



<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> The Action Tracker review was shared with the group. Ms Barrett presented on each action.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Appreciation of RFL staff – Ms Barrett confirmed she had communicated with staff on behalf of the Community Board.</li> <li>2) Player Pathway – Mr Lovering provided an update on the player pathway, noting that the direction of travel remains consistent with the presentation given earlier in the year. From 2026, greater emphasis will be placed on the top end of the pathway, with the development of a stronger reserves competition to better prepare players for Super League. The 2026 season will be a transition year, with a fuller programme than previously, while by 2027 only players on professional contracts (with some exceptions, such as university and talent transfer players) will be eligible for the reserves. Academy structures will remain largely unchanged in the short term, but the 2027 renewal of academy licences is expected to be significant, with early work already underway. Scholarship programmes will place less emphasis on 13-a-side fixtures but retain the same number of playing opportunities, with more flexibility for modified formats and combined sessions. There was also discussion of potential regional academies, although this is not considered an immediate priority. The possible expansion of Super League to 14 clubs may lead to further applications for academies, but this is not expected to negatively impact the community game. Alongside investment in the top end of the pathway, the Board agreed that more must also be done to strengthen opportunities at the community level to retain players for life.</li> <li>3) Coach Education- Mr Spurr will continue to update the Board on further coaching developments.</li> <li>4) Open Age Pyramid Structure – An Agenda item for the meeting.</li> <li>5) Review of Discipline – There is an ongoing update on discipline. Ms Barrett confirmed that we will undertake a review across the community game once the season is completed.</li> </ol>	<p>Mr Spurr</p> <p>Ms Barrett</p>
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>Update from Martin Coyd</b> Mr Coyd outlined a period of significant opportunity for rugby league amid professional and community game changes. He highlighted ongoing governance refresh, Sport England compliance, and strategic consideration of community, women's, and wheelchair rugby. Key priorities include aligning professional and community pathways, managing finance efficiently, enhancing coach and official development, and leveraging media and event opportunities. Interim leadership arrangements are in place while CEO recruitment proceeds, with staff wellbeing actively supported. Work plans and consultations are progressing, with key milestones scheduled for a two-day Council Meeting in December and in March.</p> <p>Ms Barrett is to find out the date of the 2-day council meeting.</p>	<p>Ms Barrett</p>

<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>National Community Rugby League</b> Mr Raybould joined the meeting to assist in presenting on the next agenda item.</p> <p>Mr Lovering and Mr Raybould presented on the National Community Rugby League (NCRL), outlining the need for a reset of the community game and proposed strategic changes. Key points included:</p> <p><b>Context &amp; Rationale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubs face ongoing financial pressures post-COVID and due to the cost-of-living crisis.</li> <li>• Volunteers feel over-burdened and unsupported.</li> <li>• Male Open Age participation is declining.</li> <li>• Poor touchline behaviour is affecting player retention.</li> <li>• Previous changes have not delivered the desired impact; Rugby League competition structures have remained largely static compared to other sports.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Mandate for Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole Game Review and Refresh highlights the need for culture change, better player and coach development, and sustainable competition structures.</li> <li>• Overly competitive frameworks have contributed to poor behaviours and participant attrition.</li> <li>• Strategic Review 2025 recommends a restructure of the community game, with stakeholder input ahead of the new season.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mission and Aims</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mission:</b> Deliver a sustainable, positive community game for players and volunteers.</li> <li>• <b>Aims:</b> Increase participation, reduce financial burden on clubs, and support/retain volunteers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Align playing opportunities with participant needs.</li> <li>• Emphasise player and coach development.</li> <li>• Reduce “win at all costs” culture and improve touchline behaviour.</li> <li>• Promote localised activity and reduce costs.</li> <li>• Ensure accessible player development pathways.</li> <li>• Maximise participation through a varied calendar.</li> <li>• Improve consistency in delivery and reduce unnecessary regulation.</li> <li>• Increase match official availability.</li> <li>• Establish a recognisable Community Rugby League brand.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed NCRL Structure and Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCRL provides a unified approach to competitions, governance, and stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>• Competitions to operate under consistent RFL rules with oversight from NCRL Strategic Group.</li> <li>• Competition Management Groups (CMGs) led by volunteers, supported by RFL, to manage fixtures, results, development, and local disciplinary processes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Changes by Age/Level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary Rugby League:</b> Local tri-fixtures/festivals focused on enjoyment and skill development; reduced travel and lower barriers to entry; supported coaching workforce.</li> <li>• <b>Youth &amp; Junior:</b> Regionalised calendar blending competitive and developmental games; focus on skill development, inclusive opportunities, and coach/volunteer education; reduced “win at all costs” culture.</li> <li>• <b>Talent &amp; Performance:</b> Alignment with England Performance pathways; longer, flexible performance pathway with multiple entry points; integrated coaching development.</li> </ul>	
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7.0	<p><b>Meeting Close</b> The meeting closed at 7.00pm</p>	