

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 24 July 2024

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 second 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 11 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 Newport City Council and reviewed each year following the Council's Annual General Meeting and appointment to external bodies.
- 2.3 A 25-year funding and management agreement was created with associated leases for buildings, together with business transfer agreements, all commencing on 1 April 2015. Newport City Council's objectives were to address medium-term financial pressures, create significant financial efficiencies, whilst maintaining service provision, alongside creating a dynamic and innovative organisation that can deliver services on behalf of the Council and the residents it serves.
- 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;

- Section 1.0 - Introduction: This section provides an introduction to the purpose of the report and sets the context for the performance evaluation of Newport Live Partnership for the year 2023-24.
- Section 2.0 - Background to Services: This section provides a historical overview of Newport Live, detailing its establishment by Newport City Council in 2014 and its transition into a non-profit distributing organisation delivering sport, leisure, and arts services.
- Section 3.0 - Performance: This section provides an analysis of the performance metrics of Newport Live Partnership for the year, including financial outcomes, operational income fluctuations, and the impact of external factors like the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Section 4.0 - Newport Live Outputs: This section highlights the tangible outputs and outcomes achieved by Newport Live in terms of service delivery, community engagement, and facility utilisation during the reporting period.
- Section 5.0 - Strategy & Budget: This section outlines the strategic direction and financial planning of Newport Live for the future, emphasising key initiatives, budget allocations, and investment priorities for service enhancement.
- Section 6.0 - Core Programmes: This section explores the core programmes and activities offered by Newport Live to promote social welfare, recreation, and leisure opportunities for individuals of all ages and backgrounds within the community.
- Section 7.0 - Strategic & Operational Highlights: This section showcases the significant strategic engagements, partnerships, and achievements of Newport Live, aligning with the Council's corporate plan and service objectives for positive community outcomes.

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?
- 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?
- How does Newport Live engage with marginalised or vulnerable groups within the community to ensure their needs are met through its services?
- How does Newport Live incorporate feedback from service users and stakeholders into its decision-making processes and service improvements?

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
Aims:	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: 24 July 2024