

Agenda Item 7

Mayoral Sports Commission/The Bristol Partnership for Sport and Active Recreation

UPDATE for BCC Neighbourhoods Scrutiny

1. Sports Commission & Partnership

1.1 The Sports Commission recommendations are being taken forwards by the new Bristol Partnership for Sport and Active Recreation. Good progress has been made in delivering all of the objectives.

1.2 The Partnership has been operating as an unincorporated partnership group to date. It has met on six occasions since March 2015. The decision has been taken to incorporate the Partnership as a legal entity. Work is underway to establish a Community Interest Company in the spring. Further details can be found at Appendix 3.

1.3 The Partnership is finalising the sports facilities and playing pitches strategies for the city, with a target of the council adopting the strategies during spring 2016. The Partnership is also developing a sports event strategy, with the aim of establishing Bristol as a city-of-choice for local, national and international events.

1.4 Four Cricket World Cup 2019 games will be played in Bristol, as well as England One Day Internationals in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Bristol will be hosting as many as eight Women's Cricket World Cup 2017 matches, as well as the semi-finals, potentially making Bristol the biggest host venue for the tournament aside from Lord's Cricket Ground in London.

1.5 A stage of the Tour of Britain was secured in 2014, and the Sport Partnership/BCC have reached an agreement to bring the Tour back to Bristol in 2016. A city centre cycling Grand Prix event was staged in Bristol in June 2015, and will likely become part of the UK-wide series.

1.6 The Partnership is formulating a funding and investment strategy to secure more finance and resources for sports development and participation, in addition to the £300,000 awarded to the help set-up the Sports Partnership and support grass-roots initiatives. Early discussions are being had with Sports England to secure additional funding for the Partnership.

1.7 A highly successful Bristol Girls Can campaign was launched by the Sport, Play and Funding team in 2015 to promote women's and girl's sport. The Women's Sport Trust is working with the Partnership to pilot two schemes in Bristol in 2016 and 2017 – Sport is Beautiful and Local Heroes.

1.8 Events hosted by multiple stakeholders were held in 2014 and 2015 to celebrate sporting achievements in Bristol. Discussions are underway to consolidate these events into a single annual event in Bristol.

Background

Many of the same stakeholder groups that were represented on the Mayoral Sports Commissions are present on the Sport Partnership, demonstrating the wide reach and the continuation of the work that was started by the Commission.

The purpose of this partnership is to enable organisations and communities across Bristol to deliver the goals of Bristol: Sport4Life Strategy by taking a strategic approach to the development of sport and participation across the city.

It is an enabler of partners' activities, projects, events, collaborations and initiatives that lead directly or indirectly to more people in Bristol participating in more sport and active recreation more of the time.

The partnership aims to join up the different voices of sport across the city, and link up organisations that might not otherwise speak to each other. It is able to act as a focus for things like bids to host events, and works to get funding from bodies like Sport England. The Sports Partnership also works with other organisations to highlight where sports funding is available.

The Sports Commission selected 15 broad themes to focus on, and these have set the broad parameters and scope for the work of the partnership to date. These themes are:

- sports investment
- funding and sponsorship
- sports facilities and infrastructure
- schools
- participation
- inequalities and barriers to participation
- health
- transport
- clubs and leagues
- women's sport and participation
- the role of business, and the business of sport
- professional clubs and elite sport
- insight, evidence and understanding
- workforce, from volunteers to sports scientists and coaches
- events
- ability sport

Governance

The partnership consists of representatives of major sports teams in Bristol, charities, universities, Sport England, public health and has met six times since March 2015. It is currently an informal and voluntary partnership with a shadow board. When it becomes a CIC in 2016 the governance arrangements will become formalised, with a board of directors put in place, giving the Sports Partnership a clear remit.

Latest developments

The partnership provides a single, unified and strategic force for the growth and improvement of sport and active recreation in Bristol. To date it has:

- Established a partnership working group to oversee the completion of sports facilities and playing pitches strategies, both of which the Sports Partnership will take ownership of and take to the council for approval in 2016
- Secured Bristol's status as European City of Sport in 2017
- Attracted Four ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 games, three England ODIs in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and up to eight Women's Cricket World Cup matches in 2017, in addition to the semi-finals
- Secured a stage of the Tour of Britain 2014, and is in the final stages of negotiations to bring the tour back in 2016
- Brought together Wesport and Bristol Sport Ltd to align their school sports programmes
- Secured £300,000 funding from Sport England for the Sports Partnership and to support grass-roots participation initiatives