

Wales working group update and action required for January Board meeting

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Supported by ODG core group.

24 January 2020

ACTION REQUIRED FROM BOARD:

1. CONFIRM NEAL HOCKLEY AS ODG SUB GROUP LEAD FOR WALES
2. AGREE TO THE FORMATION OF A CYMRU BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

CONFIRM NEAL HOCKLEY AS ODG SUB GROUP LEAD FOR WALES

- In January, Will Kilner informed the group that he would have to stand down from leading the working group, due to professional and personal commitments. The group thanks Will for his efforts in getting the group to this point.
- Available members of the working group (Gareth Pierce, Tim Jepson and Neal Hockley, together with Elfyn Jones) met with Fiona Sanders on Monday 20 January to discuss the way forward. Neal Hockley agreed to take over as chair of the group.
- The group has made good progress against the objectives (see APPENDIX 1 below). Options have been identified, and largely worked through in terms of their pros and cons, and implications for the BMC's internal structure and its relations with outside bodies.
- The main areas of work still ongoing relate to financial costs and benefits, and the finer details of governance.
- Neal Hockley is to meet Helen Wilson (National Council reconstitution group lead) on Tuesday 28 January to discuss the interactions between the two groups' recommendations.

AGREE TO THE FORMATION OF CYMRU BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

1. The option for BMC Cymru that seems to offer the greatest benefits relative to costs will require significant organisational change for the BMC. There has been overwhelming support from the three Welsh Areas for the principle of a distinct BMC entity with greater Welsh identity. However, the group believes that there is insufficient time for thorough member consultation on the detailed proposals to be completed in advance of the 2020 AGM. The group believes that this consultation is vitally important for the smooth functioning and legitimacy of BMC Cymru in the future.
2. The group is therefore recommending to the Board and National Council the (re)creation of a Wales committee, with delegated powers from the Board, ready for the 2020 AGM. This would not address all of the needs identified in our research. However, it would be capable of immediately fulfilling some of the functions necessary to develop the BMC's position in Wales, while having as a major part of its Terms of Reference the continued development of the long-term solution for BMC Cymru, and consultation with the BMC membership (in and outside Wales).

APPENDIX 1: Progress against the group's Objectives

4.1. Consider the specific details of Recommendation 25

Done.

4.2. Compile a matrix highlighting areas of work the BMC are involved in Wales and how effectively that is being carried out.

Done.

4.2.1. Investigate a Welsh language policy

The Board has committed to the need for a language scheme. Elfyn has a draft work plan, and there has been positive buy in from BMC Marketing and Comms team.

4.3. Analyse the matrix, capture the information to propose specific recommendations in order to identify options.

Largely done.

4.4. Research the corporate structures available to allow the BMC to take advantage of funding opportunities from bodies, including the Welsh Assembly, that hold requirements for a specific presence by a body in Wales in order for that body to receive regional specific funding from them.

Largely done, the conclusion being that a recognised Wales-based entity that satisfies a number of governance criteria would be needed to qualify for funding and recognition, but with such an entity still being able to have strong operational links to the core BMC organisation.

4.5. Examine resource allocation, providing the evidence needed so that the BMC can set priorities and make informed decisions that reflect to importance of Wales to climbers, hillwalkers and mountaineers who live in or visit Wales.

Ongoing.

4.6. Carry out a full cost/benefit analysis of whether it is of benefit to create a sub-group for Wales/Cymru and should any proposals be made articulate a clear business case for any recommendations of any such a structure.

Ongoing.

4.7. If required, define corporate structure and supporting rationale; make recommendations on its governance and operations.

Largely completed, subject to progressing 4.5 and 4.6