

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

First Meeting 2008

Held on Monday 11 February 2008 in the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast

PRESENT

In the Chair: D Walsh – Acting Chair

Members: O Brown
M Cowan
J Rodgers
A Strong
P Turnbull
U Duncan
A Money Penny
B McCargo
B Macaulay
J D'arcy
D O'Connor

Chief Executive: E McCartan

Staff in Attendance: N Harkness
S Ogle
A Sloan
R McCormick
J News
C McGurk
J Poots
J Beggs
P Donnelly
L Beattie

1. APOLOGISES

M Muldoon
H McCaughey

2. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman welcomed Members and congratulated them on becoming members of the Board.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Eighth meeting held on 4 December 2007 were taken as read, approved and signed. Mr B McCargo referred to Item 8.4 of the minutes of 4 December 2007 where it stated that several members had left the room due to Conflicts of Interests and he advised that they had returned to the room after the Item was considered though this had been omitted from the minutes.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Members were advised that the Council Secretary Miss E Bailey had fallen and broken her wrist. Members asked for their best wishes to be passed to E Bailey and that they wished her a speedy recovery.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Note from Dr A Hamill

Members noted a card had been received from Dr A Hamill expressing his thanks to the Chief Executive and Executive team for all the assistance he had received whilst serving as a member of the Board.

6. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Acting Chair asked everyone individually if they had any interests to declare. Dr O Brown declared an interest in Management and Delivery of Coach Education and Training Courses from 1 April 2008 and a Request for an Increase in Award (Living Costs) under the Talented Athlete Development Programme. No other interests were declared.

7. CORPORATE SERVICES

7.1 Management Accounts

Mr A Sloan presented the Management Accounts for the ten months to 31 January 2008.

Members noted that Exchequer money is year end sensitive, and that Lottery funds are not year end sensitive and as such can be carried forward into future years. It was also noted that Exchequer ring fenced monies can only be used for the specific purpose they were given.

Mr A Sloan explained that IFA monies are on hold at the moment. Members enquired whether there is a possibility of the monies being lost and noted that if they were not spent in the current financial year they would be lost. There is no mechanism to carry the money forward to the next financial year.

Members noted the Management Accounts as at 31 December 2007. (Paper SNI/08/01).

7.2 Delegated Authority Policy

Members considered Paper SNI/08/02 the purpose of which was to seek their approval for the adoption of Sport Northern Ireland's Policy on Delegated Authority. Members accepted that on, certain occasions there may be a need to refer a decision upwards for higher level approval.

Members approved and agreed the recommendations.

7.3 Fees and Charges

Members considered and approved the charges for facilities and services

at the House of Sport in respect of the financial year 2008/09 (Paper SNI/08/03).

7.4 SNI's Response to the Draft Programme for Government, Draft Budget and Investment Strategy for NI

Members received Paper SNI/08/04 the purpose of which was to provide Members with a copy of Sport Northern Ireland's response to the NI Executive draft Programme for Government 2008-11, draft Budgets 2008-11 and draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2008-18.

Members sought clarification on the origin on the origin of the target figures identified in Item 5.5 and were advised by Mr P Donnelly that these target figures had come from DCAL research branch. With regard to Public Service Agreement Target 6 Members expressed their concern that the responsibility for this target was shared over three Departments. The lack of a single lead Department would in their view impact on delivery.

Members noted the responses made by Sport Northern Ireland to the Draft Programme for Government, Draft Budget and Investment Strategy for NI and congratulated officers on the quality of their work.

7.5 Marketing – Press and Media Report

Members received a Press and Media Report (Paper SNI/08/05). This provided an update of recent activities in Marketing and Communications. Mr R McCormick advised Members that they would receive a regular electronic marketing update. Members noted that the Marketing Department also dealt with political lobbying and are responsible for production of Annual Report.

Members agreed that copies of the Annual Report should be circulated to key stakeholders including MPs.

Mr P Turnbull also raised the issue of events such as the Irish Indoor Athletics and enquired if there is any way to improve the profile of this event. He further enquired if it would be possible to distribute tickets for events with no charge to schools to encourage young people to attend. Mr R McCormick advised that there is to be a meeting organised to evaluate the Indoor Athlete event in the near future and he would report its findings.

8. PATICIPATION UNIT

8.1 Capital Management Policy – A New Approach to the Programme, Management of Capital Projects

Members received Paper SNI/08/06 the purpose of which was to:-

- (i) outline the existing policy in relation to the management of capital programmes,
- (ii) contextualise the rationale for change in approach to management of capital programmes,
- (iii) assess risk
- (iv) identify capital projects in state of readiness to drawdown exchequer funds next year

- (v) seek approval for the application of the new approach with immediate effect.

Members noted that the proposed approach to bring capital projects to a state of readiness is a higher risk strategy because costs will be incurred to achieve this yet there is no guarantee of funding being in place to complete the project. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the Department outlining the points of concern raised.

It was noted that the Lottery projects proposed for funding should align with the targets in the Strategy for Sport.

Members agreed that the management of Capital programmes should be included on the Corporate Risk Register.

After considered discussion Members approved the recommendations of the Paper.

8.2 50m Swimming Pool – Release of Development Cost Support to North Down Borough Council

Members considered Paper SNI/08/07 the purpose of which is to highlight the issues regarding the programme and approve the release of capital funding.

Members were advised that a letter of support and approval would be required from DCAL before Sport Northern Ireland would release the £341k from this years capital budget.

After discussion Members approved and agreed the recommendations.

8.3 Disability Mainstreaming Policy Contract Review and Extension

Members received Paper SNI/08/08 the purpose of which is to update Members on the review process of the current contract and to seek approval to extend it with Disability Sport Northern Ireland (DSNI).

It was noted that work with DSNI has been ongoing for last five years and that there has been an independent review carried out with the final report being received by 28 February 2008. It was further noted that there is currently a good working relationship between SNI and DSNI. Members congratulated Mr J News on his work in this area.

Members approved and agreed the recommendations of the paper.

8.4 Management and Delivery of Coach Education and Training Courses from 1 April 2008

Dr O Brown left the room

Members received Paper SNI/08/09 the purpose of which was to update them on the delivery of non sports specific coach education and to outline proposals for the management and delivery of coaching courses from 1 April 2008 onwards.

Members noted that a review of coaching had been undertaken and that it

identified three options for the future management and delivery of coach education and training.

Members noted that on occasions courses would be organised on a reactive basis. That accepted Members requested that there would be clear measurable targets for all such courses. Furthermore Members asked to be regularly updated on these issues.

Members noted and approved the recommendations of the paper.

Dr O Brown returned to the room

8.5 Building Sport Programme Stage II Assessments – Exchequer Funding

Members considered Paper SNI/08/10 the purpose of which was to seek their approval and decision on three Building Sport Programme Stage II project assessment reports. Mr C McGurk advised Members that these projects had previously received approval at Stage I assessment and that subject to Members approval the three listed projects will become Exchequer Building Sport Projects.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations of the paper.

9. **PERFORMANCE**

9.1 Athlete Support Paper with living costs and sports costs applications

Dr O Brown left the room

Members noted the outstanding achievement of Dr O Brown's son Patrick who has obtained 150 caps for the Irish Hockey Team. It was agreed that Sport Northern Ireland should write and congratulate him on his achievement.

Members received Paper SNI/08/12 the purpose of which was to consider six Sports Costs applications and five Living Costs applications to the Athlete Support Programme.

Members approved the recommendations of the paper.

Members also discussed the issue surrounding the funding of athletes by Irish Sports Council and Sport Northern Ireland. They identified the need for a shared funding mechanism and tasked officers to meet with the Irish Sports Council to progress this matter.

Dr O Brown returned to the room

9.2 Request for an increase in award (living costs)

Members considered Paper SNI/08/13 the purpose of which was to seek approval to increase living costs award under the Athlete Support Programme to Andrew Barbour to reflect a loss of earnings. Members approved the recommendations.

9.3 Report of Delegated Decisions – Athlete Support

Members received an update on delegated decisions related to award adjustments for the Athlete Support Programme and noted and supported these decisions. (Paper SNI/08/14)

9.4 2&4 Wheel Safety Upgrading – Funding

Members considered Paper SNI/08/15 the purpose of which was to advise them of a request from 2&4 Wheel Motorsport Steering Group in respect of safety upgrade and approval for them to obtain the funding of the £100,000 financial package identified within the DCAL approved business case in order that prioritised safety works can proceed. Members approved the recommendations.

9.5 Report of Delegated Decisions – Safety Management Programme

Members received an update on recent delegated decisions in respect of awards made under the Safe Sports Grounds, Safety Management Programme. (Paper SNI/08/16)

Members noted that a small number of clubs did not receive funding for CCTV as they had failed to comply with the conditions of the award.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR ADOPTION

None

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR INFORMATION

None

12 PUBLICATIONS

None

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1 April 2008 @ 1.30 pm

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Coaching

Mr A Strong requested an update on coaching and in particular Sport Northern Ireland's position in relation to the UK and Ireland Coaching Systems. Members were advised that due to the structure of sports operating in NI, Sport Northern Ireland was working with both Sports Coach UK and the National Coaching and Training Centre (NCTC) in Ireland to develop coaching. Members noted that Sport Northern Ireland had endorsed the UK Framework for coaching and Sport Northern Ireland was developing a coaching strategy for the Island of Ireland in partnership with the Irish Sports Council (ISC) and NCTC. Once this strategy is completed Sport Northern Ireland will develop an action plan embracing the key objectives of the Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2008.

Irish Football Association

Members noted from the minutes of the last meeting that funding to the IFA is on hold. Members noted that an EGM of IFA would be held on 21 February 2008 the purpose of which was to reduce the IFA Executive Board to ten members based on competency and skill. Members were advised that the NIAO had raised concerns regarding the financial situation of IFA and that Mr F McCormick was due to speak to the IFA on 11 February when he hoped the situation would be agreed. Members noted Mr McCargo's aspiration that the funding should be back on track some time in March.

Members were asked to give delegated authority to the Chair, Chief Executive and officer dealing with the IFA to pay funding if they are happy that issues have been cleared up. Members agreed to give delegated authority to Chair, Chief Executive and officers dealing with IFA.

Committee Structures

Members were advised on the Committee structures of Sport Northern Ireland and further advised of their individual appointments to these Committees.

Declaration of Interest Forms

Mr A Sloan circulated Declaration of Interest Forms and requested that Members complete these and return to either himself or Mrs R McDowell.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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Upper Malone Road
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