

# Agenda Item 8c

Ordinary Council Meeting of: 14 November 2023  
Cllr Pitt /Cllr Oliver

## **AGENDA ITEM 8c - Portsmouth City Council's support for the improvement of women and girl's sport in Portsmouth**

### **Amendment:**

Para 1 - delete 'means' and insert 'will hopefully lead' after 'competitions'.

Para 2 - Insert 'It is encouraging that' at the start of the first sentence.

Para 4 - Delete everything after 'England' and insert 'shows that, while men's activity levels have returned to pre-pandemic levels, women's activity levels remain slightly below this (down 0.7%). Both, however, continue to see activity levels up over the longer term (since November 2015).'

Para 5 - Insert 'new 10 year' after 'Sport England's' and the following after inequalities:

..'among under-represented groups (like women and girls, people with a disability, people on low incomes),...'

Para 6 - delete all.

Insert new final para - 'The Council also acknowledges the work of its leisure operator, BH Live, in contributing to sports development in Portsmouth.'

Resolution (i) - Replace 'work' with 'engage'. Delete 'education establishments' and insert 'schools, colleges, university, along with the MOD and other sports facility operators to help....'. After 'community sports facilities' delete 'support'. After 'facility issues' delete 'and' and insert 'to help'.

Resolution (ii) - Second sentence after the 'and' insert 'seek to'. After 'provision' insert 'and participation'

Resolution (iii) - delete 'on how'. Delete 'in an attempt' and insert 'help' before 'reduce'. Delete 'Portsmouth' before the word female. Delete last sentence.

### **Therefore the amended motion to read:**

The success of the 'Summer of Women's Sport 2023', particularly the English Roses and Lionesses reaching the finals of their respective netball

and football World Cup competitions, will hopefully lead to a huge spike in participation figures in female team sport.

It is encouraging that England Netball reported a 400% increase in website traffic to their 'session finder' page in the days following the Roses silver medal. \*

With 28.9% of females in Portsmouth taking part in less than 30mins of activity a week and 51.3% of that figure reporting they've taken part in NO activity in the last 28 days\*\*, it is essential that we acknowledge the need for more provision for Portsmouth females to participate in Sport.

The most recent Active Lives Survey, measuring activity levels of adults in England, shows that, while men's activity levels have returned to pre-pandemic levels, women's activity levels remain slightly below this (down 0.7%). Both, however, continue to see activity levels up over the longer term (since November 2015).

Sport England's new 10 year strategy 'Uniting the Movement' has a strong focus on tackling inequalities among under-represented groups (like women and girls, people with a disability, people on low incomes), and are committed to investing more in people and places that need extra support.

The Council commends the passion and commitment of Debbie Laycock, Netball in the Community, for her relentless awareness-raising and pursuit for equality in Portsmouth's Sport & Leisure facilities.

The Council also commends the work of Lizzie Butcher, formerly of BH Live, for her work increasing women's participation in sports in Portsmouth, most notably 'chat over Chai' badminton group that has been so successful with the City's Muslim community and 'Mums & Tots' Netball-based fitness sessions, breaking down the barriers of childcare for Portsmouth's Mums.

The Council also acknowledges the dedication and efforts of Portsmouth's sporting volunteers, without whom much of the activity and sport that does go ahead in Portsmouth, wouldn't be organised. Thank you to all Portsmouth's sporting volunteers.

The Council also acknowledges the work of its leisure operator, BH Live, in contributing to sports development in Portsmouth.

**Council RESOLVES to ask the relevant Cabinet Members/Portfolio Leads:**

(i) To engage with Portsmouth's schools, colleges, university, along with the MOD and other sports facility operators to help ensure equality in their

community use sports facilities and find solutions to facility issues to help ensure these issues do not impact on pupil/ student sports participation;

(ii) Review and, where appropriate, seek to increase the provision of space for female sports participants in Portsmouth. Put in place measures for success and seek to ensure any new leisure provider contract includes female provision and participation targets; and

(iii) Offer support to Portsmouth's sport and leisure facility providers to improve gender equality in sport to help reduce barriers to female participation in sport and activity.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Steve Pitt

Signed\_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Leonie Oliver

Signed\_\_\_\_\_

This page is intentionally left blank