

**BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BROUGH COUNCIL AND ANUERIN LEISURE**  
**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP**

**1. BACKGROUND**

By 2025 Blaenau Gwent aims to have established a strong reputation for collaborative working across a range of quality service delivery models that provide accessible leisure opportunities attracting high levels of participation to improve the happiness, mental health and physical well-being of residents and visitors alike.

The terms of reference for the Strategic Partnership Group have been developed from the Council's current Service Specification for Leisure and Sport, Outdoor Activity Centre's, Destination Venues, Libraries and Adult Community Learning.

The Operator shall commit to the philosophy and recognise the importance of working collaboratively with the Council in delivering the Services through the development of the governance structure which is focused around a commissioning approach with regular meetings between the Council and the Operator.

**Overarching Service Priorities**

All service priorities included within the Council's Leisure and Culture Strategy are set out below.

- a) Increasing participation for all;
- b) Improving physical and mental health and wellbeing;
- c) Developing effective collaboration with partners; and
- d) Maintaining and building upon the existing leisure and culture offer maximising opportunities

**The Council's Delivery Themes**

All service delivery should support the delivery of the Council's Leisure and Culture Strategy set out below.

1. **PEOPLE** – Providing service developments and innovation needed to meet the expectations of local people.
2. **ASSETS** – Managing assets and providing investment opportunities.
3. **SERVICES** – Developing services including supporting the Council's long-term aspirations.
4. **COMMUNICATION** – Providing progress against the Council's priorities and key objectives.

## The Council's Key Objectives

The Council's key objectives as set out in its Leisure and Cultural Strategy are included in the table below.

1. The Council's Leisure and Culture Strategy covers a 10-year period 2019-2029, over the first five years the Council require the operator to support delivery of their key objectives:
2. Develop a financial sustainable plan for Leisure Services, in line with the requirements of the Council's medium-term financial strategy (MTFS);
3. Provide invest to save initiatives to reduce revenue implications across our leisure and culture services.
4. Initiate a fundamental review to modernise community library and learning provision.
5. Undertake a review of future options for the Sports Centre; and
6. Secure investment in sports and cultural facilities via available funding opportunities including the 21st Century Schools Programme.

## 2. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the Strategic Partnership Group is to support delivery of the Leisure and Culture Strategy 2019-2029 of a 'Better Place to Live and Work' with a focus but not limited to the following:

- Progress against the Operator's Business Plan.
- Progress by the Operator against Council Priorities and contribution towards Strategic Outcomes.
- Operator's Financial Performance.
- Joint service improvement opportunities.
- Variations to contract and commissioning opportunities.
- Other matters of a strategic nature considered appropriate for discussion by the Group.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

**Chair** - The group to be chaired by the local authority, established by the parties within one month of contract commencement.

In addition to the Chair, the Strategic Partnership Group will comprise of the following:

Organisation	Designation
Council	Leader
Council	Portfolio Holder
Council	Managing Director
Council	Corporate Director of Education
Council	Council's Client Function – Lead Officer
Operator	Operator Chair
Operator	Vice Chair
Operator	Executive Director (1)
Operator	Executive Director (2)

Either the Operator or Local Authority, subject to the agreement of the other party, may also invite appropriate third parties to attend part of the Strategic Partnership meetings to help it understand an issue or decision.

#### **4. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

The Strategic Partnership Board will normally meet bi-annually or more frequently, as the Chair deems necessary, to fulfil the obligations and duties.

#### **5. QUORUM**

A minimum number of 50% of the partnership group members are required for decision-making purposes. The quorum must include either the Leader or Portfolio Holder of the Council and Chair or Vice Chair of the operator.

#### **6. REPORTING TO COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Progress reports will be provided to Education Scrutiny Committee and Executive on an agreed basis.

The Strategic Partnership Group will have sight of the reports and be able to provide feedback.

As a minimum the Strategic Partnership Group shall report to Council on an annual basis

#### **7. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Strategic Partnership Group will review its terms of reference and effectiveness annually, including a review of membership and implement any changes it considers necessary.