sports North Wales Board and Sport Wales in the business case.

- 1.3 As Sport North Wales' new model of collaboration is dependent on having a host authority and no other partner was in a position to offer to fulfil the role within the requirements of the program, Gwynedd Council has been invited to act as the host authority.

Host Authority

- 1.4 It was recognised at an early stage that the support of a host organisation would be required for the transition period and the early years of SNW. This is due to three main reasons:

- It will enable SNW, through the Regional Director, to focus on establishing the partnership and the outcomes to be achieved, rather than recruiting staff to provide 'back office' support
- It will enable us to learn about SNW as a partnership in order to develop in-house learning about the nature and extent of resources required internally, and which can be sourced externally
- It will enable an understanding from the outset of the budget for operating the organisation as distinct from that which focuses on collaboration to achieve identified outcomes.

- 1.5 It will be the responsibility of Gwynedd Council as host authority to carry out SNW initially.

- 1.6 SNW Members agreed that Gwynedd Council will be the lead authority for the first five years of the Partnership. Gwynedd Council's role in particular is:

- Be the host and lead authority, and accountable body, of Sports North Wales Collaborative;
- To be responsible for the appointment and employment of the Regional Director;
- As host and lead authority, to receive an agreed share of Sport Wales funding to contribute to the Regional Director post and role as host authority - £159,119 in the first year, £115,000 annually for the following 4 years (the difference will be funded from additional external income);
- As the host authority for the Collaboration, to act as the main contact for engagement with Sport Wales in relation to Sport Wales funding, and adherence to Sport Wales' governance requirements on behalf of the Collaboration;
- Manage the SNW Account and be responsible for allocating funds from the SNW Account in accordance with the decisions of the Governance Board;
- Engage employees in positions involved in the management and implementation of the Collaboration;

- Ensure that Partnership Board and Governance Board meetings are held in accordance with the provisions for the board.

1.7 In addition to the above, Gwynedd Council will offer administrative support to SNW.

Finance

1.8 Sport Wales currently provides separate funding directly to the six local authorities, which are then responsible for spending in their respective regions. SNW will receive cumulative funding from Sport Wales (estimated at around £2.7 million per annum for the region) directed through SNW and priority investment decisions will be made by the Partnership Board with oversight by the Governance Board.

1.9 Total 5 year indicative funding for SNW between 2021/22 and 2025/26 is £13,529,494. This is for community sports; free swimming; a local Lottery grant scheme; innovation fund; and strategic implementation support. (The Lottery and Innovation Funds will be held and administered by Sport Wales but will be available for SNW to draw against).

1.10 There is no financial risk to Gwynedd Council - our Leisure and Young People Departments will still be able to bid for the funding to deliver significant regional projects.

2 NEXT STEPS AND TIMESCALE

2.1 On approval of the plan, it is intended to adopt it immediately.

3 ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

3.1 We have engaged with the following partners / stakeholders:

- Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Wrexham Borough Council
- Sport Wales.

3.2 Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

As noted in the report the Cabinet has already agreed to participate in this partnership therefore the change relates to the assumption of the host authority role by Gwynedd Council. There is no statutory Joint Committee within the governance arrangements therefore the resource requirements in relation to these aspects are lower than for other joint working projects.

ii. Head of Finance:

The list of host and lead authority actions in section 1.6 of this report highlights that there will be a role for Finance and responsibilities for Gwynedd Council in employing officers, receiving income and allocating funds from the North Wales Sport account. However, while the funding from Sport Wales will be around £2.7 million a year for the region, I am satisfied that the hosting and governance of these less formal arrangements will not be as substantial as some of the other current joint committees.

I understand that a contribution will be made to the Council as a host authority, and the costs of support will need to be met, including IT and insurance. I note part 1.10 of the report stating that there is no financial risk to Gwynedd Council, and in order to achieve this the relevant agreement will need to ensure that employment risks and any relevant liabilities, such as potential losses or pensions are shared between the partners. Subject to this, I am satisfied for the Cabinet to approve the decision sought.