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Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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SPORTS COUNCIL FOR WALES REMIT LETTER 2010-11

The purpose of this letter is to set out the key strategic and operational priorities for the Sports Council for Wales (SCW) in 2010-11 that will contribute to the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic policy objectives in relation to sport and physical activity in Wales.

The Sports Council for Wales plays a key role in delivering the Welsh Assembly Government's aims to create a healthy future through regular participation in sport and physical activity and to promote Wales on the world stage through the achievement and successes of our sportsmen and women and our national teams.

While we undoubtedly face challenging times in terms of the economic climate and growing pressures on public finances, it is arguably even more important now to maintain and increase current levels of participation in sport and physical activity and to enhance the nation's sense of pride and belonging by continuing to achieve on the world stage of sport.

We know from research and evidence that sport and physical activity impacts positively on people's health and wellbeing and contributes to other aspects of life including young people's engagement in education and their communities. The Sports Council for Wales is well placed to influence levels of participation and performance.

GRANT IN AID FUNDING

I am pleased to confirm that despite pressures across the Welsh Assembly Government's budget, I have been able to secure and allocate £27.547m grant in aid funding to SCW for 2010-11. The Capital element of the budget is at this stage a provisional allocation pending consideration of financial pressures across the Welsh Assembly Government's Capital budget. I will confirm, as soon as possible, the final agreed figure. The Sports Council's grant in aid budget is set out in Annex A of this letter.

In the coming year I would like the Sports Council for Wales to focus on the following strategic and operational priorities and outcomes.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Welsh Assembly Government has identified “culture and sport thrive in Wales” as its overarching strategic outcome in relation to the One Wales priority area of A Rich and Diverse Culture; and identified “a healthy population with a good quality of life” as the overarching strategic outcome in relation to the One Wales priority area of A Healthy Future. The Sports Council for Wales will contribute to both these outcomes via its work on sport and physical activity.

The overarching responsibilities of the Sports Council for Wales in 2010-11 will be to facilitate and support financially or otherwise, activities that increase levels of participation and performance in sport and physical activity for children, young people and adults. In doing so, SCW should be guided by:

- the One Wales agreement;
- the Physical Activity Action Plan: “Creating an Active Wales”; and
- the review of Performance and Excellence Sport.

The Physical Activity Action Plan, P&E Review, and the Local Authority Partnership Agreements provide you with an opportunity to encourage a strategic, joined up and more efficient approach by local authorities, National Governing Bodies of sport and other partners. I am keen for SCW to progress this and to maximise the value of the public investment in sport and physical activity.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2010-11

The Sports Council for Wales is expected to deliver on the following operational priorities in 2010-11.

Physical Activity Action Plan : “Creating an Active Wales”

SCW will need to work closely with the Welsh Assembly Government - via the PAMAG group and partnership working with officials - and with other partners to implement the “Creating an Active Wales” action plan; and SCW will have a lead or contributing responsibility for specific actions within it.

The main physical activity workstreams in the PAMAG work programme for 2010-11 are expected to include: the Creating an Active Wales communications campaign – ‘Change4Life’; work relating to facilities; evaluation arrangements; collaboration in relation to the outdoors and in relation to the contribution of schools and the education sector; and the preparation and agreement of Local Physical Activity Plans.

As regards the specific actions for which SCW has lead responsibility, I understand you are currently developing a detailed plan for discussion with officials. I look forward to seeing the plan in due course.

One Wales Agreement

SCW should continue to deliver the One Wales commitments relating to sport and physical activity, working in partnership with WAG and other stakeholders. SCW’s grant in aid budget for 2010-11 includes within the baseline the funding previously allocated to support the delivery of One Wales commitments. I expect to receive regular reports on progress in delivering on the following One Wales commitments.

Free Swimming – SCW to deliver the revised FSI scheme, as agreed with WAG, via partnership working with local authorities.

5 hours of physical activity – SCW to continue to contribute to this commitment via implementation of the 5x60 programme, in particular focusing on increasing uptake of the scheme among the less physically active pupils, addressing drop-out rates, and ensuring increased participation in physical activity is sustained outside the scheme.

Grass Roots Coaching

Following agreement by WAG of SCW's proposals for coaching, implement the coaching plan to boost grass roots sport.

Saturday and summer schools

Deliver, via local authorities or other partners, Saturday and summer schools in sports; and report on the activities provided, with an assessment of their impact on increasing participation/sustainability.

Performance & Excellence Sport

I look forward to receiving very shortly the draft strategy for performance and excellence sport, currently under discussion with officials, which will represent the Council's response to the Wharton Consultants report published in October 2009. The implementation by SCW of the agreed strategy will be a key priority for 2010-11.

2012 Olympic Legacy

SCW will be a key partner in work being undertaken to secure a legacy from the 2012 Olympics in relation to sport and physical activity in Wales. SCW programmes will make a significant and lasting contribution to the Olympics legacy. I would like SCW to work with WAG officials as appropriate to contribute to the delivery of the wider Olympic 2012 legacy programme/events being developed by WAG.

Community Regeneration Challenge

In light of the outcome of the evaluation report the Sports Council commissioned and discussions between officials and the Chief Executive, a figure of £150,000 has been included in the Sports Council's budget for 2010-11. I would like SCW to keep under review the effectiveness of this programme to ensure it achieves maximum value for money by delivering a sustainable impact on participation levels in the targeted areas.

Management of National Centres (WIS/Plas Menai)

Having recently reviewed the purpose and operations of the national centres, and in the context of the Performance & Excellence Review, I would like to see a development plan & business case for the national centres which sets out SCW's proposals for the centres for the next three years, by end September 2010. The plan should set out clearly what the purpose of the centres should be and how they would be managed, operationally and financially.

In the meantime, SCW to closely monitor the operation, and in particular the costs and income streams, of the national centres at WIS and Plas Menai. WAG officials should be informed at the earliest opportunity of deviations from the development plans introduced during 2010.

Efficiency Savings

The need for efficiency savings will continue to be a pressing issue for the foreseeable future. I anticipate that you will be asked to develop plans for efficiency savings for discussion with WAG officials during the year, although it is not possible to indicate likely timescales at this stage.

Marketing & Communications

SCW should continue to work closely with WAG on joint communication planning with shared objectives and to ensure that WAG priorities for sport and physical activity in Wales are highlighted.

Research & Evaluation

In developing your research and evaluation programme you should work closely with WAG to maximise the use of research and data to support the development of evidence based policy and to inform investment decisions.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

You are familiar with the arrangements for monitoring the Sports Council's progress against the remit letter and its operational plan, which include quarterly meetings at official level, in addition to our six monthly meetings. I would like you to provide a report on your performance in 2009-10 in advance of our summer meeting, and a report on your half year performance in advance of our autumn meeting. I am aware that discussions have already taken place between your staff and my officials regarding KPIs required for the Strategic Framework and Scorecard being developed across WAG; and it would be helpful for SCW to continue to work closely with WAG officials in identifying and developing relevant outcome and performance measures.

CROSS-CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

The cross-cutting requirements which are placed on all Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies will continue to apply in 2010-11 as in previous years. Detailed information on these will be sent to you separately.

Yn gywir,
Alun Ffred

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Running Costs

Budget Expenditure Line	Plans 20010-11 (£000)
Running Costs	1,508
Depreciation/Cost of Capital *	1,579
Total Running Costs	3,087

*This is a non-cash item that is not available for draw down during the year.

Sport and Active Wales Fund

Budget Expenditure Line	Plans 2010-11 (£000)
Current Grants* **	27,224
Current Receipts	-3,484
Capital Expenditure***	775
Capital Receipts	-55
Total	24,460

*This figure includes the additional £678k agreed for Coaching and the £150k to be invested in the Community Regeneration fund.

**An amount of £3.5m from within the Sports Council's total grant in aid budget is to continue to be invested in the Free Swimming initiative to deliver the One Wales commitment to provide free swimming for children/young people and older people. The Sports Council's operational budget plans will include an investment of £1.5m in Local Authority Partnership Agreements (LAPAs). The Free Swimming and LAPA funding should be directed to achieve the two requirements in One Wales which are linked to Free Swimming.

***The Capital allocation is a provisional budget which is subject to further consideration in the context of pressures across the Welsh Assembly Government's capital budget. A final budget figure will be confirmed in due course.

TOTAL GRANT IN AID 2010-11

	Plans 2010-11
£,000	27,547

The total grant-in-aid specified in the annex represents the total and maximum provision and is resource based. Payment of grant-in-aid continues to be on condition of compliance with the contents of the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum. The Sports Council for Wales' Running Costs for 2010/11 should not exceed £1.508m.

The Sports Council for Wales' grant-in-aid budget for 2011-12 and later years is subject to further consideration later in the financial year should the budgetary position of the Welsh Assembly Government be revised.

