

Regionalisation in the South and South East

During the July meeting of the Snowsport England Council members' representatives started the process of reviewing the regional structure of Snowsport England. This was continued and discussed further during the October meeting.

The objectives of the review of the regional structure and support systems are outlined below.

1. To identify if the current structure suits the demands of the sport/clubs/members.
2. To check if the structure and constitution of the regions is appropriate
3. To improve links with the Sport Council and County Sports Partnerships within the regions.
4. To improve access to funding and ensure it is properly and correctly used.
5. To ensure that there are appropriate levels of accountability in the regions.

1. The Current Structure

Snowsport England is comprised of regions which all have an input into the running of the sport across England; each region has up to 2 representatives who sit on the Snowsport England Council. Regions have a network of clubs, and associated organisations, which they support and money is received from Snowsport England to do this.

The regions are a vital link in the development of the sport; the regions run events to encourage grassroots skiing and snowboarding and at the same time raise additional funds to develop the sport. They are also able to support national competitions and assist athletes who are developing through to the English and British teams. Some athletes move on to become coaches, both development and performance. Regions are ideally placed to support them as well as new officials to enable the smooth running of events and volunteers to represent different disciplines at regional, council and board level. These are often parents who have a commitment to the sport, who will also need support.

At present there are nine regions, **NESA** - North East Ski Association; **NWSF** - North West Ski Federation; **YSF** - Yorkshire Ski Federation; **EMSA** - East Midlands Ski Association; **WMSA** - West Midlands Ski Association; **ERSA** - Eastern Region Ski Association; **SWSA** - South West Ski Association; **SRSA** - Southern Region Ski Association; **LSERSA** - London & South East Regional Snowsports Association

Unfortunately, for many reasons, some of these regions do not have a regional committee or if they do they often lack resources so are unable to support the sport in the best way. One of the problems is that the regions do not align with the Sport England regions and some regions have little or no representation. Some regions have so few clubs that maybe amalgamation could be an option. This would enable the sharing of a bigger pool of resources which may assist the development of existing and new clubs.

2. The Future Proposals

At the last Council meeting in October the representatives heard that 4 regions were considering joining forces. These were East and West Midlands combining to form a larger region to enable a pooling of resources; and Southern and London & South East to combine so they have the same boundaries as Sport England SE region.

3. Proposals for the South & South East

In the South and the South East we have a large number of skiers of all ages plus a huge committed number of volunteers who are prepared to work hard on behalf of the sport and the young athletes. Skiing is not just a sport it is a life experience. All ages mix together and compete and socialise at the different events and meetings are held all over the region and country.

Any restructuring should take care that this huge resource is not lost.

An enlarged region would have greater resources. A larger pool of members with expertise to ensure a diverse range of events and courses were well run. The current regions each have particular strengths and it will be essential to maintain those things that are done well and to build on them. Provided that this is done in consultation with all clubs it will be an opportunity to improve. There should be no worries that events that the clubs wish to be maintained will vanish.

This should be an opportunity for improvement in many areas.

Skiing is not seen as one of Sport England's priority sports. To maximise our chances of getting funding into our sport we need to work more closely with Sport England and its regional bodies. Hence we need to align our regions more with those of Sport England to enable the whole funding process to be simplified. We also need to be able to produce plans that fit well with the regional policies developed by Sport England and work with their local development officers. Improved communications with our major stake-holder can only be for the betterment of the sport. It is hoped that Snowsport England will provide us with additional help to do this.

Improved communication should lead to a better chance for improved funding.

This opportunity to change our regional boundaries is a good time for the clubs to be asking some questions regarding the regions:

1. What should be the purpose of a region and what functions do they perform?
2. Who are the stake-holders?
3. How should regions be structured?
4. Nationally - Should the regions be aligned with Sport England?
5. Internally, what posts should be in place?
6. What relationship should regions have with Sport England/Snowsport England?
7. What should be the level of accountability to members, and Snowsport England?
8. What training do regions require for members?
9. Where do regions get funding from?

Answers to many of these questions can be found in the document [council regional proposals 22_07_06.pdf](#) on the LSERSA website.

4. What Next?

If we are agreed that it makes sense to become part of a larger region then we need to ensure that the new region matches our requirements and will continue to provide what already exists plus give added value.

At our respective AGM's (SRSA & LSERSA) we must discuss the proposals to join our regions and for a new combined regional committee to be formed.

If we are generally agreed we will have to set a date for an EGM where the existing regional committees will be disbanded and a new regional committee formed.

Asset transfer (physical as well as financial) to the new committee must also be agreed incase there are any outstanding debts or other financial anomalies.

It may pay for a short time to have members of the previous committees working closely with the new committee to ensure thorough transfer of information

The benefits for our clubs should be increased membership, more young people participating, better competitions and improved quality of athletes. This will result from a larger pool of volunteers, improved resources and support for all disciplines and a high quality of coaching.

It has been agreed that if the clubs indicate their willingness to change at the next council meeting then those changes need to be identified and should be put in place to meet the needs of the region and the implementation process.

Attached is an appendix which outlines the make up of the Sport England regions in the south. It has been suggested that Snowsport England have the same regions. You will notice that in the south there are three regions; The South East, London and the South West. Noticeably, no Southern region exists, so the clubs in both the existing London and South East region and in the Southern region must decide if they want to change the regional boundaries and become part of a larger region.

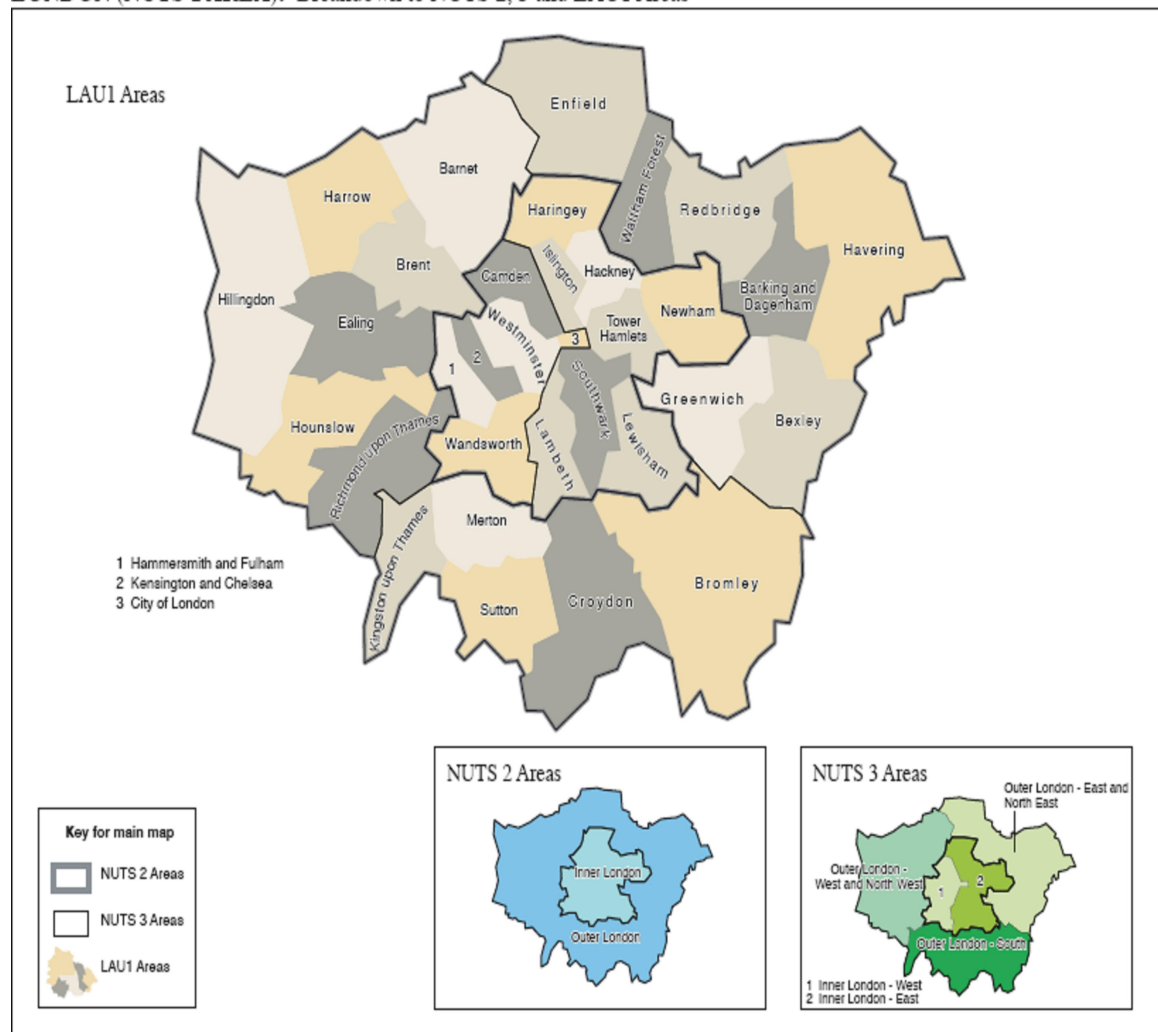
Appendix 1

Sport England Regions in the South

London

Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, City of London, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Waltham forest, Westminster

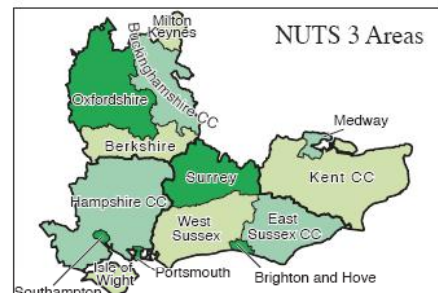
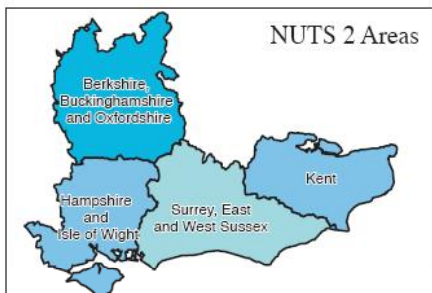
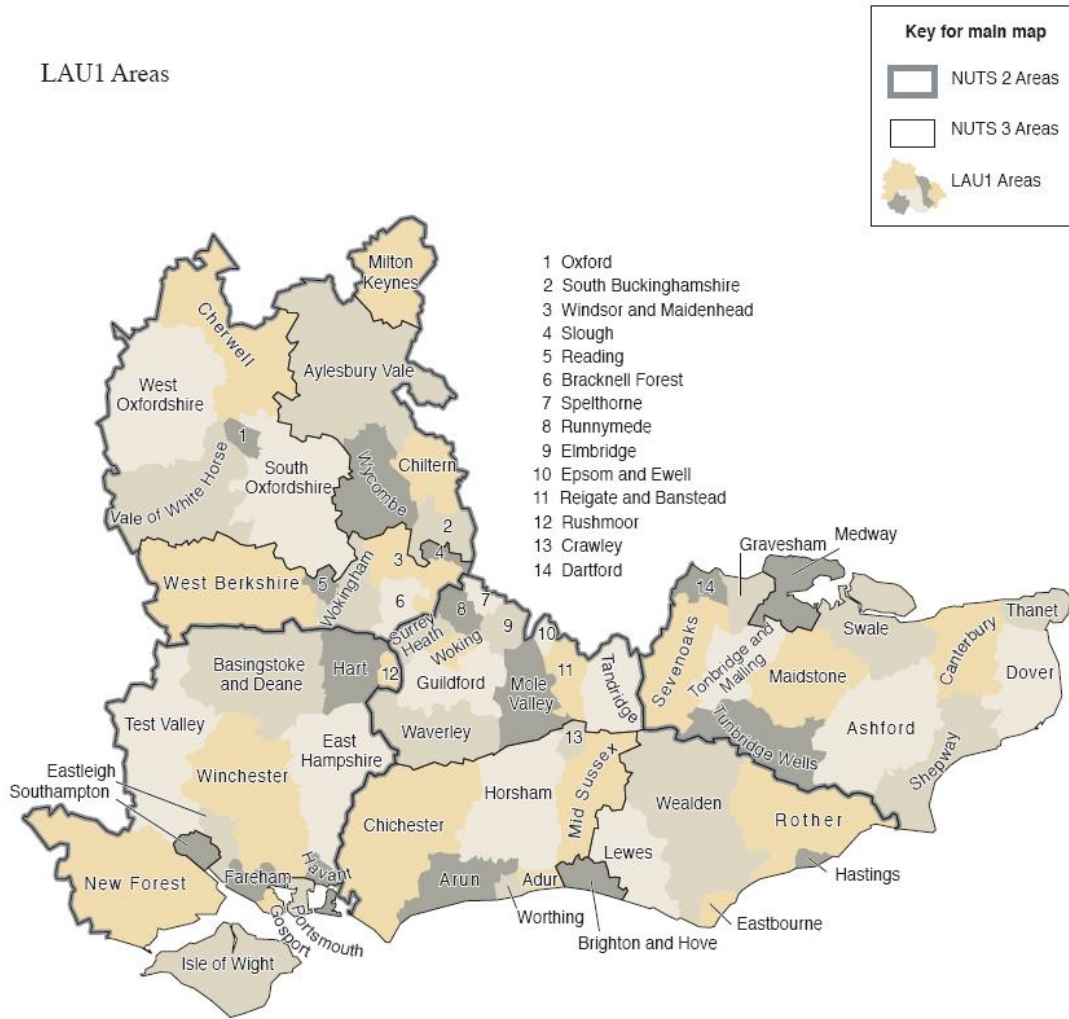
LONDON (NUTS 1 AREA): Breakdown to NUTS 2, 3 and LAU1 Areas



South East

Berkshire, Bracknell Forest, Brighton & Hove, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead, Portsmouth, Reading, Southampton, East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey, West Berkshire, Wokingham

SOUTH EAST (NUTS 1 AREA): Breakdown to NUTS 2, 3 and LAU1 Areas



South West

Bath & North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly, North Somerset, Plymouth, Poole, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Torbay, Wiltshire

Sport England invests in projects, which help people start, stay and succeed in sport. There may be opportunities in the future to obtain funding grants from Sport England, especially if we can show that we are well aligned to their needs and have good links with their nine regional sports boards. Eligible projects will be assessed against the priorities laid out in each regions sports plan and the National Framework for Sport. If our regions can gain greater resources they may be able to access some funding on behalf of the clubs or at least help the clubs with local community funding.