

COUNTY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

CABINET

6TH MAY, 2004

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To identify a suitable model for Herefordshire to enter a County Sports Partnership with Worcestershire to enable access to national and regional funding for sport.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Recommendation

THAT Herefordshire Council work in partnership with the existing Worcestershire All Sports Partnership and Sport England to identify a suitable model for taking forward Herefordshire's inclusion in one of the 45, nationally identified, County Sports Partnerships.

Reasons

Sport England is committed to supporting the development of County Sports Partnerships, 45 of which have been identified across England. A certain amount of funding has already been identified to support work through the partnerships and further opportunities and funding are likely to be identified as the partnerships strengthen and begin operating at a more strategic level. Herefordshire, presently the only county in England not involved in a partnership, is likely to be excluded from accessing future funding opportunities if this situation remains.

Considerations

1. At its meeting on 25th September, 2003 Cabinet agreed to Herefordshire's involvement in the County Sports Partnership. Further discussions have been held with Sport England and the Director of Policy and Community, Head of Inspection Advice and School Performance and Senior Sports Development Officer to review the position.
2. The targets set out in the National Framework for Sport in England, identify County Sports Partnerships as being one of the main mechanisms for the distribution of funding.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Jan Perridge, Senior Sports Development Officer on (01432) 260329

3. County Sports Partnerships will reflect the Regional Plans for Sports and will function as effective sub-regional partners supporting the Regional Sports Boards, National Governing Bodies of Sport and Sport England to achieve key targets and meet relevant key performance indicators.
4. Core funding has been identified from Sport England to support the central management of the 45 identified partnerships. This includes funding for a Partnership Manager post and several officer posts. This structure has already been put into place in the existing Worcestershire Partnership and the team are presently based at University College Worcester. New accommodation will need to be sourced as the partnership grows.
5. Funding available to local voluntary sport through the national and regional governing bodies, could have a significant effect on the progress of projects in the Education sector. School Sport Coordinator Programmes and Specialist Sports Colleges operating locally will have restricted access to a number of new initiatives (eg: Step into Sport).
6. Sports Coach UK have identified, through their Coaching Task Force report, a series of Coaching Development Officers who will be attached and work closely with each of the identified 45 County Sports Partnerships. This post would not be available to Herefordshire if not included in one of the Partnerships.

Implications for Herefordshire

7. (a) Herefordshire would need to ensure appropriate representation on the Partnership Steering Group or Management Group in order to influence the strong links to the Local Strategic Partnership that Herefordshire would wish to maintain.
- (b) An 'umbrella' organisation (namely the newly formed Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Sports Partnership) would need to recognise the existing Worcestershire All Sports Partnership (WASP) and an identity for Sports and Physical Activity in Herefordshire.
- (c) Herefordshire would be expected to sign a 'Memorandum Of Understanding And Co-operation', which would provide the Mission Statement, Aims and Objects and financial arrangements for the partnership. The present steering group operates a policy whereby a project will only be taken forward on a unanimous vote; this would ensure that Herefordshire would not be 'out voted' by Worcestershire.
- (d) The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Partnership would have representation from each of the Districts within Worcestershire (six districts). Herefordshire would be seen as a seventh partner and would therefore have the same voting rights as each District.

Alternative Options

Alternative Option 1

To remain outside the partnership and only work with agencies who are willing to use alternative methods to distribute their funding. Recent consultation has identified reluctance by a majority of funding bodies to work directly with Herefordshire outside the County Sports Partnership arena. This could have significant impact on local strategic work with both the voluntary sector and the growth of work with the

education sector.

Risk Management

Funding would need to be identified to support the partnership. The level for future years is unknown but for the present financial year is likely to be £7,000.

Consultees

Herefordshire Council – Education Directorate

Herefordshire Sports Council (Voluntary Sector)

Background Papers

None identified.