

# Scrutiny Report



## Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

### Part 1

Date: 19 July 2023

### Subject **Newport Live Partnership**

Author Scrutiny Adviser

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Tracey Brooks	Head of Regeneration and Economic Development
Steve Ward	Chief Executive – Newport Live
Kevin Ward	Chairman – Newport Live

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### 1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the report on the Newport Live 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 partnership.

### 2 Context

#### Background

- 2.1 This will be the Committee's first consideration of the Newport Live Partnership. Newport City Council (NCC) Cabinet took the decision in May 2014 following a review and subsequent recommendation by the Learning, Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee to commence the establishment of a new Non-Profit Distributing Organisation for the delivery of the existing in-house sport and leisure facilities and sports development services. In December 2014, Cabinet also took the decision to include The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre, and the arts development service.

- 2.2 Newport Live was created and registered with the Charities Commission and a Board of eleven Non-Executive Directors/Trustees selected following an external recruitment process to create a skills-based Board. Newport City Council has the right to make up a maximum of 20% of the board representation, as such two Trustees are appointed by NCC.
- 2.3 A 25-year funding and management agreement was created with associated leases for buildings, together with business transfer agreements, all of which commenced on 1 April 2015. NCC's objectives were to create significant financial efficiencies, whilst maintaining service provision and developing innovative products and services for the city and its residents.
- 2.4 Newport City Council's Sport, Leisure and Theatre facility-based services and community engagement services are operated by Newport Live. Initially, the client service was within Streetscene & City Services, however in 2022 the client function transferred to Regeneration & Economic Development.

### **3 Information Submitted to the Committee**

- 3.1 The following is attached for the Committee's consideration:
  - a) Newport Live Partnership report (Appendix A)
- 3.2 The Newport Live Partnership report contains the following sections;
  - Introduction: This section provides an overview of the purpose of the report and introduces Newport Live.
  - Background: This section provides a history of Newport Live, including its establishment in 2014 and its role as a non-profit organisation and registered charity.
  - Performance: This section examines Newport Live's performance in various areas, including financial performance, customer satisfaction, and community engagement.
  - What has been achieved by Newport Live: This section highlights some of the key achievements of Newport Live since its establishment, including the development of new facilities and programs.
  - Strategy & Budget: This section outlines Newport Live's strategy and budget for the coming years, including plans for facility improvements and program development.
  - Core Programmes: This section focuses on Newport Live's role in promoting health and wellbeing in the community, including through the provision of fitness classes and other programs.
  - The Future: This section looks ahead to the future of Newport Live, including plans for continued growth and development.

## 4. Suggested Areas of Focus

### Role of the Committee

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

- Receive the report for information and take the opportunity to comment on the contents. Establish what progress has been made from the partnerships inception and what that means for the Council and its service users.
- Consider the main strengths and areas for development within the Newport Live Partnership.
- Consider how well Newport Live are working in partnership.
- 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 Newport Live Trust?
  - 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 In considering / evaluating the Newport Live report, the Committee may wish to consider focusing questions on:

- How does the Newport Live Partnership plan to address any areas of underperformance identified in the report?
- What steps is the partnership taking to ensure that its services are accessible and inclusive for all members of the community?
- Are there improvements that can be made in Newport Live's delivery of services?
- Does the Newport Live Partnership have the best possible partnership working arrangements in place?
- How does the Newport Live Partnership compare to similar organisations in terms of performance and impact?
- What challenges and obstacles has Newport Live faced in achieving its goals, and how has it overcome them?

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 5.1 The report links with all the Wellbeing-being Objectives and Aims of the Council’s Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027;

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport’s Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
<b>Aims:</b>	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

### 7 Impact Assessment:

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

Newport Live contributes to the well-being goals set out in the Act, such as improving physical and mental health, promoting social cohesion, and enhancing the natural environment.

Newport Live's work is also guided by a number of strategies and plans developed by Newport City Council, including the Wellbeing Plan, Participation Strategy, and Strategic Equality Plan. These plans are designed to promote the well-being of current and future generations, in line with the Act's requirements.

#### 7.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

Newport Live have their own equalities plan in place, which states that The Newport Live Equality objectives have been developed to meet the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010. Their equality objectives include ensuring that people can access all the Newport Live services and activities that they need in terms of physical access and communication access, and offering targeted activities for people in protected characteristics that would not normally participate, thereby reducing barriers and the aim of reducing an inequality.

Newport Live also ensure that people will be involved in the development of services that affect them, and its workforce and board will be representative of the population, particularly with regards to gender and ethnicity.

#### 7.3 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

Newport Live's services and programs are designed to be inclusive and accessible to all members of the community, regardless of age, ability, or background. This aligns with the Socio-economic Duty's emphasis on promoting social justice and reducing inequalities

#### 7.4 **Welsh Language**

The Welsh Language Standards were implemented in March 2016. Newport Live is required to comply with the Welsh Language Standards as a commissioned service of Newport City Council. Newport Live will promote the Welsh Language and develop its bilingual services and increase the Welsh Language skill level of its workforce.

### 8. **Background Papers**

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)
- [Newport Live](#)

Report Completed: 19 July 2023