

Scrutiny Report



PSC – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 3 November 2021

Subject Norse Joint Venture Partnership

Author Scrutiny Advisor

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Tracey Brooks	Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing
Lyndon Watkins	Managing Director of Newport Norse
Mark McSweeney	Director – Professional and Contract Services

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the briefing paper and presentation on the Newport Norse Joint Venture partnership
2. Assess the contents of the report and decide if there has been satisfactory progress against the initial aims of the partnership.
3. Establish whether there is any additional information needed.
4. Decide if the Committee wishes to make any comments or recommendations in relation to the joint venture partnership

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 This will be the Committees first consideration of the Newport City Councils joint venture partnership with Newport Norse. The aim of the partnership was to improve the way that NCC managed their assets and to provide each service area with more stable and suitable working environments across the city.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The submission for the committee is comprised of two sections. The initial report (section one) is included in the agenda pack. The second section of the submission is a presentation for the committee meeting. This presentation will go through the highlights of the report, respond to any requests for additional information and answer any initial lines of questioning Members requested.
- 3.2 The Newport Norse Partnership report contains the following sections;
- Introduction
 - Background
 - When and why was the joint venture started
 - What has been achieved to date
 - The present day
 - What does Newport Norse do for the Council
 - Lessons learned
 - Compliments and complaints 2020/2021
 - Performance Management
 - The Future
 - Goals for next year
 - Planning for the end of the contract

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

Review and analyse the contents of the report and additional information contained in the presentation. Establish what progress has been made from the partnerships inception and what that means for the Council and its service users.

- Take a look at the achievements of Newport Norse to date and whether this constitutes as positive progress;
- Assess and make comment on the impact Newport Norse has had on:
 - The local economy, skills and employment, the environment and schools and local communities;
 - The extent to which and opportunities to learn and change practices are being addressed and associated risks are being mitigated;
 - The management of assets and the council estate as a whole;
- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance of the JV partnership?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- 4.1 The Committee might wish to think about the following when devising questioning strategies;
- What are the main challenges that face both Newport Norse and NCC in the Partnership?
 - Are there any fundamental changes to the relationship that would allow for greater success?
 - What were the most important lessons learned in part 3.2? Have all the actions listed in this section been implemented?
 - What is planned over the final three years of the partnership to ensure service areas and service users continue to benefit?
 - What is being planned to continue the growth of the profit share in the final three years?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The following have been provided to the Committee for additional / background reading to support the scrutiny of the joint venture partnership:
- A Guide to Newport Norse
 - A Schools Guide to Newport Norse
 - Newport Norse Communication Plan
 - Trusted Partner Newport Norse



A Guide to Newport Norse June 2019



A Schools Guide to Newport Norse V5, J



Newport Norse comms plan 30-04-1

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Newport Norse JV partnership is an integral part of all of the Wellbeing Objectives, Corporate Plan Commitments and supporting function. The NCC assets provide a foundation to provide all of our services from:

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

7 Impact Assessment:

7.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

Newport Norse has strong working partnerships with around 50 schools in the local area, supporting a combined roll of over 23,000 pupils.

7.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

The Norse Group have their own equalities plan in place, which states that The Norse Group opposes all forms of discrimination, harassment or victimisation whether because of age, disability, sex, gender-reassignment, pregnancy, maternity, race (which includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins), sexual orientation, religion or belief, or because someone is married or in a civil partnership ('Protected Characteristics') or otherwise.

7.3 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

Newport Norse directly employs 320 people, around 73% of which live in Newport. Newport Norse have also increased job security and local employment, contributing to a thriving economy.

8. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)

Report Completed: 3 November 2021