

Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership – Delegated Authority to Sign Partnership Agreement

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek delegated authority for officers to sign the Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership agreement.

2. Recommendations

It is **RECOMMENDED** that

- 2.1. **Members agree to delegate authority to the Community Partnerships Team Leader to sign the Wiltshire and Swindon Partnership Agreement 2005-2009**

3. Links to the Corporate Business Plan

- 3.1. The Council's priority of Healthy Lifestyles includes aims to raise awareness of the need for healthy lifestyles for all ages, increase participation within sport and physical activity – especially involving the disadvantaged and disengaged. And seek opportunities for providing added value into existing mechanisms and workplace structures to improve the health and well-being of the population.
- 3.2. The Council's Partnerships priority highlights the development and delivery of community based projects arising from the community planning process that could support the delivery of other Council Priorities including Housing, Equalities and Diversity and Healthy Lifestyles.

4. General Background Information

- 4.1. Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Partnership (WASSP) is a part of a network of 45 county sports partnerships nation-wide that are supported by Sport England. The Partnership is an alliance of local, regional and national bodies working together to boost participation in sport and physical activity across the county. This purpose is to meet not only local need but the Government target of increasing the levels of those participating in regular physical activity to 50% of the population by 2020.
- 4.2. The Partnership has recently published 'First Active' a three year strategy that has been designed encourage Wiltshire residents to **start** to participate in regular sport or physical activity, to ensure people **stay** active and will support more people to **succeed** in achieving personal goals.
- 4.3. 'Game Plan' sets out the Government's plan for sport, the document clearly sets out the level of importance and clear association that the Government places between sport and physical activity and overall well-being. Earlier this year Lord Carter published a report that highlighted the importance of improving the co-ordination of both effort and resources. The report specifically recommends County Sports Partnerships that are set up to achieve three core functions;
- Strategic co-ordination – to optimise the efforts of local deliverers
 - Marketing and communication – to promote sport to key decision makers and investment partners
 - Performance management – to track progress thoroughly

- 4.4. The report recommends that the County sports partnerships include Government, national governing bodies of sport, clubs, schools, local authorities, business and the community and voluntary sector.
- 4.5. Sport England is committed to increasing the levels of participation and promoting the wider health benefits of sport and physical activity alongside promoting access and success in sports. They are managing the allocation of Government budgets through the County Sports Partnerships through a number of funding streams.

5. Discussion

- 5.1. WASSP has been in existence as a partnership since 2000 and the main core of the work of the Partnership since that time has been around the Sport England led Active Sports Programme. In the last 18 months the Partnership has undertaken a comprehensive research, consultation and visioning exercise to develop the First Active Strategy.
- 5.2. Attached to this report is the draft WASSP partnership agreement that supports the period of time covered by the 2005-2009 First Active Strategy. Members will note from the content of the agreement that a number of employees will deliver work on behalf of all partners on the partnership. These staff will be employed by Wiltshire County Council.
- 5.3. Schedule 6 of the draft partnership agreement details the financial memorandum and the level of funding contribution that each of the 6 partner local authorities will make. This £4,700 commitment for North Wiltshire can be met from the Council's existing Sports Development Budget.
- 5.4. The Legal Services Team Leader has reviewed the draft document and is satisfied with the proposals. The Community Partnerships Team is satisfied that the partnership agreement is in line with the Council's commitment to the COMPACT.
- 5.5. The contributions that each of the local authorities make will draw down contributions from Sport England into Wiltshire in excess of £450,000 a year.

6. Community and Environmental Implications

- 6.1. Partnership working offers opportunities for the Council to strengthen communities and service delivery. This in turn can help to ensure that community needs and priorities are addressed in a way that maximises the use of available resources for local people. The Compact and associated codes of practice will foster more effective ways of working, alongside greater transparency and openness.
- 6.2. The benefits and opportunities to people living and working in North Wiltshire that will result from the work of WASSP will make contributions to health and wellbeing far greater than the council could achieve alone.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The present level Sports Development budget can meet the required £4,700 contributions for the three years of the agreement.

8. Human Resources Implications

- 8.1. The County Council will act as employers for posts associated with the Partnership, and as such will manage all Human Resource issues around that employment. The three year funding may result in the need for redundancy at the end of the agreement term. The business plan for the Partnership makes provision for a sinking fund style budget aimed at meeting this possible eventuality. Any additional redundancy costs will need to be met jointly by the 6 local authority partners.

**REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC MANAGER
TO THE EXECUTIVE – 5th JANUARY 2006**

Documents used in the preparation of Report

First Active

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