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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref LGH Cttee Actions - 24/05/23

John Griffiths MS
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee

12 June 2023

Dear John,

Many thanks for your email following my attendance at the Local Government and Housing Committee on Wednesday 23 May. You have asked for further information in three areas:

- the FAW's report on the social value of football in Wales;
- examples of where the Welsh Government has funded co-location of services; and
- any evaluation and/or evidence as to efficiency measures of different models for delivery of leisure and library services.

Social value of football in Wales:

The Football Association of Wales participated in a UEFA study in 2021 aimed at illustrating the benefits of football participation. The UEFA Strategic Return on Investment (SROI) Model was created to provide National Associations with a tool to understand and showcase the true economic and social value of football participation by assessing individuals' spending related to football, a report on the model developed can be accessed here [Microsoft Word - UEFA SROI Final Report- Final 22.4.21\[59\].docx \(knvb.nl\)](#).

As part of this programme the FAW undertook a survey in 2021 ('The Value of Football in Wales') asking individuals to share information on their football participation, annual spend on football and professional club support.

The figures reported from the survey, conducted in autumn 2021, show that football in Wales contributed £263m to the economy of Wales and this will rise to £267m by 2026 ([Football: Wales' grassroots game worth £550m, report says - BBC News](#)). The tool also enables associations to identify and report social and health prevention impact and this showed an £84m and £205m impact respectively in Wales. No report was published in relation to Wales.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Examples of where the Welsh Government has funded co-location of services:

In relation to the co-location of library services funding can be provided from across different areas of Government, particularly Local Government and Finance. Within my portfolio, you will be aware that we fund the Capital Transformation Grants Fund for local libraries, museums and archives services. Funding to support co-location of services has included:

Cardiff:

- **2023-24 £147,000 Amplifying Prevention and Support through Bibliotherapy.** This will provide bibliotherapy resources within local hospitals and patient centres to support patients in order to better manage their own health and wellbeing. Users will be able to access the books 24 hours a day using their library card and return them to either the machine or their local library. The addition of machines within these settings would mean that people who may not currently visit the library could access titles when health is at the forefront of their thinking as an inpatient or could take the title home with them.
- **2022-23 £80,000 Refurbishment of Cardiff Children's Library.** The children's library is located in Cardiff City Centre Hub. Since its refurbishment new child memberships have increased by 9%, event attendance has increased by 8%.

Conwy:

- **2018-19 £300,000 Conwy Cultural Centre.** This project saw the co-location of library and heritage services to improve collections management and access. It is a joint facility for a library, archive service and museum.

Gwynedd:

- **2019-21 £120,000 Neuadd Dwyfor.** Investment has supported providing a single service on a working model that will see the library team and theatre/cinema team support each other putting the user's needs at heart, and to enable the library to be open outside core staffing hours.

Neath Port Talbot

- **£6.5m Neath Town Centre.** Welsh Government funding has supported the redevelopment of a redundant site and has delivered a major leisure, wellbeing, and retail scheme in Neath town centre. The site includes a swimming pool, gym, retail floorspace, childcare and a library. The cost of the project was around £16m, with a £6.5m contribution from the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns regeneration programme.

Swansea:

- **2024-2025 £300,000 Central Library @ the City Centre Community Hub.** Relocation of the Central Library as part of city centre regeneration plans for the co-location of library services as part of the wider City Centre Community Hub project for the transfer of a range of local authority services to the former BHS building, including the archive, Contact Centre, and Housing Options. Overall Welsh Government has invested c£5.8m in this c£11m project.

Pembrokeshire:

- **2018-2019 £120,000 Neyland Community Hub.** The library was part of a project to refit Neyland Athletics club into a community hub co-locating council services with library service supported by volunteers.

In addition, Pembrokeshire has also received the following through the Transforming Towns programme:

- **£2,060,688 South Quay Pembroke.** The first phase of this project will see the refurbishment of 5/6 Castle Terrace, the demolition and rebuild of number 6 Castle Terrace, landscape and public realm treatment and the connection of Northgate Street to the new café level and quay. The objective is to deliver a high-quality multi-use building supporting a library, community hub, Henry Tudor visitor centre and café. The Welsh Government has awarded £2,060,688, with a further £1,264,312 approved in principle. Full internal fit-out is anticipated to be complete by mid-March 2025.

Evaluation and/or evidence as to efficiency measures of different models for delivery of leisure and library services:

Models for delivery of leisure and library services vary across local authorities (LAs). It is up to the LA to determine which model best meets the need for their community. We are not aware of any specific evidence as to the efficiency of particular models within Wales. There are some case studies which highlight efficiencies of different service models in England. These include:

Evidence from [A new delivery model for Peterborough City Council's library service | Local Government Association](#) using OpenAccess+ reported 20% reduced costs and 50% increased access.

Libraries Unlimited in Devon is a Public Service Mutual. It achieved £1.5 million savings in its first two years [Case study: Libraries Unlimited \(formerly Devon Library Service\) \(mutualventures.co.uk\)](#)

The following identify some research into different models, but do not specifically comment on efficiency measures:

[Library case studies: different delivery models | Local Government Association](#)
[Libraries shaping the future: good practice toolkit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) section 3 has case studies of types of delivery models.

Yours sincerely,



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