

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

Meeting Venue:
Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date:
17 July 2013

Meeting time:
09:00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



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Agenda

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

2 Inquiry into barriers to home building in Wales – Evidence session 4 (09.15 – 10.00) (Pages 1 – 21)

CELG(4)-23-13 – Paper 1– Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru

CELG(4)-23-13 – Paper 2 – Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Dr Roisin Willmott, National Director of Royal Town Planning Institution Cymru
David Morgan, Policy Manager, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Wales

3 Inquiry into barriers to home building in Wales – Evidence session 5 (10.00 – 10.40) (Pages 22 – 28)

Welsh Government

CELG(4)-23-13 – Paper 3

Carl Sargeant AM – Minister for Housing and Regeneration
Francois Samuel – Head of Construction, Sustainable Futures
Kath Palmer – Deputy Director Homes and Places

Break – 10.40 – 10.50

4 Legislative Consent Memorandum for provisions relating to the recovery of possession of dwelling houses (10.50 – 11.30) (Pages 29 –

51)

Welsh Government

CELG(4)-23-13 – Paper 4

Carl Sargeant AM – Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Simon White – Project Manager, Renting Homes Bill

Lynsey Edwards – Lawyer, Legal Services

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting (11.30)

6 The future of equality and human rights in Wales – consideration of draft report (11.30 – 11.55) (Pages 52 – 68)

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7 Inquiry into participation levels in sport – consideration of key issues (11.55 – 12.10) (Pages 69 – 85)

CELG(4)-23-13 – Private paper 6

8 Committee Forward Work Programme (12.10 – 12.25) (Pages 86 – 92)

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9 Papers to note

Additional information from Sport Wales following the meeting on 19 June

(Pages 93 – 107)

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Additional information from the Welsh Local Government Association following the meeting on 27 June (Pages 108 – 134)

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Correspondence from Bethan Jenkins AM (Pages 135 – 136)

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Agenda Item 2

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National Assembly for Wales: Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

Inquiry into barriers to home building in Wales

Evidence submitted by RTPI Cymru

Background

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is a membership organisation representing over 23,000 spatial planners; RTPI Cymru represents the interests of almost 1,100 members in Wales. It exists to advance the science and art of town planning for the benefit of the public.

RTPI Cymru welcomes the opportunity to submit views to this inquiry into the barriers to home building in Wales.

Ensuring that housing is available in sufficient numbers, at a range of prices that can assure access for all but without creating a housing market that might crash and deter investment - as has happened in the US, Ireland and Spain for instance - is a tricky equation. Additionally, it is accepted that social and environmental considerations will impinge to help assure public acceptance of housing growth and its sustainability.

Planning must take a long term view and plan for future needs for society as a whole. RTPI Cymru believes that the delivery of the right housing in the right place is an important role of the planning system. Although we would stress that the planning system can only partially help to achieve the housing challenge that Wales faces.

Are development costs impeding and constraining the delivery of new homes in Wales?

Viability

Viability is a significant issue affecting development in the current economic market. This is restricting the ability of the planning system to deliver affordable housing through planning agreements, as viability is a material consideration for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to consider.

During the current downturn in the housing market, developers who bought sites in more profitable times (and in some cases before national and local policies increased % affordable housing requirements) argue that they cannot afford to meet LPAs' requirements for affordable housing along with other requirements through the planning system, and in many cases they are able to evidence this, in which case LPAs are forced to accept lower levels of affordable housing. It is not expected that this will change in the short or medium term and therefore, the ability to deliver affordable

housing through Section 106 (planning gain) agreements will be limited until the market improves substantially.

Furthermore, housebuilders argue that landowners still have artificially high expectations of land values and if national and local policies continue to set high targets, land owners will 'sit on' their land until policies ease up. National housebuilders have also advised that if the Welsh Government continues to pursue the current direction of travel for affordable housing policy (alongside the push for sustainable homes and other quality standards) then they will stop developing in Wales and only work in England.

A large percentage of the development cost remains the land value and the opportunity for land held by local authorities and Welsh Government to be released for development at no or minimal cost needs to be considered, although RTPI Cymru accepts that this is a reducing resource. There is a lot of land which people thought would obtain a value but this was in the good times when developers would build on most sites; in reality a large amount of this land has little or no value either in the short or long term. How to encourage or adjust people's perception of the value of their land is a problem that needs to be overcome if appropriate land in private ownership is to be successfully brought forward in the short and medium term.

Quality of Development

RTPI Cymru would not advocate a relaxation of the Welsh Government's sustainable buildings policy (set out in Planning Policy Wales, edition 5, section 4.12: Planning for Sustainable Buildings). The link between this and affordable housing need must be understood and the implications for occupants and fuel poverty and water security. The Welsh Government has responsibility for Building Regulations and this now provides the opportunity for this to shift from planning policy to the Building Regulations.

It is essential that new houses, both affordable and market housing, are built to a standard which reduces future problems caused by poor quality, which is now faced in some of the existing housing stock.

What are the 'quick-wins' that can be implemented by the Welsh Government to assist the whole homebuilding industry?

RTPI Cymru believes that the various portfolios of the Welsh Government must work together to complement each other, and any policy or legislative proposals must complement each other and avoid any conflict.

Delivering Affordable Housing

There has been considerable national policy and guidance produced promoting affordable housing including the Welsh Government "Delivering Affordable Housing Using s106 Agreements" and this has been useful. However, there may be a need to promote this policy direction and mechanisms for delivery to those LPA officers who deal with planning applications; there may have been a focus on Planning Policy and Housing officers taking a lead on this.

RTPI Cymru does not believe that national guidance alone will be successful in delivering more affordable housing in Wales. The main hurdles that stand in the way are: the speed at which local policies are able to catch up with national policy; the political will at a local level to prioritise affordable housing; the economic viability and the ability for developer's to provide affordable housing; and the lack of social housing grant to cross-subsidise affordable housing delivery.

Up to date local planning policies are an essential element for the delivery of any LPA or Government policy. The majority of LPAs in Wales are now progressing their LDPs, with nine now adopted and a further five submitted for examination. Without strong local planning policies the shape of housing provision can only be marginally influenced. Consequently the type of housing built, for example family homes vs apartments, cannot be directed by LPAs in response to local housing need.

In the mean time, most LPAs have up to date SPG or Delivery Statements and these set lower thresholds and a higher % of affordable housing schemes. However, because the housing market has been very quiet for the last four years, these policies have not been tested very thoroughly.

Regardless of national or local policies, each planning application will be subjected to scrutiny by Planning Committee. Members serving on Planning Committees do not always prioritise affordable housing over other matters such as education, transport or community facilities. This is particularly relevant where development viability is an issue and the number of Section 106 obligations is reduced below the policy requirements.

Housing supply

LPAs in Wales follow TAN2 guidance to include specific policies and proposals in their Local Development Plans (LDPs) for housing and affordable housing. To do this, they work with their housing colleagues to assess demands via local housing market assessments and deliver housing requirements via the development management (planning application) process. It is important that affordable and market housing are considered together in any actions to increase housing supply, to achieve a balance in provision, meet local need and produce mixed tenure developments. Whilst the planning system is important it is not the only factor involved.

Whilst not directly relating to house building, RTPI Cymru has previously made points about greater control of second and holiday homes to reduce pressures on the rural housing market and the need to bring empty properties back into use. These factors combined could address part of the housing need.

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July 2013



Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

CELG(4)-23-13 : Paper 2

Inquiry into barriers to home building in Wales

Response from : Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Wales Residential Policy Paper

Foreword

This paper has been produced to reflect the deepening of devolution in Wales that has the potential to take the Welsh residential market in a different direction. Significant factors affecting the market such as policy decisions on Mortgage availability will continue to be heavily driven by decisions taken at a UK Level but with planned Wales specific legislation on Housing, Planning and Sustainability it was clear that a Wales specific paper was needed to complement and build on an earlier RICS RESI policy paper produced in England. It is our hope that this paper will act as a guide and support to policy makers and decision makers as they move forward.

Finance and Mortgage Availability

Although this will be heavily influenced by actions taken by the UK Government moves by Welsh Government where possible to improve access to mortgages are to be very much welcomed. The plan unveiled by Welsh Government in November 2012 for a mortgage guarantee scheme to provide up to 95% mortgages is something we particularly support. We would though suggest a banded structure that could allow for more homes to be supported by the scheme. So rather than just requiring a % deposit from each buyer regardless of circumstances each case should be evaluated so that if a person can contribute say 7% equity and so on that they do so hopefully helping resources go further.

We would also suggest Welsh Government consider the introduction of a guarantee scheme for builders and developers in Wales to help them obtain finance from banks and other institutions. A further possible variation could be for Welsh Government to support the Private Rented Sector by taking a head lease on Housing developments that could then be sublet in particular for Affordable Housing. In essence a residential version of the guarantee that Welsh Government gave to facilitate regeneration in Cardiff Bay.

Welsh Government has already recognised the importance of the Private Rented Sector by proposing registration of all Private Rented Sector Landlords, and we would like to see Welsh Government continue this by carrying out studies on the viability of guarantees for Landlords over tenants.

Investment

RICS Wales feels Welsh Government could use the proposed new Planning Act for Wales to encourage build to let by adjusting s 106 agreements so Market rent is treated as affordable rent for a minimum of ten years. This will increase site viability. Requiring a proportion of homes to be affordable should provide protection in more expensive areas.

We also recommend that Welsh Government seek the devolution of VAT in respect of new build and refurbishments. In the interim we would like Welsh Government to strongly engage with the UK Government to lower VAT on house repairs. This is especially important in Wales where the vast majority of the current Housing stock will still be with us in 50 years and where the proportion of Housing stock dating prior to 1919 is higher than the UK average.

Tax

Our policy on empty property rates remains the same as it did in the RICS Wales 2011 Assembly Elections Manifesto. In our view it acts as a disincentive to economic development. We would also like to see an extension of property rate relief. We feel that this would be beneficial for mixed use schemes in Wales. If a developer fears being hit by empty property rates on the commercial element of a scheme it is quite likely to affect their calculation on viability concerning any residential element. It must be considered quite likely that whole schemes including any residential elements would potentially be postponed and not just any commercial elements.

Welsh Government has recently raised the idea of extra Council tax charges where residential property is left vacant for some time. RICS Wales feels that while we understand the reasoning in principle it could have unforeseen consequences. In particular we are concerned such a move could prompt some landlords to make properties entirely uninhabitable by removing roofs or walls to avoid the tax. We feel that other measures should be considered first.

Consumer Protection



As noted the Welsh Government is planning registration of all private rented sector landlords. RICS Wales supports this. However we feel that if registration proceeds in the rented sector it should also apply to sales as well. It would seem quite arbitrary for agents who might be active in both sales and lettings to be registered for one part of their business and not for the other. It could also potentially allow a grey area that could potentially be seen as a loophole that a few could see as a competitive advantage over competitors.

Land

One consequence that maybe anticipated from the consolidation of Government Offices at all levels within Wales is the potential to use the process to boost the supply of Land for Housebuilders. RICS Wales feels it is important that the amount of land being made available at all levels is known. This will need consultation between Welsh Government, UK Government and Local Authorities. RICS Wales would like to see a single list agreed that all levels of Government would add to when they proposed to proceed with property sales or non renewal of leases. We would then like to see this list circulated to developers and other stakeholders on a regular basis. Property could also potentially be sold at below Market rates in return for other benefits such as Business rates being paid quicker on land that might otherwise remain vacant for long periods.

In terms of planning RICS Wales has consistently suggested using the planning system used to encourage conversion of excess retail into residential. We would now like to see the same whenever possible where Government in Wales might be vacating excess office space. Often such offices are centrally located with strong public transport links which are a strong attraction to many looking for accommodation.

Viability

RICS Wales welcomes the development of a Planning Act specific to Wales as an opportunity to make Wales more attractive for House Building and broader economic development. We would say though that a balance needs to be struck between the speed of moves towards a greener low carbon future with Wales leading the way and the geographical proximity of much of Wales to England as opposed say to Scotland. Wales is in a different position to the other devolved regions in terms of relative potential differences between demands and standards being asked of Builders and developers in England as opposed to Wales. There is though an opportunity to give Wales a greater attractiveness to other parts of the UK. For instance allowing greater flexibility to developers in terms of making off site contributions for allowing developments to proceed in order to increase site viability and encourage quicker developments might be one way forward.



In this vein RICS Wales would like to offer to engage with Welsh Government on RICS research into financial viability in planning to support policy makers.

Construction

We would recommend Welsh Government explore ways to support non traditional forms of Construction by supporting better education of lenders on valuation methods. We feel that if better understanding were achieved of more energy efficiency in buildings this would over the long term do much to support the environmental aims of the Welsh Government.

To this RICS has produced guidance for the valuation of new build properties on which we would be delighted to speak with Policy makers.

Improving existing Housing Stock

We would urge Welsh Government to ensure Local Authorities maintain consistent and publicly available data on a regular basis of Housing stock in their area particularly in relation to empty properties.

We also support innovative Housing schemes such as at Ely Mill and if at all possible would recommend their expansion.

Energy Efficiency

RICS Wales would like to see the continuation and wherever possible expansion of Energy Efficiency schemes such as the Arbed program. This has the benefit of contributing both to economic activity while advancing the Environmental goals of Welsh Government.

RICS Wales strongly supports the goal of a low Carbon economy but urges Welsh Government to consider carefully the impact on other social goals particular in areas very close to the English border of significantly more advanced requirements than in England.

Affordable Housing

There is no single solution to this but some of the options covered in this paper such as public land being made available at less than Market cost in return for other wider social benefits one of which could be requirements for greater levels of Social Housing could begin to make significant inroads into a key social goal.



Written Evidence Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee inquiry into Barriers to Home Building in Wales.

Introduction

I am grateful to the Committee for the opportunity to consider this area. Since I took on this portfolio in March I have quickly come to the view that my main priority as Minister must be to build homes. We are well on target to achieve our target of 7,500 affordable homes during this administration (and to bring 5,000 empty homes back into use), but I want to do more. I want to exceed our target for affordable homes but I also want the private sector to build more homes.

I want this to happen in order to meet growing housing need, but also because investment in housing generates growth and jobs, can provide work that helps people out of poverty and can ameliorate the effects of the bedroom tax when we build smaller homes. For all of these reasons we must build more. The private and public sectors must be enabled and supported to play a full role.

During the first few months of my tenure I have looked carefully at the regulatory framework, and our policy and funding, and will be announcing changes to improve our ability to support developers increase the amount of new housing in Wales. I will shortly be in a position to announce a series of initial decisions I have been able to make in this regard, the quick wins that the Committee refers to.

What are the issues?

New housing development has long fallen short of the estimated level of need. 14,200 per annum according to the Social Research Report 'Housing Need and Demand in Wales 2006 to 2026' (Holmans and Monk 2010). New housing starts reached a peak of 10,199 per annum in 2007-08 fell dramatically to 4,910 in the following year and have recovered a little to stand at 5,291 in 2012-13. The story for completions is a little less hard edged given the lead in times of development. 2006-07 represented the peak at 9,334. This declined to a low of 5,505 in 2010-11 and has also recovered a little to stand at 5,464 in 2012-13. The reasons for this fall are well understood and lie principally in the mortgage market which is the key determinant of demand.

Whilst I do want to stimulate demand, we must also be conscious of the economic evidence that a demand side stimulus, on its own, might have a greater impact on house prices than on increasing supply. To this extent stimulating the supply side will also be important.

Since taking up this portfolio I have engaged extensively with builders and developers, as individual organisations and through their trade bodies, the

Home Builders Federation and the Federation of Master Builders. The issues they raise with me are dominated by the issue of access to mortgages and their desire to see Government support people to buy, by making mortgage guarantee and shared equity models widely available.

The other issues that are raised with me relate principally to scheme viability. There are a number of factors which affect viability which all begin with the price the market can bear. According to the Office of National Statistics' House Price Index, house price inflation in Wales in the 12 months to April 2013 stood at 6.2% significantly higher than the UK average of 2.6%, and significantly higher than the 12 months to March which showed a 1.2% increase. The average house price in Wales in April was £162,078, the fourth lowest figure amongst the regions of the UK (higher only than Northern Ireland, the North East and the North West). There can be no confidence that the market has entered a steady stage of growth, indeed market analyses vary enormously in the picture they paint of the market. However, it is worth being clear that scheme viability can change significantly over short periods of time.

Viability is also affected by land price, build cost and the cost of delivering s106 obligations. Builders have made consistent presentations to me in relation to the latter 2 points. Building regulation is the key Governmental intervention in the cost of building and our recent consultation on Part L aimed at reducing carbon emissions has generated a strong response from builders. So too has the issue of fire sprinklers.

S106 obligations result from the planning system and are useful arrangements to overcome obstacles which may otherwise prevent planning permission being granted. Contributions from developers may be used to help meet local needs, including for affordable housing, or to secure benefits that will make development more sustainable. Another aspect of planning which has had an impact on the rate of development is the issue of the number of adopted plans. The adoption of Local Development Plans (LDPs) is critical for the delivery of housing as they provide the basis for rational and consistent decisions about the use and development of land. An adopted plan should therefore ensure that developers know that their planning applications will be dealt with consistently, transparently and efficiently. Nine LDPs have been adopted and it is anticipated that there will be LDP coverage for over half of Welsh local planning authorities by the end of the year. Where there is no adopted plan there is a presumption in favour of proposals that are in accordance with the key principles for sustainable development that are set out in *Planning Policy Wales*.

I note the Committee's interest in SMEs role in delivering housing. I am keen to ensure that the particular needs of SMEs are met but the scale of our ambition will rely also on the larger builders and developers who are estimated to make up about two thirds of the market in Wales. In recognition of the fact that house-building jobs are generally local in their nature, I want our policy and funding position to fit both kinds of developer.

Our Social Housing Grant Programme has been the means by which we deliver social housing with housing associations. However, local authorities have not had any significant role in developing housing themselves for some time.

Action to address these issues

Given this range of issues I am acting in several areas to improve the policy and funding framework to ensure development can happen.

Financial support

I am continuing to support the Social Housing Grant programme, providing £75 million this year for affordable housing. This includes £2 million to provide homes for Armed Forces Personnel leaving the services.

It also includes funding of £26 million from the Centrally Retained Capital fund made up of £20 million for a “Smaller Properties Programme” aimed at providing housing for households affected by the Bedroom Tax providing around 350 new homes and £6 million for the Welsh Housing Partnership which will provide approximately 260 homes for intermediate rent.

Developing new innovative funding models is essential to our policy delivery. The Welsh Housing Partnership has demonstrated that new innovative models can be successfully developed and implemented and will produce around 900 homes in total for intermediate rent by March 2016.

I am also committing £4 million per annum for thirty years to support a new Revenue Grant which has the capacity to generate over £100 million of investment and will finance the delivery of more than 1,000 affordable homes over a 2.5 year period.

The Ely Mill scheme is another example of an innovative housing model that is being developed, which combined with using our land assets will bring forward the development of over 700 new homes in Cardiff.

ii) Mortgage guarantee and shared equity.

I have been working to develop support for buyers who are struggling to secure mortgages to allow them to buy. This support will stimulate demand and encourage greater supply. A fundamental part of this strategy is the launch of a new Shared Equity Scheme: Help to Buy Cymru.

The day to day administration of the scheme will be managed by an external party, and we will be undertaking a competitive procurement process over the summer in preparation for the launch.

We are hoping to have a NewBuy Cymru mortgage guarantee scheme, however this relies on a tri-partite relationship between Government, builders

and lenders and we are seeking to secure the engagement of all parties in a viable scheme.

iii) Financial transactions monies

I have asked my officials to consider exploring the potential use of financial transactions monies and a number of new ideas are being developed particularly in support of property improvement and housing supply.

iv) Loans to builders

Through Finance Wales the Minister for Economy Science and Transport has launched the £10 million Wales Property Development Fund which makes loans to Small and medium-sized Welsh construction companies developing small-scale, non-speculative commercial and residential property. The Fund has been created in response to the strong demand from small and medium size construction companies that are unable to access finance from traditional sources. The Fund will operate on a commercial basis and by recycling investment returns, typically within 18-24 months, produce an 'evergreen' fund with the potential to provide up to £30m of available finance over five years. This could create an additional benefit to the Welsh economy of around £19m, creating up to 900 direct and indirect jobs and safeguard in the region of 700 jobs.

In addition to building more homes, also need to make best possible use of existing stock by tackling the waste that long-term empty properties represent. We are addressing that by our Houses into Homes programme which is proving to be very successful, backed up by a total of £20 million of new investment

Regulation

i) Building Regulations

We consulted in 2012 on ambitious plans to use Part L of the building regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new properties. Addressing climate change is a key Government priority but the consultation highlighted the potential for negative and unintended impacts on the property and employment market. Our sustainable development imperative requires me to balance the longer term impacts of my decision in economic, social as well as environmental terms. I have been listening and I am currently considering the implications of these impacts together with Cabinet colleagues and intend to announce a balanced and fair position shortly.

ii) Domestic Fire Safety

As a former industrial fire fighter I am personally very committed to implement the Domestic Fire Safety (Wales) Measure which was passed by the National Assembly in February 2011. A requirement to install fire sprinklers in new residential properties will prevent death and injury to householders and fire

fighters. However, our consultation has highlighted the cost implication for developers. With that in mind I am considering the appropriate approach to implementation. The approach will continue to set Wales apart as a leader in promoting fire safety in new homes, that much must not change, whilst recognising the difficult circumstances that the house-builders are currently operating within.

iii) Site Waste Management Plans

The consultation on Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) closed on 25 April 2013. Responses to this consultation are currently being analysed. The purpose of the plans is to encourage clients and contractors in the Construction and Demolition sector to plan how they can prevent, minimise and recycle their wastes so it is diverted from landfill. Site Waste Management Plans will help reduce waste and will contribute to reducing costs. However I recognise that for many, particularly SMEs, the task of producing plans may represent an additional cost before any cost savings are generated.

My colleague, the Minister for Natural Resources and Food also recognises that any regulatory change must meet the needs of businesses. I have agreed with the Minister that, in taking forward SWMPs, we will look at the cumulative impact of the different regulations so that any burdens on industry are kept to a minimum.

Planning

Planning plays a vital role in supporting not only the delivery of new homes, but also securing economic regeneration and community well-being, as well as safeguarding and enhancing the environment, key ingredients of our commitment to sustainable development. The importance of planning has been repeatedly confirmed by the discussions that I have had with key stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors. I want a planning system that efficiently and effectively balances competing considerations, is not a barrier to good quality development, and promotes sustainable growth and jobs.

I believe we also need to review the wide ranging and ambitious policies which the planning system has been expected to deliver to date- the “planning plus” agenda. I want to get the basics right, using the most appropriate planning delivery mechanisms, which can change over time.

i) Performance of local authorities

Central to the delivery of planning is driving up the performance of local planning authorities. I have discussed with them a performance framework, addressing both qualitative and quantitative performance. I have made it clear that the need to have an up-to-date adopted local development plan in place is non-negotiable. I am acutely aware of the issues and challenges facing local planning authorities but I am disappointed that not enough progress has

been made in securing these plans. If I believe that we need legislation to achieve improvements, I will secure them through the Planning Reform Bill, which I will be publishing later this year, accompanied by a Consultation Paper..

ii) Permitted development

As part of my “back to planning basics” agenda, is the new Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendments) (Wales) Order 2013 aimed at reducing the need for householders to secure planning permission for certain developments. The new regulations will be tabled this month and, subject to approval by the National Assembly, will come into force at the end of September. The 3 month lead in time is to ensure that local planning authorities, agents and the construction sector have a lead in period prior to the changes. The order reflects a move from a percentage increase threshold, to an impact based assessment which should safeguard the amenity of adjacent residents.

Another project underway to secure improvements in the planning application process is proposed new regulations to enable minor amendments to planning permissions which should assist implementation of approved schemes. These changes should benefit all users of the planning application process, including the construction sector.

ii) Improving processes

My officials are also looking at the barriers to housing delivery more widely to see what additional changes are required. Consultants have been commissioned to review the planning application process, informed by case studies across Wales. I expect this report in the autumn. In addition, research into the functioning of planning committees is nearing completion.

iii) The importance of plans

The need to have an up-to-date adopted local development plan in place is non-negotiable. I am acutely aware of the issues and challenges facing local planning authorities but I am disappointed that not enough progress has been made in securing these plans. If I believe that we need legislation to achieve improvements, I will secure them through the Planning Reform Bill, for which I will be publishing a consultation in Dec 2013.

In the meantime I continue to press authorities to speed the adoption of plans and have already acted by requiring local authorities to maintain and update their Local Housing Market Assessments within two years from 1 April 2014. I believe this will strengthen the evidence base that underpins local authorities' strategic housing function supporting the housing strategy, Local Development Plans and associated functions.

Further action

i) Housing Supply Task Force.

I recognise that these actions, whilst important, are only the start of building a rounded policy and funding framework, which can encourage housing supply across all sectors. To this end I have asked Robin Staines Director of Housing at Carmarthenshire County Borough Council to head a small task force to look at the barriers to development and offer me advice on that framework.

The task force will focus on three areas; the potential for local authorities to build homes through various means, open market housing development and affordable housing development, reflecting my agenda. I am looking to make quick progress and the group will report as it develops its thinking and finally in February 2014

ii) Land supply

The availability of public land for development is one of the key interventions that Welsh Government is able to make in the current public spending climate. To this end I have added to the resource available to me to identify potential sites and prepare it for development. I am currently discussing with other Ministers how to make the best use of Government Land.

Carl Sargeant
Minister for Housing & Regeneration
8 July 2013

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**LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MEMORANDUM
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING BILL
PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE RECOVERY OF POSSESSION OF
DWELLING HOUSES**

1. This Legislative Consent Memorandum is laid under Standing Order (“SO”) 29.2. SO 29 prescribes that a Legislative Consent Memorandum must be laid, and a Legislative Consent Motion may be tabled, before the National Assembly for Wales if a UK Parliamentary Bill makes provision in relation to Wales for a purpose that falls within, or modifies, the legislative competence of the National Assembly.

2. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill (the “Bill”) was introduced in the House of Commons on 9 May 2013. The Bill can be found at:

[Bill Documents – Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill 2013-14 – UK Parliament Website](#)

Summary of the Bill and its Policy Objectives

3. The Bill is sponsored by the Home Office. The UK Government’s policy objectives for the Bill are to create new and simpler powers to tackle antisocial behaviour, encourage responsible dog ownership, tackle the use of illegal firearms by gangs and organised crime groups, make forced marriage illegal and improve professional standards of the police.

4. The Bill makes provision for condensing the current 19 orders to 6 new orders to deal with anti-social behaviour; provides victims of anti-social behaviour with the ability to ensure action is taken; allows for the mandatory repossession of secure tenancies where the tenant is in breach of one of the new orders; amends the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to extend its provisions to private property; increases the maximum penalty for the importation and exportation of firearms; creates a new offence of possession for sale or transfer of firearms; makes forced marriage illegal; creates a new College of Policing, and also makes provisions relating to the financial controls on chief constables and extending the powers and remit of the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Provisions for which consent is sought

Part 5 – Recovery of Possession of Dwelling Houses: Anti-social behaviour grounds

5. The provisions in Part 5 of the Bill for which consent is sought relate to recovery of possession of dwelling-houses that are the subject of either a secure or assured tenancy on anti-social behaviour grounds.

Secure Tenancies

6. Clause 86 of the Bill introduces a new absolute ground for possession of a dwelling that is the subject of a secure tenancy. In general most secure tenants are local authority tenants although other social landlords (Registered Social Landlords or “RSLs”) also have secure tenants.

7. Subsection (1) of Clause 86 inserts a new section 84A into the Housing Act 1985 (“the 1985 Act”) which provides that the court will be required to grant possession if any one of the five conditions in new section 84A is met, the notice requirements have been met and where relevant, the review procedures have been followed. New section 84A(1) clarifies that this is subject to any available defence based upon the tenant’s Convention rights within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998.

8. The conditions are that the tenant, a member of the tenant’s household or a person visiting the property has been:

- convicted of a serious offence (which is one of the offences set out in new Schedule 2A to the 1985 Act as inserted by subsection 2 of Clause 86 and Schedule 3 to the Bill).
- found by a court to have breached an injunction to prevent nuisance and annoyance; or
- convicted for breach of a criminal behaviour order.

The offence or anti social conduct must have been committed in the dwelling house or in the locality of the dwelling house, affected a person with a right to live in the locality of the dwelling house or affected the landlord or a person connected with the landlord’s housing management functions. Other conditions are that:

- the tenant’s property has been the subject of a closure order where the total period of closure exceeds 48 hours; or
- the tenant, a member of the tenant’s household or a person visiting the property has been convicted for breach of a notice or order to abate noise in relation to the tenant’s property under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

9 New section 84A confers power on the Welsh Ministers to amend by order new Schedule 2A to the 1985 Act by adding indictable offences or removing an offence. Any such order would be subject to negative Assembly procedure.

10. Clause 87 inserts a new section 83ZA into the 1985 Act which sets out the notice requirements where a landlord of a secure tenant wishes to seek possession for anti social behaviour on the absolute ground because they believe one or more of the conditions in new section 84A of the 1985 Act have been met. The new section prescribes the minimum notice that the landlord must give to a tenant with a periodic tenancy and the time limits in which possession proceedings must begin. It also sets out time limits within which a notice must be served following a conviction, finding of the court or closure of premises or the conclusion of any appeal process.

11. Clause 88 inserts new section 85ZA into the 1985 Act and provides secure tenants of local housing authorities with a right to request a review of the landlord’s decision to seek possession using the absolute ground. The landlord must review the decision if requested to do so by the tenant. New section 85ZA confers power upon the Welsh Ministers to make regulations setting out the procedure for carrying out such reviews. These regulations would be subject to negative Assembly procedure.

Assured Tenancies

12. Clause 89 amends Schedule 2 to the Housing Act 1988 (“the 1988 Act”) so as to introduce a new absolute ground for possession (Ground 7A) in respect of assured tenants i.e. those tenants who rent property from Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). The grounds for possession are the same as those for secure tenants in clause 86 and are subject to any available defence based upon the tenant’s Convention rights.

Subsection(2) of Clause 89 amends section 8 of the 1988 Act to modify the notice requirements for possession for assured tenancies to take account of the new Ground 7A. It sets the time limits within which notices under Ground 7A must be served.

13. Clause 90 amends the existing discretionary grounds for possession for anti-social behaviour (Ground 2 in Schedule 2 to the 1985 Act and Ground 14 in Schedule 2 to the 1988 Act) so that they also apply where anti-social behaviour occurs outside the locality of the dwelling-house. The amendments allow a landlord to apply for possession of a secure or assured tenant’s property where the tenant or a person living in or visiting the tenant’s property has been guilty of conduct that is likely to cause nuisance or annoyance to the landlord, or a person employed in connection with the exercise of the landlord’s housing management functions.

14. Clause 92 amends section 138 of the 1985 Act so that, as with the existing ground for possession for anti social behaviour, if proceedings on the absolute ground for anti social behaviour are pending before any court, the landlord has no duty to convey the freehold or grant a lease to a tenant who has applied to exercise the right to buy. The amendments made by this clause will also mean that a landlord may also refuse to allow a tenant to take part in mutual exchange under the 1985 Act (which applies to secure tenants) or a transfer of tenancy under the Localism Act 2011(which applies to certain secure and assured tenants). Landlords may already withhold consent where possession is being sought on the discretionary ground for anti social behaviour.

15. Clause 137(3) provides power to the Welsh Ministers to make any consequential amendments to provisions contained in or made under any Act or any Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales. Consequential amendments can only be made in relation to those clauses over which the Assembly has legislative competence. Such amendments must be made by Order which is subject to affirmative Assembly procedure.

16. Clause 141 provides power to the Welsh Ministers to commence by Order those clauses over which the Assembly has legislative competence on whatever day or days they appoint. The Welsh Ministers may make any saving, transitional or transitory provisions they consider appropriate in relation to the coming into force of those clauses. This Order would not be subject to Assembly procedure.

17 It is the view of the Welsh Government that the provisions referred to in paragraphs 5 to 16 fall within the National Assembly’s legislative competence as set out in Subject 11 (Housing) of Schedule 7 to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Advantages of utilising this Bill rather than Assembly legislation

18 Using this UK Bill will ensure that the powers are available on a consistent basis across Wales and England simultaneously. Consultation results demonstrated that Welsh stakeholders were keen to have the same tools to deal with anti-social behaviour as England and this is the fastest route at present to make them available to more effectively tackle anti-social behaviour.

Financial Implications

19 There are no anticipated financial implications for the Welsh Government of the relevant provisions of this Bill which cannot be absorbed as part of existing obligations.

20 There may be additional duties at a local authority level and housing association level when social landlords choose to exercise the powers.

Carl Sargeant AM
Minister for Housing and Regeneration
May 2013

Agenda Item 6

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

CELG(4)-23-13 – Paper 8 – Paper to Note

Additional information from Sport Wales following the meeting on 19 June 2013

In terms of the development of hockey, I've attached a presentation and briefing note from Hockey Wales on 4689, which provide the overview of the programme. I know that the questioning was in specific reference to hockey development in Cardiff. I've spoken to colleagues in Hockey Wales and the focus has been on establishing a new junior hockey club called Canton and Riverside, currently based out of Sophia Gardens. They have worked closely with Severn Road Primary School with a keen teacher and supported him with subsidising some pitch time to help keep costs low whilst the club develops and grows. The club has also been promoted in the feeder primary schools in the surrounding areas.

They are currently running a 4689 fun centre on a Thursday evening for 7 – 11 year olds and soon to start a Back2Hockey programme run out of CISS in Leckwith. Working with Sport Cardiff to promote this to the feeder primary schools across the Canton, Leckwith, and Riverside areas.

A 4689 Leadership award has also been run out of the Sport Wales National Centre, with 9 Cardiff primary schools represented.

All Cardiff schools were invited to take part in our 4689 Cardiff Festival Competition in March, 5 primary schools entered. Hockey Wales are planning on working closely with Sport Cardiff this academic year to expand hockey development across the city in conjunction with our clubs requirements.



Hockey Wales
Sport Wales National Centre,
Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, CF11 9SW

Main: 0845 045 4303
Twitter: @HockeyWales
www.hockeywales.org.uk

4689 – The New Route into Hockey

As part of VISION 2020, Hockey Wales has set out the ambitious targets of:

- Ensuring every young person of school age enjoys a quality hockey experience
- Providing modern, exciting and new offers of the game for young people and adults

Over the last 9 months, Hockey Wales has been developing a new resource for clubs and schools which will provide young people with a safe, fun, exciting new game format that is more suitable for their age and ability; ultimately resulting in more children wanting to pick up a stick, and keep hold of it! From September 2012, **4689** will be **the** way to play hockey!

Why are we changing?

Research shows by reducing from 8v8 to 4v4¹:

- Number of passes up 135%
- Scoring attempts up 260%
- Number of goals scored up 500%
- Number of 1v1 encounters up 225%
- Number of dribbling skills up 280%

Children have said about hockey:

- Like to have the ball and score goals
- Current games are too long
- Too much running
- Too many rules - too strict

How do we know the change is right?

We have consulted with children, teachers, coaches, students, education specialists, Sport Wales and other NGBs who have gone through similar changes. We have trialled the new approach through the new Dragon Sport Multi Skills pilots, as well as other Dragon Sport and 5x60 sessions.

So what is 4689?

4689 is a progressive hockey format, starting with 4v4, moving to 6v6, 8v8 and finally 9v9, where the size of the playing area and number in a team gradually increases as the children's ability

¹ Soccer Coaching International (No. 17 October/November 2006) "Small is Best – Why the 4v4 Format is the Answer for Youth Football"

Diverse. Dynamic. Driven.

improves. The reverse of this sheet gives an overview of the transition between each of the stages. Best of all, you won't need any special equipment or playing areas, **4689** is designed to be as flexible and accessible as possible.

How does this fit into current Active Young People programmes?

4689 follows the Play to Learn and Dragon Sport ethos of ability not age, with our supporting resource laid out in a similar way to these existing programmes. Teachers, coaches and leaders will be able to attend a 3 hour orientation workshop, following which they will be given access to a web-based resource, where they can download the 30 activity cards and a reference manual of individual skills. The skills are broken down into 4 stages, beginner, intermediate, advanced and goalkeeping, and are supported by video clips and animated photos to bring it all to life. There will also be the opportunity to purchase hard copies of the resource.

The resource will support the development of young umpires and leaders – encouraging young people to take part in all aspects of hockey life and contributing to meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Skills Framework.

4689 will also be available as a recreational format of hockey, offering 5x60 programmes a more flexible and accessible version of the game.

What next?

Our hockey development workforce will be trained as tutors and piloting exemplar projects between now and July, in advance of the official launch of **4689** in September 2012. Hockey Wales led competitions from September will be run using the new format, and will be phased in as regulations for all hockey activity from September 2013, starting with under 9s. Competitions will be ability-tiered, with every age group having the choice of two game formats, supporting the ability not age ethos. By phasing in the changes, we will not be expecting children who are currently playing the 7v7 mini hockey format to regress, but any new participants starting out will be introduced to **4689**.

Want to get involved?

From September, Hockey Wales can offer the 3 hour orientation workshop for between 12 and 24 candidates at £40 per person, which includes school affiliation and exclusive access to the full online resource. We will also be looking to offer reduced rates for block bookings where more than one person from each club or school attends. Clubs will be encouraged to seek support through grant aid schemes such as Community Chest, and we are looking to Active Young People programmes to support this as an opportunity to offer specialist training and resources to their schools.

For more information or to express your interest in getting involved, please contact:

Caroline Spanton
Head of Development
Hockey Wales



Diverse. Dynamic. Driven.



4689

4689
has
arrived

the
new route
into
hockey



4689

The Concept

- Stage not age
- Flexible
- Progressive
- Learning through play
- Competition supported
- Develops young leaders and umpires
- Introduces goalkeeping simply and safely



4689

The Game Formats

- 4 4v4 – for beginners
- 6 6v6 – for improvers (introducing umpires and coaches)
- 8 8v8 – for more able (introducing midfielders)
- 9 9v9 – for regular players (introducing GK)



4689

The Design

- Photos - international role models demonstrate the skills
- “Top Trumps” – idolising our international athletes
- Videos - junior club players demonstrate the activities
- Colour coded cards
- Compliments Dragon Sport and Play to Learn
- Easy to navigate password protected website



Brand68



4689

Jack Maclean

Caramel Boy

NICKNAME

16

AGE

Attacking Midfielder

POSITION

Indian Dribble

FAVOURITE SKILL

Whitchurch HC

FIRST CLUB

Wales U16 Boys

CURRENT SQUAD

8

YEARS PLAYING

© 2012 Hockey Wales

Jamie Hooper



Top Tip
Work hard,
play hard

Favourite Hockey Moment

National Young Umpire of the Year 2010

How Often Do You Umpire

At least twice a week

Favourite Food

Chinese

Superstitions

That superstitions are silly

Favourite Hockey Player

Crista Cullen

Favourite Pitch

Loughborough Colliseum

Hockey Ambition

Umpire an Olympic Games

4689: The new route

4689: The new route into hockey

4689

home

technical skills

activity cards

game formats

information

Technical Skills / Beginner / Getting to know your stick

Beginner

Intermediate

Goal Keeping

Advanced

Starting out

Getting to know your stick



zoom +

download PDF

Descriptive text area here and here, etc. etc.
etc.



play full screen



4689

The Resource

- Bilingual
- Interactive
- Activity cards
- Skills cards
- Coaching cards
- Umpiring cards
- Playing the game cards

beginner | leadership
coaching - sixes

Responsibilities

- Ensure to:
- Keep activities safe
 - Encourage players
 - Organise teams

Qualities

- A coach needs to be:
- Positive
 - Enthusiastic
 - Encouraging

General Coaching Principles

To encourage players, remember **G-O-A-L-S**:

Go Get It! – players shouldn't wait for the ball to come to them

Look for players to mark

Space – keep moving!

Players should **Offer** to help their teammates for the ball or for help

What to Look For

- Plan**
- Ensure players have the correct equipment
 - Ensure there is enough space to play
 - Ensure players warm up
 - What are the safety considerations?

Do

- Positively encourage the team / players
- Communicate loudly and clearly
- What tactics can be applied to outwit the opposition?

Review

- Things to consider:
- Organisation
 - Enjoyment
 - Skill development
 - Achieving aims
 - Changes for next time

coaching - sixes

playing eights

umpiring - nines

snarks and islands

attacking 3 v 1

beginner
coaching
sixes

playing
eights



links

4689

The Impact

- Orientation course for teachers, coaches and young leaders
- Resource can be used by children
- More young coaches and umpires
- Uniform delivery of hockey
- Easier transition between primary and secondary, school and club





4689

Coming Soon...

- Rewards scheme
 - Star chart
 - Skills passport
 - Stick stickers
- Skills videos
- Competition toolkit





Get Involved!

4689@hockeywales.org.uk

www.4689.org.uk

[@4689Hockey](#)

Or contact:

Claire Bryant

029-2033-4988

Agenda Item 9b

Paper to Note

National Assembly for Wales

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

Inquiry into participation levels in sport in Wales

Additional information from the Welsh Local Government Association following the meeting held on 27 June 2013

First document : Strategic plan for Swim Wales which is now forming the fundamental structure behind all local authority swim pathways.

Second document :The specific strategy for Swansea showing the links from the governing body pathway for swimming into its own delivery strategy.

Third document : I referred in the meeting to the way in which local authorities are working together on a regional basis to share good practice, to collaborate and make improvements. This document is the shared planning document for the South East Chief Culture and Leisure officers

Fourth document : The detailed delivery plan and priorities' for sport and physical activity for the South East area

Fifth document : Swim report for Newport from learn to swim to excellence.

Sixth document : Disability successes just for Newport.

Seventh document : Sports participation rates for Swansea showing some remarkable improvements in swimming and other areas.

The documents are typical of the way in which local authorities collaborate with national partners and between themselves regionally and nationally.

This was not always the case and most of this work has happened over the last two years in a more formal environment.

I could provide more examples but I think this is enough at this stage in response to the questions raised and evidence given.

I apologise once again for the fact that data for 2012/2013 is not finalised but for swimming in particular we are awaiting the end of the summer term. We will have the data in the early autumn which I am sure will be of value to supplement the report at a later stage.

SWIMMING PATHWAY

1. WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

To deliver a pathway for swimming across Wales that gives everyone the opportunity to take part in the sport throughout their life. Providing opportunities including learn to swim, recreational swimming and a performance pathway to allow competitors to reach their potential.

This will mean achievement of the following targets:

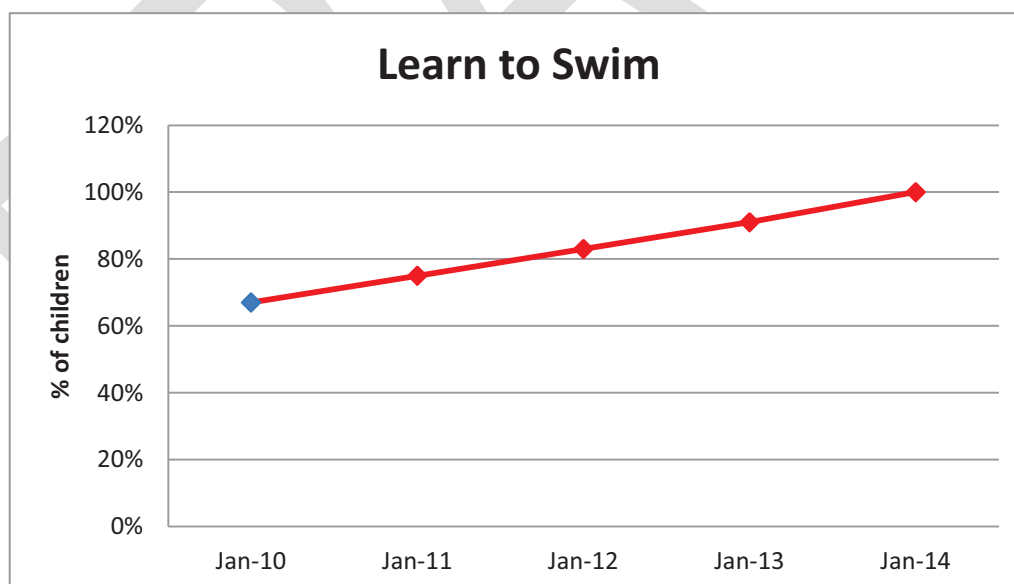
- Every child in Wales can swim by the age of 11 by 2014
- 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014
- 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020
- Consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming’s World Class pathway on an annual basis
- 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals from Welsh swimmers in 2012

2. WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Swimming is often the first sport that we experience and is a sport that you can actively participate in at all ages and abilities. It’s a life skill which provides a vehicle to participation in other aquatic sports and its importance is acknowledged as part of the national curriculum in Wales.

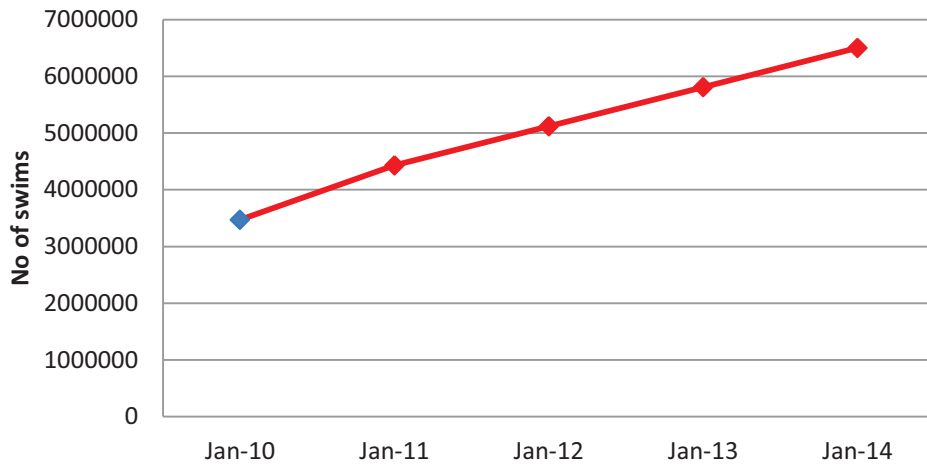
3. HOW ARE WE DOING?

LEARN – Every child in Wales can swim by the age of 11 by 2014



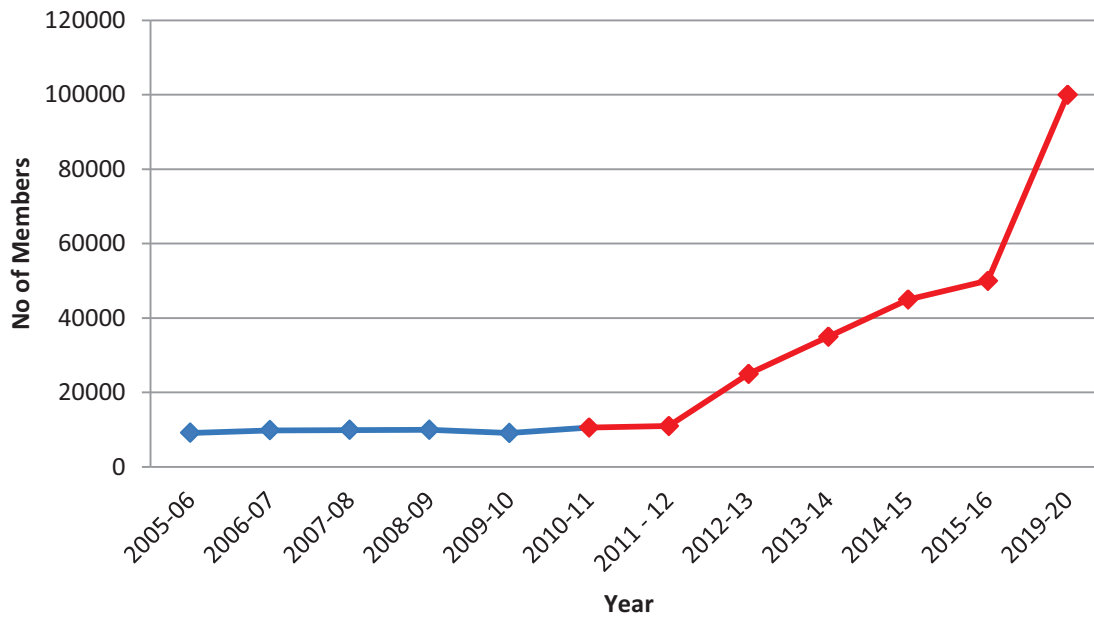
SOCIAL PARTICIPATION– 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014

Total swims accross Wales



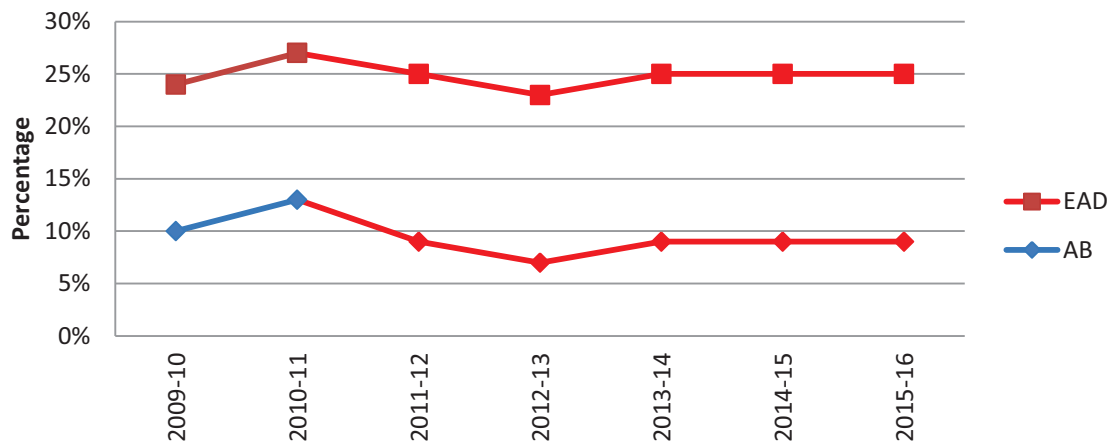
COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020

Registered Aquatic Members



PERFORM – consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming’s World Class pathway on an annual basis

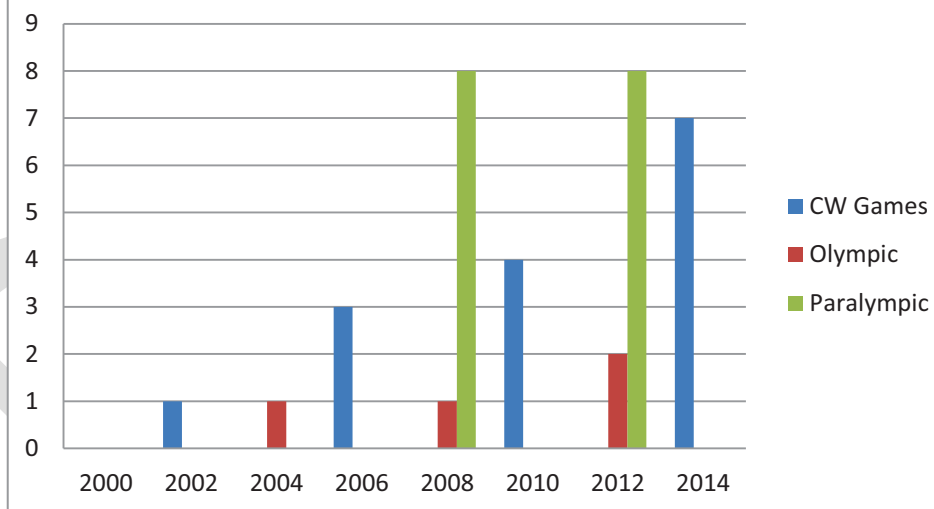
% of Swimmers on British Pathway



AB = Able bodied , EAD = Elite athletes with a disability

EXCEL - 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals from Welsh swimmers in 2012

Commonwealth / Olympic / Paralympic Medals



4. STORY BEHIND THE GRAPHS

LEARN – Every child in Wales can swim by the age of 11 by 2014

- New data being collected, only one year of history available
- Learn to Swim standards based on:
 - Swim 25m in an efficient manner;
 - Tread water or float for a minimum of 30 seconds to include full rotation to a vertical or horizontal (face up) position;
 - Submerge the body competently underwater and surface to face the assessor.
- Varying range between local authorities, ranging from 37% to 94% (average 64%)

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION– 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014

- This target is based on the current highest performing local authority and setting the target that every authority in Wales could aspire to being comparable with this
- Number of swims declining, therefore target is extremely ambitious
- Different approaches will be required to achieve target
- Data doesn't show trend over a long period of time. The peak in 08/09 could be an exception

COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020

- Current membership figures are predominately based on competitive swimmers
- The achievement of 100,000 members is based on increasing competitive swimmers to 20,000 and attracting a different type of membership to the swimming family – social adult membership, aquatic activities that maintain the interest of those that have no desire to be a competitive swimmer

PERFORM – consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming's World Class pathway

- Target is being exceeded consistently
- British Swimming control the number of swimmers on the World Class pathway and the number of swimmers vary over a four year period. For example, four years prior to a major event the number increases however this typically gets squeezed over the four year period. This does / will have an impact on the number of Welsh swimmers supported. The target set doesn't account for this fluctuation and the NGB would prefer the consistent target so show a true reflection of whether swim wales are contributing to British level swimming.

EXCEL - 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals from Welsh swimmers in 2012

- Good increases over past ten years. Olympic medals are predominately Paralympic medals (able bodied Olympic medals consist of 1 in 2004 and 1 2008)
- Targets are ambitious, particularly for AB swimming but achievable

5. PARTNERS

The following key partners are involved in the swimming pathway:

LEARN – WAG, LA Education, LA Leisure, Swim Wales

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – LA leisure & education, Swim Wales

COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL - LA leisure & education, Swim Wales, British Swimming other NGBs e.g. surfing, triathlon, lifesaving

PERFORM – Swim Wales, British Swimming, LA leisure

EXCEL - Swim Wales, British Swimming, LA leisure

Specific roles and responsibilities have been identified for local authorities and NGB's. An example of this is indicated below with Swim Wales and Pembrokeshire Council :

| LOCAL AUTHORITY (LA) | National Governing Body (NGB) | OTHER - CLUBS |
|---|--|---|
| LEARN – Every child in Wales can swim by the age of 11 by 2014 | | |
| Deliver Learn to Swim programme | Provide appropriate training | Talent ID – recruit swimmers |
| Liaise with education | Provide models and share good practice | Interface with learn to swim to pick up swimmers |
| Capture data and respond | Publicity about aquatics | |
| Publicity, marketing | Create next step opportunities | |
| Quality assure delivery | Support clubs to work with LA's/ leisure centres to enable further opportunities following learn to swim | |
| Pass swimmers on to other exit routes | | |
| SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014 | | |
| Provide varying opportunities | Teacher / coach education | Create exit routes |
| Provide appropriate pool time | Resource development where appropriate | |
| Implement opportunities | Promotion and marketing of swimming / aquatics | |
| | Support mass participation events | |
| COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020 | | |
| Facilitate appropriate pool time | Offer appropriate competitive structure | Implement structure for competitive and social aquatics |
| Provide opportunities (particularly wider social participation) | Support clubs to flourish | Cater for demand |
| Recruit and retain sufficient workforce | Teacher / coach education | Host club galas for less formal competition opportunities |
| | Volunteer recruitment | Recruit and retain sufficient volunteers |
| | Link with other aquatic NGBs to support exit routes | |
| PERFORM – consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming's World Class pathway on an annual basis | | |
| Provide sufficient pool time | Ensure swimmers receiving appropriate training, coaching, completion and support | Provide quality training |
| | | Support transitions to performance centre as and when necessary |
| | | |
| EXCEL - 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals in 2012 | | |
| As above | As above | As above |

6. WHAT WORKS

LEARN – Every Child in Wales can Swim by the age of 11 by 2014

Ceredigion currently have 87% of children Learning to Swim by the age of 11yrs. In restructuring their lessons, some of the key aspects have included:

- delegating the money to the community trust run pools who employ the swimming teachers. The swimming teachers have all attended training and all teach to the ASA National Plan for Teaching Swimming. This has created consistency between school swimming lessons and the local authority run swimming lessons. All swimming teachers produce a record for each child that in the future will hopefully feature as part of the child's transition information
- establishing regular meetings with pool managers to create an annual plan for school swimming
- offering schools swimming lessons based on the number of children in the school. Schools with 100 pupils are offered one lesson a week for 30 weeks; schools with 200 pupils are offered 2 lessons a week for 39 weeks; schools with 300 pupils are offered 3 lessons a week for 39 weeks; and so on.
- offering any spare capacity to secondary schools
- creating partnerships so that schools can visit a pool site for a day and take part in swimming, dry-side PE activities and activities in other curriculum areas.

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION– 6.5 million swims per annum across Wales by 2014

- Wrexham County Borough Council records the highest number of recreational swims (2184 per 1000 population). Learn to swim figures are also promising (75% of children met the standard) and they operate a performance club. This would suggest that the programming is effective therefore more information should be sought to identify success factors
- Wrexham CBC have invested significant time and resource in marketing aquatic opportunities to participants on learn to swim programmes, adults who have children in swimming lessons , via schools and via the county council website.
- Over 80 hours of FSI is offered each week which is been planned across the county to ensure there are no duplications in provision
- Significant time has been spent in ensuring that data is collected effectively and accurately across all programme delivery.
- Specific family sessions have been introduced which allow 3 children under 8 to take part in sessions with one adult supervising.

COMPETITIVE & SOCIAL PARTICIPATION – 100,000 registered aquatic members by 2020

- Membership gains have taken place via Aqua passport – a tracking scheme for children attending swimming lessons
- Significant opportunities to further develop this area – membership benefits, adult social participation, aquatic clubs, outlets to other sports

PERFORM - consistently maintain a minimum of 5% of Welsh swimmers selected for British Swimming's World Class pathway

- 10 performance clubs which provides sufficient training time, equipment and coaching
- Regional squad structure through to National Youth Squad and Senior Elite Squad and World Class pathway
- Ever increasing qualifying standards to reach squads

EXCEL - 7 Commonwealth medals in 2014, 2 Olympic and 8 Paralympic medals from Welsh swimmers in 2012

- Intensive Training Centre in Swansea (recognised by British Swimming)
- Elite Clubs – Cardiff & Swansea
- Athlete support to elite swimmers e.g. physiology, nutrition, strength & conditioning, performance lifestyle

DRAFT

The Strategic Swimming Priorities and Pathways for Swansea

Overview

This document provides an initial strategic overview on key priority areas for the swimming pathway in Swansea. It covers high level priorities and requires consultation with key partners, deliverers and facility providers to provide a detailed action plan to ensure the priorities and aspirations can be delivered.

Swansea is a coastal area with the main city situated on the sea front with the main area enclosed by the sea and the rivers Tawe and Loughor, with beaches ranging from the marina and Swansea Bay, those around Gower and the tidal estuary of the Bury inlet to the River Loughor. Swansea is also the home of the Wales National Pool and the offices of the Governing Body for the sport of Swimming. The City and County of Swansea Council has therefore designated swimming as a Division 1 sport.

The main areas covered within this paper include pre school, school swimming, Learn to swim, Social swimming, Clubs, including various aquatics club, performance, workforce development, facilities and equipment and how the whole pathways interact with the Welsh Government's Free Swimming Initiative.

Pre School Swimming

Strategic Priorities

- Each Council and partner facility to offer pre school swimming opportunities
- Pre School swimming to be included in the Free Junior Structured programme

School Swimming

Strategic Priorities

- Minimum of 95% of all pupils to achieve National Curriculum Test (NCT) by end of year 6 (by July 2014)
- All Primary Schools to buy into CCS Primary Phase Swimming SLA
- Increase Year 4 participation in SLA to 60% of all pupils
- Continuation of Primary Phase Swimming to Years 7 and 8 through free swimming for Comprehensive Schools at this age group.
- Targeted Free Structured Swimming Lessons during holiday periods for those pupils up to year 8 recognised by the Council's Swimming Co-ordinator requiring additional swimming lesson support.
- Feedback annually to schools, Education Department and Sport Wales on participation and NCT levels
- All schools to receive free annual water safety awareness training
- Expand Schools Swimming SLA to Morriston Leisure Centre
- All SLA pools to conduct 'non competitive' swimming competitions

Learn to Swim Programme

Strategic Priorities

- Increase Learn to Swim programme at CCS venues from 1300 – 2000 by reviewing pool programmes and expanding pathways from School swimming to Learn to Swim
- Increasing WNPS Learn to swim from 800 to 1200
- Introduce Learn to Swim at the LC
- Ensure Swansea Sharks, Poseidon and any other local Learn to Swim programmes follow the ASA National Plan for Swimming Teaching if using Council owned Swimming Facilities including School sites.
- Expand to 1 to 1 Learn to Swim programme
- Include the Long Term Athlete Development Timeframe within the Learn to swim Programme
- Expand the opportunities for Swimming Clubs to attend the Learn to Swim programme for pathway opportunities and talent ID.
- Expand the opportunities for alternate aquatic opportunities to follow on from the Learn to Swim Programme including Rookies, Bronze Medallion, Canoeing, Surfing, Water Polo.
- Introduce the Learn to Swim free swimming promotion to all CCS active learn to swim participants at all times at CCS run pools and expand to partner pools.

Social Swimming

Strategic Priorities

- Aspire for Swansea to be within the top quartile for paid and free swimming in Wales per head of population
- Ensure there is a wide and varied programme of opportunities across the City facilities
- Maximise the Free Swimming Programme through continuation of the 60+ free swimming and introduce structured 60+ FSI at WNPS
- Continue the Xmas free swimming across CCS venues and encourage partner participation in the scheme
- Expand the weekend free swimming and include greater opportunities for dry side programmes to be linked to the scheme
- Encourage parents to participate in the Learn to Swim free swim opportunities by discounting parents with participating children
- Review the Active Swansea membership to monitor the uptake on use of the swimming pools as part of the packages.

Club Opportunities

Strategic Priorities

- Help increase Swim Swansea and Penyrheol membership.

- Review pool space agreement with Swim Swansea until numbers increase significantly
- Offer Penyrheol Club pool space agreement until Swim Swansea Membership reaches optimum levels
- Review Swim Swansea Development and Performance structures
- Encourage Swansea Sharks to become part of the Swim Swansea 'Umbrella'
- Further develop links to all aquatic clubs and providers as pathways from the Learn to Swim programmes
- Create a new Aquatics Pathways Co-ordinator (part time) to work alongside CCS Swim Co-ordinator, partner key staff, swimming clubs and other aquatic providers to forge clear pathway opportunities for all swimmers
- Develop CCS non competitive swimming clubs at CCS venues and WNPS as interim club environment to recognised swimming clubs
- Review CCS management of Swim Swansea
- Continue the support of the disabled club at Pentrehafod through free pool space
- Expand the licensing of surf schools and all outdoor water borne opportunities
- To assist the new Watersport Centre of Excellence (Swansea Bay 360) and include in any aquatics pathway from learn to swim and club swimmers

Facilities and Equipment

Strategic Priorities

- Ensure all facilities to be of an appropriate condition
- Ensure all facilities have suitable and appropriate equipment to deliver the programmes
- Review the asset management / condition surveys of all CCS swimming pools to identify potential repairs and future capital spend
- Ensure CCS Education project QEd takes into account the community demand for swimming across the city to include the potential demand at school swimming pools

Workforce Development

Strategic Priorities

- Increase the opportunities for work on the swimming sector in Swansea from Lifeguarding to instructor and coach opportunities through providing up-skilling opportunities.
- Ensure that all coaches and instructors are suitably qualified
- Ensure that all lifeguards of Swansea Swimming Pools are qualified to the CCS standard and where appropriate, SLA's with partner organisations are in place with CCS Water Safety Team
- Up-skilling of Level 1 instructors to Level 2

Document 2

- To run a series of appropriate workshops for instructors and club coaches and volunteers
- To increase the base of L1 swimming instructors

Performance Swimming

Strategic Priorities

(to be reviewed)

-

Headline Targets

Area for Improvement:

Aim: To ensure all children with the SE Region have the opportunity to engage and develop in aquatic activities.

Service Description

- Swimming & Aquatic Development Officers from the following 5 local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.
- Swim Wales Regional Development Officer (Hanna Guise)
- Sport Wales Senior Officer (Richard Dando)
- PESS (JE, JM & AHJ)

Priorities for Development

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1. School Swimming – Data collection and other agreed areas
2. Learn to Swim (after school) – consistency in delivery/structure, no's in lessons, capacity & income, pathways
3. Social Participation – Free Swims for Young People and older Persons
4. Governing Body Membership – Broken down into relevant categories including A, B & C
5. Workforce development – agreed SE Wales plan for employees, clubs, volunteers.

Headline Performance Measure

1. No. of children achieving National Curriculum Standard for **years 3, 4, 5** and 6 and **current standard of children attending programmes**; realistic targets for LA's (see attached information.) Agreed and consistent structure delivery and evaluation.
2. Learn to Swim – number of LA's striving towards Swim Wales Passport Scheme, capacity within lessons (maximising pool space/resources and income) and numbers of children attending swim lessons, inclusion and provision for disabled children/adults
3. Social Participation – as per WAG Free Swims for Young People and Over 60's. Analysing trends and targets.
4. Swim Wales membership – number of competitive and non-competitive members e.g. through Aqua Passport scheme per LA/competitive clubs and realistic targets for forthcoming years. Highlighting numbers of learn to swim and comparison of non-competitive and competitive in some clubs/regions.
5. Workforce Development – number of Courses and Workshops within SE Wales; no. of participants who attend these courses with agreed targets for region and each authority.

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Data Development

Please see below data that was not available at start of research

1. More accurate and specific Schools Swim Data needed such as National Curriculum standard for years 3, 4 and 5. (Currently only Year 6 collected until now) Structure within lessons, delivery, assessment of the children, awards etc for 11/12, 12/13 and targets for 13/14 – wide range of inconsistency currently practised.
 2. Accurate Swim Lesson data e.g. numbers/capacity currently in lessons for 11/12, 12/13 and target setting for 13/14.
 3. FSI from data unit information (Lack of Historical Data and issues with data collection & new website) – Informed Data Unit.
 4. WASA Members broken down into various categories e.g. competitive and non-competitive, gender and age groups.
- Workforce development – number of participants in 10/11, 11/12 and 12/13 and targets for 13/14 (Funding Issues highlighted.)

Page 1

How Much?

Please refer to data on separate spread sheet

How Well?

Please refer to data on separate spread sheet

Is anyone better off?

By looking at the data collected, trends analysed and from speaking to various partners involved, the following can be stated:

- Aquatic Clubs have witnessed a slight increase in members both competitive and non-competitive
- School children within SE Region are achieving National Curriculum at an increasing rate**
- An increasing number of Older People within the SE Region are accessing Free Swim

Story (last 3 years) behind the Baseline

School Swim Programme – from data received and meetings with all relevant partners all 5 local authorities are showing improvements with regards to the % of children achieving the National Curriculum Award in Year 6. However, there are a number of inconsistencies including structure of lessons, assessment (criteria and who assesses), awards and also clarity of data given i.e. % of how many children. In addition, the swimming ability of children attending their relevant school swim programme has dropped dramatically within the last 2 years.

With regards to **Learn to Swim** again all authorities have witnessed an increase in the number of children attending swim lessons, with some LA's setting and achieving high targets and all currently follow the same framework (ASA NPTS) which aids consistency across the SE Region.

It has become apparent that for all 5 Local Authorities to acquire & deliver the new Swim Wales Aqua Passport will be even more challenging than first thought. There are potential issues with system administration, collation & sharing of data and access to Aqua Passport interactive website. There have also been concerns raised with regards to the criteria being implemented.

Social Participation – it is apparent that all local authorities have experienced a dramatic drop in the number of Young People (16 years & Under) participating in the Free Swim Initiative, although some have witnessed an increase during the past 12 months. Research will be need to be carried out (by all relevant partners) to determine why there has been such a decrease, which is also a national issue. In stark contrast all 5 authorities, have witnessed an increase in Older Person's participation, which may be a result of an increasing age of population (people living longer), repeat visits etc. This is not what the initial aim of FSI was when it was first launched.

Swim Wales Membership - Again there is positive news here, with all 5 LA's showing a steady increase in Swim Wales members. This demonstrates that pathways from Learn to Swim are in place, albeit some have more established programmes than others. It must also be noted than some clubs have a high percentage of category A Swimmers (under 10's) as a result of delivering their own Learn to Swim programmes, which of course, causes conflict with the relevant local authority's own programme.

Workforce Development – Through the data collected, most LA's have seen an increase in workforce development within Aquatics, however there are some that have not invested at all. Over

Partners who can help us do better

Swim Wales, Sport Wales, PESS, Local Education Partners, Schools, Parents, and **ourselves**.

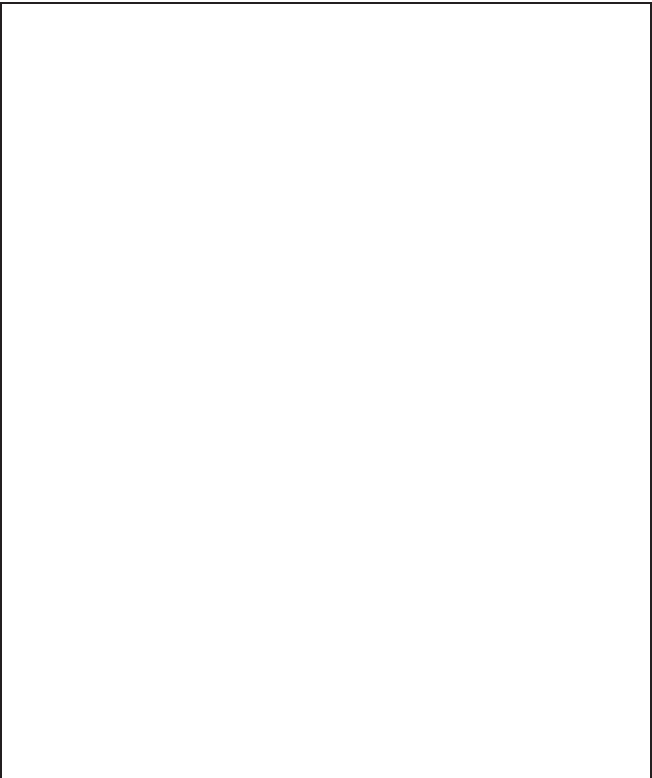
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the past 3-4 years, all local authorities (including SE Region) have become dependent upon external funding (Improvement Fund & LAPA) to deliver appropriate workforce development. It is also apparent that some LA's have been more proactive than others in supporting staff, volunteers and clubs alike.

However, these funding avenues are potentially no longer available and therefore at least two authorities will be unable to deliver any coach education within the region for this year. This will therefore impact upon current staff/volunteers and quality of provision and the recruitment & up skilling of new coaches/teachers. LA's are encouraged to utilise Free Swim funding but will this will impact upon free swim access to the public and will undoubtedly impact upon performance indicators for Free Swim participation.

As you will see from the above, there are a number of examples of best practise and also many examples of poor and also inconsistencies within the SE Region. Also, through consultation and collecting of data, it has become apparent in some LA's that aquatic plans & targets are not requested and therefore, this will have a significant and negative impact upon the long term solutions and aquatic development within the Region. **In addition, it is apparent that all of the 5 LA's have a different focus i.e. development, income generation etc. – there needs to be a common theme and focus here.**

It is also apparent that for a successful Aquatic Programme to be delivered and to develop, a Swimming/Aquatic Development Officer is needed in post, who in addition has full responsibility for local aquatics in their authority and has the relevant support mechanisms in place.



| What do we propose to do to improve performance? | |
|---|--|
| Action | Update |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BS to meet relevant partners to consult over CORL Actions and proposed plan 2. BS to meet with all relevant partners (as listed above) to agree on action plan and implement changes and improvements as agreed. 3. School Swim Programme – Nat Cur for all years relevant, consistent framework, awards etc. 4. Learn to Swim – all LA's aiming to achieve consistency through acquiring of Aqua Passport and agreeing new capacity targets, pathways to other aquatic options 5. Social participation – as per LA's scorecard; all LA's offering Free Swim to Armed Services and/or VETS, evaluating current Free Swim allocation and participation. | <p>BS has met with all relevant partners/officers including fellow SDO's (x4), Swim Wales, Sport Wales and PESS.</p> |

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| <p>6. WASA Membership – Address conflict with Learn to Swim in relevant authorities; implement increase in Swim Wales Membership through improved competitive pathways.</p> <p>7. Workforce Development – SE Wales wide provision to employees, volunteers and aquatic club members; accessing of funding to help deliver comprehensive coach education in SE Wales Region</p> | |
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All people in Gwent lead active lifestyles

What would success look like?

- Increased participation levels in sport and physical activity in adults
- Increased participation levels in sport and physical activity in children and young people

How are we going to achieve this outcome?

- The Gwent Sub Group for Sport and Leisure to demonstrate impact against priorities agreed.
- To instil accountability for collaborative improvement across the local authorities
- To meet quarterly to measure progress and identify improvement areas.

How are we doing so far?

| Indicator | | 2009 /10 | 2010 /11 | 2011/12 | Target 2012/13 |
|---|---------------|----------|----------|---------|----------------|
| % of young people attending 30 or more sessions per academic year (Source: Sport Wales 5x60 MI Report) | Caerphilly | 3.61% | 5.27% | 6.75% | |
| | Blaenau Gwent | 2.7% | 4.6% | 6.31% | |
| | Torfaen | 1.92% | 5.46% | 2.87% | |
| | Monmouthshire | 6.14% | 1.21% | 8.24% | |
| | Newport | 1.57% | 1.49% | 3.41% | |
| | WALES | 4.29% | 5.16% | 6.53% | |
| % of 7-11 year olds "Hooked on Sport" (Source: School Sport Survey, Sport Wales) | Caerphilly | N/A | N/A | 26% | |
| | Blaenau Gwent | N/A | N/A | 27% | |
| | Torfaen | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| | Monmouthshire | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| | Newport | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| | WALES | N/A | N/A | 28% | |
| % of pupils achieving Level 5 in the Key Stage 3 Non Core Teacher Assessment Results in Physical Education (Source: National Office of Statistics) | Caerphilly | 69.6% | 77.7% | 81.2% | |
| | Blaenau Gwent | 62.7% | 73.1% | 72.9% | |
| | Torfaen | 64.6% | 71.9% | 78.4% | |
| | Monmouthshire | 82.2% | 84.4% | 85.9% | |
| | Newport | 78% | 80% | 83.1% | |
| | WALES | 73.9% | 78% | 82.2% | |
| % of children age 11 years achieving swimming 25 metres (Source: Local Government Data Unit) | Caerphilly | 53% | 27% | 61% (T) | 68% (T) |
| | Blaenau Gwent | 55% | 80% | 70% | 75% (T) |
| | Torfaen | 86% | 90% | 80% | No data |
| | Monmouthshire | 73% | 63% | 75% | 78% (T) |
| | Newport | 49% | 63% | 65% | 68% (T) |
| | | | | | |

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|---|---------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|--|
| | WALES | 67% | 69% | | |
| The number of visits to a local authority sport and leisure centres during the year where the visitor will be participating in physical activity, per 1000 population <i>(Source: Wales Data Unit)</i> | Caerphilly | N/A | 6456.88 | 6634.77 | |
| | Blaenau Gwent | N/A | 12350.79 | 13716.61 | |
| | Torfaen | N/A | 7478.74 | 7624.62 | |
| | Monmouthshire | N/A | 4873.65 | 5962.37 | |
| | Newport | N/A | 7639.19 | 7408.32 | |
| | WALES | N/A | 8523.52 | 8760.86 | |
| % of customers reporting good or excellent for Leisure Centre facilities and provision <i>(Source: Local Authorities)</i> | Caerphilly | Data Development Agenda | | | |
| | Blaenau Gwent | | | | |
| | Torfaen | | | | |
| | Monmouthshire | | | | |
| | Newport | | | | |
| | WALES | | | | |

Story Behind Performance

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- There is a general upward trajectory in LA participation rates in the 5x60 programme from 2009/10 to 2011/12, however Newport, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent are positioned below the national average of 6.53%. Monmouthshire have the highest participation rate at 8.24%.
- With regards to “hooked on sport for life” (3 times or more per week) Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly are the only LA’s in the regional with a full Sport Wales survey and have 27% and 26% of 7-11 year olds participating three times or more a week, just below the national average of 28%. It’s critical in 2012/13 that all Gwent LAs strive to obtain a greater Sport Wales survey sample, in order to improve benchmarking across the region.
- There is an overall upward trajectory across the region with pupils achieving Level 5 at Key Stage 3 via non-core teacher assessments, however both Blaenau Gwent (72.9%) and Torfaen (78.4%) are performing below the national average of 82.2% for the academic session 2011/12.
- The indicator for the % of children age 11 years achieving swimming 25 metres fluctuates across the region. Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Newport mirrored the Wales trend of showing an upward trajectory, however performance in Caerphilly (>26%) and Monmouthshire (>10%) has significantly decreased.

What we propose to do to improve performance

- Agree regional priorities at Gwent sub group level that will lead to increased participation and quality provision (and gain approval from Gwent Chief Officer Group).
- Identify lead people within the sub group lead on each priority and report back on progress on impact quarterly to the sub group.
- Chair of sub group to report on progress 6 monthly (using RBA format) to Gwent Chief Officer Group.
- Chair of sub group to report progress 6 monthly (using RBA format) to CORL group.

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Documents that will support the implementation of this outcome

- Creating an Active Wales
- A vision for Sport in Wales
- Sport Wales Coaching Strategy
- Local Authority Partnership Agreements

Newport – ‘A technology city infused with sporting and cultural excellence’.

Swimming and Aquatic Development

The report outlines some key successes for Swimming and Aquatic Development in Newport.

Swimming has been identified as a priority sport in the city. It is also a priority in Wales where a key aspiration agreed by each local authority is to ensure that each child can swim by age 11. Swimming is a priority sport for Welsh Government in encouraging people of all ages to be physical activity and improve their health. This is supported by WG's funding for Free Swimming for children and also Older People.

The delivery of swimming and other aquatic sports has been transformed in Newport over the past 3 years and positive outcomes are now being evidenced.

Newport City Council developed and implemented an Integrated Swim Programme which has now been in place for 2 ½ years. The programme is now seen by Swim Wales and Sport Wales as an example of best practise with regards to the structure, pathway and quality of the programmes. Many other clubs/local authorities are now looking to replicate this model, which has seen the fastest growth in membership for a competitive club.

Swim Lesson Programme

The swim lesson programme currently has 2,000 children attending weekly swim lessons at the council's 3 swimming pools (NISV, Newport Centre and the Active Living Centre). Two of the pools are achieving 90% capacity with the other achieving 88% on a regular basis. This shows evidence that the swim lesson programme is continually delivering a quality of standard of teaching and customers are willing to return each term.

Competitive Swim Programme

The swimming & water polo club currently has 240 members paying direct debits each month. This shows a 50 % increase from when the Integrated Swim Programme was implemented when membership stood at 160.

Swim Development in partnership with the club and coaches, have recently completed a review of the competitive programme and have now introduced two new squads to a) accommodate the growing demand in the swimming club b) improve training within the relevant swim squads.

All the remaining swim squads are doing extremely well, with three of the four squads currently at **100% capacity**. This is due to the excellent coaching in the lower squads as well as the club attracting swimmers from the region as a whole. If all squads were full within the club (including water polo) then the club would have a membership of 300, which would make the club the third biggest in Wales.

Arena National Swimming league

The National Swimming League is the premier team swimming competition in Great Britain. The City of Newport has been competing in the Premier division for the 5th consecutive year. This year, our swimmers put in a great team performance over the three rounds to equal our highest ever league finish of 11th. This was an excellent

performance, especially when considering that the City of Newport is now one of only a few single clubs competing at this level, with many clubs choosing to merge to form county/regional squads.

ASA British National Championships

The City of Newport will have its highest ever number of swimmers competing at the prestigious ASA British National Championships in 2013. The championships are the benchmark for competitive swimming in Great Britain and therefore the qualifying standards are extremely difficult to achieve (only the top 20-30 swimmers in Britain qualify in each event). The City of Newport will be sending a team of at least 14 swimmers which includes Cameron Brown, Matthew Jayne, Matthew Eke, Alex Griffiths, Tristan Cuer, Connor Acland, Jonathan Eke, Sam Hynd, Emily Peacock, Emily Whiting, Elizabeth Smith, Louise Bell, Erin Bryce and Cerys Coley. This may further increase as there is still one opportunity to qualify.

Welsh National Championships

Performances at the Welsh National Championships in December were absolutely outstanding from City of Newport swimmers. Almost all who took part recorded new personal best performances and the squad of swimmers won an incredible combined total of 28 medals. This is a remarkable result when considering that our swimmers were competing against all of the most talented swimmers from across Wales. The most pleasing aspect was the number of different swimmers from Newport winning medals at this level, therefore showing a real increase in the strength in depth of national levels swimmers across our performance squads.

International Honours and records

During the last year many City of Newport swimmers have received many international honours.

The club had its highest ever number of swimmers selected onto Swim Wales regional training squads with a total of 13 swimmers participating in the stroke specific training camps.

Cameron Brown, Jonathan Eke, and Alex Griffiths represented Wales at the UK Schools games in London, where both Cameron and Alex were part of the Welsh team that broke the national junior record in the 4x200m and 4x100m freestyle relays. This added to Cameron's individual national junior 200m freestyle record set at the nationals.

Cameron Brown was selected as part of the Welsh Youth team, which competed at the recent Luxembourg International meet, where he picked up a gold, silver and bronze medal. He was also selected as part of the Welsh senior team (as the youngest male swimmer) to compete in the Celtic Tri-nations held in May, in which the Welsh team were victorious.

Sam Hynd and Jonathan Eke have both been selected as part of the British Disability squad for 2013. Jonathan was selected for the World class podium potential squad, while Sam was selected to World Class Podium Squad.

In April Sam Hynd qualified to represent Great Britain at the World disability championships in Montreal, Canada, in August 2013.

City of Newport Head Coach Ross Nicholas was selected as Welsh National Team Coach for the Celtic Tri-nations and also Welsh Youth Head coach for the Luxembourg International meet.

Assistant Coach James Goodwin was selected as coach for the Swim Wales Regional skills squads.

Water Polo

The water polo section has also seen a dramatic increase in the number of children playing water polo each week, with 35 children in the Junior Squad.

The club is now part of the Welsh Water Polo League, which has three age groups for children born in 95, 97 and 99. In addition, children born in 2000 or younger also play in friendly matches so that they can practise what they are coached and also retain their membership.

All our junior squads are very young in comparison to the other teams, with many children playing out of age. However, results have shown that the players have improved in performance, stamina and skills.

We currently have 8 players within the Welsh Junior Squads and have represented their country at various competitions. This is reward for all their hard work over the past 2 years and also the quality of the coaches who take the sessions. In addition two thirds of the club now attend monthly Welsh Water Polo clinics, with about ½ the club players attending specific regional training on a weekly basis at NISV.

The Senior squad has also witnessed an increase over the past 12 months. These players train on a weekly basis at NISV with older members of the junior squad. The club have also now joined the Bristol & West League for the **1st time in 15 years**, which shows the strength in depth within the club. One of the players (James Farror) is currently goalie for the Welsh Senior team who competed at the recent Tri Nations and is also training with the Commonwealth Squad.

The Newport International Sports Village, is seen as a vital training base for both junior and senior water polo, with the Welsh training Clinics now using the pool every Friday evening, and the Welsh Senior Squad (Men's and Women's) using the pool for Commonwealth training Camps. This is a reflection of the fantastic facilities at the Sports Village.

Finally two of the coaches within the club have been recognised and are now coaching within the Welsh Squads and Welsh clinics, these being Brian Jones and Barrie Swift.

Disability Sport Successes Last 6 months

- One of the first authorities in Wales to achieve the Disability Sport Wales insport ribbon award. The award recognises Newport City Council's commitment to delivering an inclusive sport and leisure programme.
- There has been a 39% increase in participation in disability sport activities in Newport in 2012 compared to the same period in 2011.
- Partnership with day services extended providing disabled adults with a programme of leisure centre based activities. Currently the programme provides 10 sessions a week to an average of 85 disabled adults.
- 5 x 60 programme expanded into Maes Ebbw Special School, 1 sports session provided each lunchtime 5 days a week.
- New disability football session established and linked to Caerleon Junior Football Club, and the Welsh Football Trust festival programme.
- 2 riders from the Newport based Para Cycling session selected onto GB development squads.

Sports Participation Rates – City and County of Swansea trends 2011-2013

The trends identified here generally refer to 2011-12 (pre Olympics) and 2012-13. However, where possible figures showing a longer trend period are used e.g. 2008-09 to 2012-13.

| Sport / Performance Indicator | Pre Olympic Year 2011-12 Result | Olympic Year 2012-13 Result | Current Trend | Factors supporting increasing participation |
|--|---|--|--------------------------|--|
| The number of people (adults & Juniors) enrolled on swimming lessons CCS Leisure Centre Learn to Swim Programme (Lessons & Courses, FSI Lessons) | 12,287 | 13,527 | + 10% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free swim lessons have been a catalyst for increasing the numbers attending as they are initially identified through the school programme as needing additional tuition which is given as FSI structured sessions and then encourages participants to join the regular programme. ▪ The swimming tuition has been highlighted by the ASA as being of a high standard and has a high success rate – success breeds success |
| % of Children who can swim at age 11 (8-11) Learn to swim programme – schools. | 55% (2008-09) | 93% (projected results due in Jul 13) | + 38% since 08-09 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional teacher at each site was implemented to support school swim lessons as identified this would deliver significant improvement ▪ Efforts to concentrate on pupils who have missed lessons/terms concentrating on key target areas, also providing transport (with Comm 1st). |
| Total Swimming Usage – CCS & Partner Sites | 790,965 | 884,567 | +12% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ + 6k increase at CCS sites ▪ + 85k at LC Water Park ▪ WNP on par with previous year. |
| National Strategic Indicator - LCS/002 - The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres during the year where the visitor will be participating in physical activity, per 1,000 population | 7,805 (2008-09) | 8,038 | + 3% since 08-09 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General upward trend ▪ CCS LC fitness programme expanded successfully ▪ Additional venues added into measure such as TS365 and sport based community centres. |

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|---|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <p>Total Sports Usage across the CTS&L Department (LC's, Sports Dev, Pitch, partners usage etc.)</p> | <p>2,294,400</p> | <p>2,353,425</p> | <p>+ 2.6%</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General upward trend ▪ Additional venue – TS365 added ▪ Increased Swim participation ▪ Increased schools gymnastics programme (at Penyrheol LC) |
| <p>Total Physical Activity Usage (includes all Sports & Physical Activity usage)</p> | <p>3,113,863 (2009-10)</p> | <p>3,384,731</p> | <p>+ 9% since 09-10</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General upward trend ▪ Additional venue – TS365 added ▪ Increased Swim participation ▪ Significant increase in gym and fitness class usage |
| <p>Community Sports Participation</p> | <p>105,095</p> | <p>124,860</p> | <p>+21% increase</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus Sports – With partners, selected sports that can make the biggest difference to participation and performance based on –Capacity/demand, local infrastructure, equity and legacy. Including Football, Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Sailing, Rowing, Basketball, Gymnastics. ▪ LAPA – In Swansea the LAPA directly supports the focus sports and other identified sports in partnership with the NGB or hub clubs. ▪ Be Part of it – Marketing campaign based on Olympic/Paralympic legacy including events, press releases, club sport profile. ▪ Community Chest – Raising the profile of the funding mechanism to take advantage of almost double the amount of funds available to Swansea clubs on previous years (130k). |
| <p>Disability Sport Usage</p> | <p>16,295</p> | <p>21,639</p> | <p>+ 33%</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Included in “Be Part of it” Olympic/Paralympic legacy campaign. ▪ Focus sports programme. ▪ Achievement of Ribbon award accreditation and related action planning. |

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|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| <p>AYP Girls Sporting Participation (5x60)</p> | <p>42.66% (2010-11)</p> | <p>55% (2011-12)</p> | <p>+ 12.34%</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12-13 result due Aug 13 ▪ During 11-12 4,500 sessions delivered across 5x60 programme offering the opportunity to try 38 different sports. ▪ Established top 5 sports attract more girls participation – Street Dance, Basketball, Badminton, Multi-skills, Girls Football. ▪ An increase in female young ambassadors as role models has had a positive impact on female participation. |

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

CELG(4)-23-13 : Paper 10 : Paper to Note

Email dated 10 July 2013

Dear Christine Chapman AM,

Football Association of Wales and its decision on the future of Barry and Llanelli football clubs

I am writing to you as Chair of the Communities, Equalities and Local Government to ask that your committee carries out a committee enquiry into the governance of football in Wales, as a follow on from the committee's previous report into the Welsh Premier League in Wales, which touches on FAW governance and its general relationship with Welsh Clubs.

This inquiry would be timely as you will be aware of disquiet within football regarding the governance arrangements and the transparency of the organisation's decision-making process.

This has come to the fore recently following the decision of the FAW to deny Welsh League entry to Llanelli AFC and Barry Town United.

Officers of the Football Association of Wales (FAW) called a Special Meeting of the Council of the FAW, today, Tuesday 9th July 2013 to consider new information in relation to a previous decision of Council, made at their last meeting on the 13th June concerning Barry Town United and Llanelli Football Club.

Of the twenty-nine Council Members present, fifteen voted against and fourteen voted for Standing Orders to be suspended. The new information could not be heard and the previous decision of Council, relating to the two clubs, as agreed at the meeting of Council on the 13th June 2013, stands.

You will appreciate that as Shadow Sports Minister for Plaid Cymru, I have been contacted by many people who are deeply unhappy that the consideration of new information was voted down at said meeting by the Councillors. Many people have contacted me to say that they believe that the unwieldy structures of the FAW is not workable, and that now is the time for change.

I trust that you will raise this in committee, and that you will have a discussion on the clear merit of such an investigation by the committee in the National Assembly which has responsibility for sport.

I look forward to your response,

Kind Regards,

Bethan Jenkins AM

ANN JONES AM/AC **Vale of Clwyd / Dyffryn Clwyd**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Christine Chapman AM
Chair of the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales

10th July 2013

Dear Christine

I am writing to ask you to consider a short inquiry into FAW governance following the latest unfortunate episode around membership of Barry Town and Llanelli.

I am writing to the FAW and will share their response with you.

Best wishes

Ann Jones AM