

# **THE SPORTS COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

## **MINUTES**

## **CONFIDENTIAL**

### Fifth Meeting 2007

Held on Tuesday 10 July 2007 in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

## **PRESENT**

In the Chair:	E D Saunders
Members:	H Brady O Brown G Carson J Rodgers A Strong
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness A Sloan A McCready (For item 2.4) J Beggs (For item 7.7) T Smyth (For item 8.1) E Bailey
Northern Ireland Events Company	J Perry, Acting Chief Executive
Transplant Recipient	J Coleman

## 1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr J Campbell, Miss M Cusdin, Mr J Gallagher, Dr A Hamill, Mr C Logue, Miss M Muldoon, Dr M Murphy, Mr B McCargo, Mr H McCaughey.

## 2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

- 2.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr Jasper Perry, Acting Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Events Company and Ms Janet Coleman of the Northern Ireland Transplant Games. They provided a background to the presentation for the bid by NI Transplant Games to host the World Transplant Games in Belfast in 2011.

Members heard that sport was being used to impart the important message that a healthy lifestyle can be lived after having a transplant. They noted the benefits of the Games being hosted in Northern Ireland including an increase in donors; an increase in the number of visitors to Northern Ireland; the experience gained in hosting major events; the recognition of the changed political environment.

Members asked a series of questions about UK-wide endorsement, the situation

regarding the multi-sport stadium, and the volunteer strategy. They noted that Sport Northern Ireland's (SNI) Chief Executive was a member of the Bid Committee and would lead the team to present the bid in Thailand at the end of August 2007. Members agreed to endorse the bid to host the Games in Belfast in 2011 and approved the Chief Executive's travel to present the bid.

***Mr J Perry and Miss J Coleman left the meeting.***

## 2.2 Bank Mandate

Members approved the signing of the bank mandate allowing facsimile signature; and also the application of the Council Seal to the Mandate Form.

## 2.3 Participation Committee

The Chairman informed Members that the Participation Committee due to be held on Tuesday 24 July would be open to all Members if they wished to attend.

## 2.4 Elite Facilities

Members heard an update from Mrs A Campbell on the 50-m swimming pool. They noted that decision letters had been issued to both parties on 14 June 2007; and that a meeting had taken place on 22 June with North Down Borough Council's design team and economist to move the project forward. Members noted what would happen in stage three of the process.

Mrs Campbell then updated Members on stage one of the Elite Facilities second competition.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Campbell for the impressive way in which she and her team were dealing with this Elite Facilities Programme.

***Mrs A Campbell left the meeting.***

***Miss H Brady left the meeting.***

***Ms T Smyth joined the meeting.***

## 2.5 Sport England

Members heard an update on the funding of up to £3 million by Sport England to the Sports Institute Northern Ireland (SINI). Following a legal review by the new Chief Executive of Sport England it transpired that this funding may be ultra vires. The original award would therefore be de-committed but Sport England had identified an alternative mechanism for funding which involved the transfer of its exchequer monies to DCMS for payment to SINI.

It was agreed that SNI write to Sport England to confirm that it is content with this proposal subject to:

- Confirmation that the de-commitment of the original Lottery funding had taken place;
- Confirmation of the legal status of a new funding agreement with DCMS;
- Clarification on the process for drawdown of funding from DCMS and the monitoring role of Sport England; and

- Agreement on the timing of a retrospective claim for construction costs already paid to UJJ.

## 2.6 Ministerial Visit

Members referred to the visit of Mr Edwin Poots MLA, Minister, Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to the House of Sport on Friday 27 July and noted that it would focus on the key areas of the Strategy for Sport.

## 3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Fourth (Special) Meeting held on 14 June 2007, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

## 4 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

## 5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

## 6 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interest to declare. No interest was declared.

## 7 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

### 7.1 Outdoor Adventure Activities in Northern Ireland

Members considered Paper SNI/07/102 which updated on Adventure Activity Licensing throughout Great Britain and on the background in Northern Ireland and considered a report on research taken by Adventure Activities Associates Ltd (3As).

Members heard of "black holes" in the licensing scheme which meant that a number of sectors and activities were not covered by the scheme in Great Britain. These included outdoor adventure activities provided by:

- Schools
- Youth organisations
- Uniformed organisations
- Clubs and
- Adventure activities which are not caught within the prescribed definition.

DCAL had previously asked SNI to commission research into the scale of the industry in Northern Ireland which was undertaken by Judith Annett of Countryside Consultancy; and its reports were attached to the Paper.

The 3As Report proposed a scheme for Northern Ireland and concluded that such a scheme should be managed by the industry for the industry and that this management should have two tiers:

- A Managing Forum – a voluntary committee set up by SNI and made up of representatives of the industry.
- A Supervising Body – which would provide the day-to-day delivery of services and would be the professional executive of the managing forum. Such a professional body could be sited within SNI and therefore take advantage of existing organisational structures.

The report also recognised that such an accreditation scheme would require ongoing financial support from Government. It reflected the fact the buy-in from the industry is likely to be price sensitive.

After lengthy discussion Members approved the recommendation to release the Report at Appendix 3 of the Paper to DCAL as the considered view of SNI.

#### 7.2 Review of Mountain Cave and Remote Rescue

Members received an update on work in relation to a review of mountain rescue administration, funding and provision in Northern Ireland (Paper SNI/07/112).

Members noted that this review was clearly required. Funding had been agreed and Terms of Reference developed. A clear timeline was in place and the review would be completed before the end of October 2007.

#### 7.3 Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland (MLTNI)

Members considered Paper SNI/07/113 which recommended changes to the MLTNI Terms of Reference. Members noted that at the most recent meeting of MLTNI it had been agreed that the Terms of Reference should be changed to incorporate development of schemes of training for personal skill development.

Members approved the recommendation to change the Terms of Reference.

#### 7.4 Sport Northern Ireland Recruitment

Members considered Paper SNI/07/103 the purpose of which was to consider the current process for appointing the Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of SNI; to consider the process in other similar bodies; and propose an alternative process that DCAL could apply in the future.

The background to the Paper was that, at a recent meeting of SNI, Members had indicated their dissatisfaction with the process applied and requested that the Chief Executive find a way of proposing a more suitable arrangement to DCAL.

The Paper concluded that of the public bodies surveyed, SNI is the only body to suffer a complete (or almost complete) change of Council Membership at any one time. Such a loss of knowledge and expertise has the potential to damage the ongoing work of SNI. Other models exist which provided for the gradual replacement of Members; a maximum term for Members to be retained; and a

fast track re-appointment process for Members who have performed well and wish to be re-appointed.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations that the current recruitment and replacement cycle for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Members does not meet the needs of the organisation; that this should be reviewed by DCAL; and that the Paper be sent to DCAL.

#### 7.5 Community Sports Coaching

Members received Paper SNI/07/104 which provided a background to current SNI activities in relation to community sports coaching and an update on recent developments.

***Mr J Beggs joined the meeting.***

#### 7.6 Delegated Decision Making Powers

Members considered a request for delegated decision-making powers for the Participation Committee at its meeting on 24 July 2007 (Paper SNI/07/105).

Members approved the recommendation that the Participation Committee meeting on 24 July 2007 be given delegated decision-making powers on four Building Sport stage two project assessment reports and that an open invitation be extended to all Members of SNI to attend the meeting.

#### 7.7 Project Development Costs Policy

Members considered Paper SNI/07/106. The Paper updated and consolidated previous SNI policies governing the eligibility and level of assistance for business costs and associated design costs; and it sought approval for the amended Project Development costs Policy attached as Appendix 1 to the Paper.

Members noted the rationale for the revision to the Policy as outlined in the Paper. Members also noted the update and consolidation of previous SNI policies covering the eligibility and level of assistance for business costs and associated design costs and approved the amended Project Development Costs Policy.

### 8 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

#### 8.1 Stadia Safety Programme Assessment Reports

Members considered Paper SNI/07/107. The paper considered two stage II assessment reports for the Stadia Safety Programme which had been approved by the Safe Sports Grounds Committee on 11 June 2007.

Members noted the agreed budget for 2007/08 and budgets for 2008/09 – 2010/11 and endorsed the approval given by the Safe Sports Grounds Committee. Members noted that the Stage II approvals for Derry GAA County Board and Antrim GAA County Board included an indicative monetary award but that the actual award would not be finalised until a competitive tendering process had been undertaken by each successful applicant.

## 8.2 Performance Unit Update

Members received an update on the work of the Performance Sport Team over the last three months and drew attention to key events and developments (Paper SNI/07/108).

*Ms T Smyth left the room.*

## 9 **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

### 9.1 Economic Importance of Sport

Members received a copy of the Draft Economic Importance of Sports Research Report (Paper SNI/07/109).

The Paper concluded that the research confirmed the increasingly important role of sport in the Northern Ireland economy which was reflected in the large rise both in consumer spending on sport and in value added to the Northern Ireland economy in sport-related economic activity. It also indicated that sport continued to be a significant source of employment in Northern Ireland. Members were asked to feed comments on the draft report back to the Policy Planning and Research Manager, Mr Paul Donnelly.

### 9.2 Accessible Information Policy

Members considered Paper SNI/07/110. This outlined current thinking in ensuring that the needs of disadvantaged groups are taken into account in all SNI's work from policy formulation through to implementation. It also re-affirmed SNI's commitment to ensuring that disadvantaged groups are able to access and participate fully in the provision of facilities, goods, services and employment opportunities in sport and physical recreating; by building on previous work contained in the Equal Opportunities Policy, Disability Mainstreaming Policy and Sports Equity Policy.

The Paper provided a preferred option for future working to ensure that all SNI information in the public domain is available in an accessible format.

After discussion, during which Members made editorial and content suggestions, Members approved adoption of the Policy.

### 9.3 Culture Arts and Leisure Committee Update Report

Members received an update on the CAL Committee proceedings and discussions relating to sport since the return of devolution (Paper SNI/07/111).

Members noted that there were no female members of the CAL Committee.

## 10 **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR ADOPTION**

There were no Minutes for adoption.

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

There were no Minutes for information.

12 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 4 September in Belfast City Hall, courtesy of the Lord Mayor,  
Councillor Jim Rodgers OBE.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for their  
attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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