

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 8th November 2023

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 third 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 9th November 2022 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;

1. **Introduction**
Provides an overview of the report and its purpose.
2. **Performance 2022/2023**
Highlights the key performance indicators used to measure the success of the joint venture in the past year.
3. **Business plan objectives for 2023/2024**
Outlines the partnership's objectives for the upcoming year.
4. **Delivering 'Social Value'**
Discusses the partnership's efforts to create social value and the methods used to measure it.
5. **Case Study - Bassaleg School**
Provides a detailed example of the social value created by the partnership in a specific project.
6. **Conclusion:**
Summarises the report and highlights key takeaways.

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 challenges or obstacles has the partnership faced in delivering social value, and how has the partnership addressed these challenges?
 - How does the partnership compare to other similar joint ventures in terms of delivering social value, and what steps is the partnership taking to learn from best practices in this area?
 - Are there any fundamental changes to the relationship that would allow for greater success?
 - What risks or challenges could impact the partnership's ability to achieve the Business Plan Objectives for 2023/2024, and what steps are being taken to mitigate these risks?
 - What is planned over the final year 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-2022_Final-05.Newport Norse V5, J 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 Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport’s Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

7 Impact Assessment:

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

The report emphasises the partnership's commitment to complying with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The partnership has adopted an overarching framework aligned with the Act and uses a measurement framework for social value. The report notes that the Newport Norse Core List will support the delivery of social value, support the Norse Group climate change work, and will assist in the reporting of compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The report advises that the partnership is committed to delivering social, economic, cultural, and environmental well-being in line with the goals of the Act.

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

The report emphasises the partnership's commitment to delivering social value and supporting the council's social value commitments. The report also includes a case study of the partnership's work with Bassaleg School, which highlights the social value created by the partnership's activities in this project.

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 9th November 2022](#)

Report Completed: 8th November 2023