



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30TH JUNE 2015

**SUBJECT: SECONDARY SCHOOL RUGBY PROVISION WITHIN CAERPHILLY
COUNTY BOROUGH**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151
OFFICER**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the current provision for secondary school rugby within Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC). The report has been prepared at the request of members at a previous meeting.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report outlines details of the current secondary school provision for rugby and the future plans for the development of rugby in partnership with the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) through collaborative working.
- 2.2 A Rugby development plan is in place between CCBC and the WRU and this collaborative approach ensures that the offer of school rugby is joined up and avoids duplication. Partnership meetings are held with the WRU on a monthly basis. Managers and Development officers review performance and evaluate progress against outcomes.
- 2.3 The WRU have a Schools/ Club programme which is an initial three year programme. The programme commenced its roll-out across secondary schools in Wales in 2014. CCBC currently has 2 schools in Cohort 1 with further schools identified for the Cohort 2 September 2015 roll-out. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the WRU School Club Hub programme/Regional Plan 2014-2016, Newport Gwent Dragons Region.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The rugby provision links to the drivers for change in sport and physical activity identified within Climbing Higher, Creating an Active Wales, and the Vision for Sport in Wales.

- 3.2 As part of the CCBC Corporate Plan, improvement objective (IO4) is highlighted to:

“Improve awareness, access, variety and use of leisure, community and sporting facilities in our borough”.

Rugby and physical activity contributes to a number of the outcomes identified.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 As stated in 2.2, above a partnership approach to developing school rugby in Caerphilly was required and implemented. This was an opportunity to work in collaboration across departments to support the opportunities available for young people within our community.
- 4.2 Sport Caerphilly currently provide opportunities for Secondary school pupils to participate in lunchtime & after school inclusive rugby sessions for all. This is through the Welsh Government (WG) 5x60 programme.
- 4.3 Sport Caerphilly in partnership with the WRU currently provide Competition opportunities for Secondary schools to participate in the “Caerphilly Schools Cup”. This is a competitive opportunity for school rugby teams to compete throughout the year.
- 4.4 Caerphilly currently has one member of staff who is based in Community & Leisure Services within the Sport Caerphilly team who leads on Rugby. While the Sport Caerphilly team can provide the expertise, equipment and support to the one staff member coordinating the programme there is only so much one officer can achieve. This partnership approach with the WRU can ensure the provision within School settings is a more sustainable delivery model.
- 4.5 Sport Caerphilly currently support local Rugby clubs thorough a School club link approach. The model allows Development Officers to work with clubs who are looking to increase their current numbers by providing taster sessions within school settings and creating a sustainable pathway/link between the school and club.
- 4.6 Sport Caerphilly run a number of one off events to promote key messages and the importance of participating in sport and physical activity. An example of this is the Annual Disability 6 Nations where School children with disabilities across Caerphilly participate in a day of rugby fun and skills activities.
- 4.7 This collaborative way of working between CCBC & WRU has resulted in the following :-
- The Development of a multi agency plan that identifies how rugby can be delivered in the short, medium and long term.
 - Increase in the number of school pupils participating in Rugby.
 - Increase in the numbers of young people trained through the Rugby Leaders award.
 - Rugby camps delivered as part of a holiday provision.
 - Increased club membership due to School club links.
 - Increase School/ Club Hubs through Welsh Rugby Union.
 - Fun Day recruitment with Sports Development Officers and WRU School Club Hub Officers.
 - Collation of robust and accurate data on the outcomes and impact of Rugby in Caerphilly.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equality implications associated with this report, as the opportunity to participate in rugby is offered to young people irrespective of age, race, sex, etc.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The current cost to the Authority of supporting the development of rugby in Caerphilly CBC is circa £27,000 (development officer salary + on costs). This is grant funded through Sport Wales. The WRU Club hub programme is funded through the WRU and a (£10,000) contribution from each Secondary school.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report reflects the views of the listed consultees.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to note the collaborative approach through effective partnership working to progress the development of rugby within CCBC.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure that more young people are engaged in the programme as part of a wider strategy to increase levels of physical activity.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts.

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Consultees: Mark S. Williams, Head of Community & Leisure Services
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & Section 151 Officer
Greg Woods, Welsh Rugby Union Regional Rugby Manager (Dragons Region)
Councillor Tudor Davies, Chair of Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Liz Aldworth, Vice Chair of Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:

Appendix 1 WRU School Club Hub Programme Regional Plan 2014-2016, Newport Gwent Dragons Region.