

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Special Meeting 2007

Held on Thursday 14 June 2007 in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

PRESENT

In the Chair: E D Saunders

Members: G Carson
M Cusdin
M Murphy
H McCaughey
J Rodgers
A Strong

Chief Executive: E McCartan

Staff in Attendance: N Harkness
A Campbell
J Beggs
C Southern
E Bailey

1 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this special meeting of Council and extended congratulations to Cllr Jim Rodgers on becoming Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast. A letter of congratulations had been sent to him and the Chief Executive offered advice and support of Sport Northern Ireland to him when necessary.

The Lord Mayor offered to host a meeting of Council in the Lord Mayor's Parlour in Belfast City Hall before the City Hall closed in October for approximately two years.

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting had one agenda item, which was to identify the preferred partner for the 50 metre swimming pool.

2 **ELITE FACILITIES PROGRAMME – STAGE TWO DECISION 950 METRES SWIMMING POOL**

Members considered Paper SNI/07/99. The purpose of the Paper was to request Members to make decisions following the recommendations of the Facilities Committee on the assessment of stage two applications to the 50 metre swimming pool competition, under the Elite Facilities Programme.

The decisions concerned the stage two assessment, which recommended a preferred bidder/partner for the project, and not the actual budget decision which would rest with the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). The stage two decisions required members, on the basis of the assessment process, to consider if there was a preferred bidder to progress to stage three and if there are one or two rejected applications.

The Chairman complimented Mrs A Campbell, Mr John Beggs and Mr Carl Southern on a superb job in bringing this project to the current stage. Mrs Campbell took the meeting through the paper in detail and described the process undertaken since the stage 2 competition commenced with stage 2 letters in January.

Members heard that the assessment process had been guided by an assessment guidance manual issued to all involved in the assessment process. Members heard that all meetings were scripted with tight agendas and questions were monitored recorded and managed by Mrs Campbell as the gateway. Members heard a detailed presentation of the assessment process as set out in paragraph 3 of the Paper.

The Outline Business Cases were summarised for Members' perusal at Appendix one (a) and one b).

The assessment findings concluded that Castlereagh Borough Council failed to meet several of the eligibility requirements within associated criteria and were therefore ineligible, as presented in the summary of scores and eligibility assessment at appendix two. Bearing in mind that the final decision rested with the Facilities Committee and the Council of Sport Northern Ireland, a full assessment was conducted and Castlereagh Borough Council also failed to pass the 55% pass mark (or 66 pass score), had they been eligible.

North Down Borough Council passed all the eligibility requirements and passed the 55% pass mark (or 66 score) with a score of 92, as presented in the summary of scores and eligibility assessment.

A summary of both stage two applications were contained within the Project Assessment Report, with stage three requirements for North Down Borough Council, if approved by Sport Northern Ireland as preferred bidder.

Members noted that if they approved North Down Borough Council as the preferred bidder, there were a number of Outline Business Case evaluation queries and assessment recommendations that must be addressed to the satisfaction of Sport Northern Ireland, DCAL and DFP to progress further.

Members raised various questions and the Chief Executive in wishing to provide Members with maximum comfort confirmed that the staff had gone to great depths to be clear and open.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The chairman read aloud the recommendation as follows.

Members are asked to accept the 'due diligence' inspection of the assessment report, carried out by those Facilities Committee members, with no declared interest and based on the summary assessment findings and recommendations of Facilities Committee approve the rejection of Castlereagh Borough Council as ineligible and North Down Borough Council as the preferred bidder of the 50 metre swimming pool competition.

Members agreed the recommendations.

Members were asked to return the Paper to the Council Secretary and noted that the Minister would make an announcement on Monday.

The Chairman again thanked Mr N Harkness, Mrs A Campbell, Mr J Beggs and Mr C Southern for their excellent work on this project.

The Chief Executive thanked the Chairman for his guidance and Council Members for their commitment.

Mr Southern then showed Members the North Down presentation.

The meeting closed at 2.10 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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Upper Malone Road
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