

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 9 November 2022

Subject **Norse Joint Venture Partnership**

Author Scrutiny Advisor

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Tracy McKim	Head of People, Policy and Transformation
Lyndon Watkins	Managing Director of Newport Norse
Mark McSweeney	Director – Professional and Contract Services, Newport Norse
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director –Transformation and Corporate Centre, Newport City Council

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

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

2 Context

Background

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

environments across the city. The link to the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 are in Section 8 of this cover report.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 The Newport Norse Partnership report contains the following sections;

- Introduction
- Background
 - When and why was the joint venture started
 - What has been achieved to date?
- The present day
 - Response to Member comments from Scrutiny Committee 2021
 - What does Newport Norse do for the Council
 - Lessons learned
 - Compliments and complaints 2021/2022
 - Performance Management
- The Future
 - Goals for next year
 - Planning for the end of the contract

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

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

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

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

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- 4.1 The Committee might wish to think about the following when devising questioning strategies;
- What are the main challenges that face both Newport Norse and NCC in the Partnership?
 - Are there any fundamental changes to the relationship that would allow for greater success?
 - What were the most important lessons learned in part 3.3? Have all the actions listed in this section been implemented?
 - What is planned over the final two years of the partnership to ensure service areas and service users continue to benefit?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The following have been provided to the Committee for additional / background reading to support the scrutiny of the joint venture partnership:

- A Guide to Newport Norse
- A Schools Guide to Newport Norse
- Newport Norse Communication Plan



A Guide to
Newport Norse June



A Schools Guide to
Newport Norse V5, J



Newport Norse
comms plan 30-04-1

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

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

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

7 Impact Assessment:

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

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

7.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

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

7.3 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

Newport Norse directly employs 300 people, and also 9 apprentices and trainees at present, with plans to increase this number in the future. Newport Norse have also increased job security and local employment, contributing to a thriving economy.

8. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)
- [Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships Wednesday 3rd November 2021](#)

Report Completed: 9 November 2022