

# **SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND**

## **MINUTES**

## **CONFIDENTIAL**

### **Third Meeting 2008**

Held on Tuesday 3 June in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

### **PRESENT**

In the Chair:	D Walsh
Members:	O Brown M Cowan U Duncan B Macaulay A Money Penny M Muldoon B McCargo H McCaughey D O'Connor J Rodgers A Strong
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness S Ogle A Sloan R McCormick E Bailey M McClure J News J Poots C Moore N Bowman

### 1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr J D'Arcy and Mr P Turnbull.

### 2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

- 2.1 The Chairman, on behalf of Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) formally and publicly thanked the immediate past Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Jim Rodgers OBE. He had worked hard for the people of Belfast and for sport in Northern Ireland and it was an honour to work with him during his year as Lord Mayor.

Councillor Rodgers thanked the Chair for his kind remarks and said he appreciated them very much.

- 2.2 Members expressed their sadness at the death of Mr Robert Dunlop who died recently in a motor cycle accident during a practice for the NW200 and noted that a letter of condolence had been written to his wife and mother.

Members observed a one-minute silence in memory of Mr Dunlop and asked that Mr Dunlop's wife and mother be made aware of this.

### 3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Second Meeting held on 1 April, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

### 4 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### 5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### 5.1 Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, First Minister of Scotland

Members noted letter dated 8 January 2008 thanking the Chief Executive for his kind words and Sport Northern Ireland's support for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games bid.

#### 5.2 Sir Nigel Hamilton KCB, OFMDFM

Members noted letter dated 21 April 2008 thanking Professor Eric Saunders on behalf of the Northern Ireland Civil Service for his time as Chairman of the Sports Council.

#### 5.3 Cliftonville Football Club

Members noted letter dated 10 May 2008 which referred to the joint press release issued by Cliftonville and Linfield after the re-arranging of the Irish Cup Semi Final on 29 March. They expressed regret that a member of SNI staff was named in the press release and said there would be no repeat. They passed on their apologies to the member of staff concerned. The Chief Executive informed Members that a reply had not yet been received from Linfield Football Club.

#### 5.4 Jet World Masters

Members noted letter dated 16 May 2008 thanking SNI for their assistance given to the organising of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Jet Masters from 5-14 July 2007.

***Ms M Muldoon joined the meeting***

### 6 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chair asked everyone individually if they had any interest to declare. Mr A Moneypenny and Mr B Macaulay declared an interest in Blind Golf.

## 7 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

### 7.1 Increasing Participation in Partnership with District Councils

Members considered Paper SNI/08/80 which proposed a policy approach to contributing to increased participation on sport and physical recreation as envisaged in the draft Northern Ireland (NI) Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2008-18.

The Paper concluded that the Active Communities investment programme has the potential to play a positive role in the development of physical literacy, increasing participation in sport and physical recreation and encouraging lifelong participation in sport and physical recreation.

At a strategic level, Active Communities will contribute towards the corporate objectives of SNI and the draft Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2008-18; and would also support the recommendations of the Review of Public Administration.

Members noted the background to and the strategic importance of the Active Communities Investment programme; and approved the policy for the development and implementation of the Active Community Investment Programme. They also noted the findings of the Policy Screening Form (Appendix 3).

The Chief Executive thanked Mr J News for his co-ordinating work during the weekend to meet a deadline imposed by the Minister to complete the Strategy for Sport. In the event SNI learnt today from DCAL that the proposed launch would not now take place within the week. He put on record the willingness of staff to go the extra mile only to find it was of nugatory benefit.

The Chairman re-iterated that view and complimented the team for their efforts.

#### ***Mr H McCaughey joined the meeting***

### 7.2 Barriers to Participation in Countryside Recreation

Members received Paper SNI/08/81 which provided an overview and background to the research document "Barriers to Participation". Members noted the conclusions of the paper and the recommendations from the research report.

### 7.3 Contributing to Improved Public Health through Sport and Physical Recreation

Members received an update on the role for sport and physical recreation in enhancing the health of people in Northern Ireland; the current work with Health Promotion Agency; and the future challenges for sport in promoting health enhancing activities (Paper SNI/08/82).

Members welcomed the Paper and in particular the work being done with the Health Promotion Agency and noted that officers hoped to invite an external member to the Participation Committee from the Health Promotion Agency on a reciprocal basis. They agreed that ongoing contact with the Department of Education would also be beneficial.

#### 7.4 Building Sport Programme Stage II Assessments

Members considered Paper SNI/08/83 which had been considered at the Places Committee.

Members noted that the Delegated Authority Policy allowed Places Committee to make decisions up to £1 million. However the Coleraine Riding for the Disabled project had exceeded that threshold and an SNI Board decision was required.

Members approved the recommendation of the Places Committee giving Stage III approval for Coleraine Riding for the Disabled proposal.

#### 7.5 Request of Special Meeting of Places Committee

Members considered Paper SNI/08/85 the purpose of which was to request that a Special Meeting of the Places Committee take place on 26 June with all SNI Members being invited to be present.

Members noted the reasons behind the need to achieve a total spend of £11.5 million across 35 projects and the need to work at a rapid pace to ensure that all project management requirements were completed within fixed timelines. Council approval is required for award requests of greater than £1 million. As such it was proposed to hold a Special meeting of the Places Committee on 26 June. An invitation to attend the meeting would be extended to all SNI Members. The meeting would have full decision-making powers for all awards, regardless of the award amount requested.

In discussion Members sought information regarding the Soccer Strategy.

***Ms M Muldoon declared an interest and left the room.***

The Chief Executive updated Members on the issue of legal charges and letter of comfort.

The Chairman reported on discussions he had with the Chief Executive of the Irish Football Association who had informed him that legal charges would be acceptable. Subsequently he advised the Minister accordingly. Should the IFA not accept legal charges it may be seen as inconsistent with the advice given.

Members heard that there was ongoing discussion regarding legal charges and they were not in agreement with removing those charges. Members also agreed that a letter of comfort and written directions should be produced by the Minister.

After discussion Members approved the recommendation but agreed that the meeting on 26 June would be a Special Meeting of SNI.

## 7.6 Report of Delegated Decisions – Participation

Members noted delegated decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/08/86).

*Mr M Cowan left the room*

## 7.7 Awards For All

Members considered Paper SNI/08/96 and approved the recommendation to allocate £500,000 for the Awards For All Programme in 2008/09. Awards for sport are administered by the Big Lottery Fund.

## 8 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

### 8.1 Assessment of Current State of Governing Bodies in receipt of SNI Investments

Members considered Paper SC/08/87 the purpose of which was to seek approval for a new approach to assessing the current status and needs of governing bodies in which SNI invests.

The information on each of the governing bodies will be used, with the governing bodies, as a tool for future planning and on-going review of performance. In particular, the information will identify gaps in current governance, management and performance systems within sports and assist governing bodies in their bids to SNI or funding for the period 2009-2013.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations.

### 8.2 Assessment of Progress of SNI Funded Athletes

Members considered Paper SNI/08/88. The Paper informed Members of the progress made to date by athletes currently receiving support through the Athlete Support Programme.

The Paper sought approval to use the Performance Monitoring Matrix to inform current planning for performance sport investment over the period 2009-2013, in particular the integration of athlete investment through identification of athletes within the governing body plans.

Members noted the comments of the Performance Committee and congratulated staff on the paper. They asked if this information could be provided more frequently and it was agreed to do so on a monthly basis.

Members approved the recommendations.

### 8.3 Update on Development of Talent ID Systems in Northern Ireland

Members considered Paper SNI/08/89 which provided an update in relation to the Talent Identification and Development activity and proposed future plans.

Members approved the recommendation and the way forward as detailed in Section 7 of the Paper.

The Chairman congratulated Mr Robin Gregg on his recent wedding.

***Mr M Cowan left the meeting.***

8.4 Report of Delegated Decisions Performance

Members received a report of delegated decision taken in accordance with SNI policy (Paper SNI/08/90).

***Mr A Money Penny and Mr B Macaulay left the room.***

It was agreed that Members are not required to leave the room for a delegated decisions paper as the decisions had been made elsewhere.

8.5 Business Case for the Continuation of the Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association (UCGAA) Modernisation Programme 2008-09

Members considered Paper SNI/08/91 which sought approval to award funding to the UCGAA for a nine-month period to continue the Modernisation Programme which began with funding from DCAL in the 2005-08 period.

Members agreed that there should be specific targets for ladies Gaelic and camogie in terms of ongoing integration work as part of the modernisation programme.

After discussion Members approved an award of up to £450,000 to the UCGAA for a nine-month period in line with the conditions listed under paragraph 6.4 of the Paper.

9 **CORPORATE SERVICES**

9.1 Management Accounts

Members considered the Management Accounts for the one-month period to 30 April 2008 (Paper SNI/08/92) and approved their submission to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL).

9.2 Report of Delegated Decisions – Corporate Services

Members noted delegated decisions taken in accordance with SNI policy (Paper SNI/08/93).

9.3 Lottery Accounts 2006-07

Members received the Report on Lottery Distribution Activities and Lottery Distribution Accounts for 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 (Paper SNI/08/94).

Members noted that SNI has received an unqualified audit report to these accounts.

#### 9.4 Business Plan Review

Members noted the Business Plan Performance Review (Paper SNI/08/95). This highlighted SNI's progress against key performance indicators for the period 2007-08. Members congratulated staff on the performance against output targets.

#### 9.5 Strategic Investments Policy

Members considered (Paper SNI/08/84) and noted that this policy would enable SNI to react to exceptional and very occasional circumstances, such as responding to Political and Departmental demands. This policy would also allow SNI to consider investment interventions which will develop and potentially address inequalities on systemic weaknesses in sport in NI. Such needs may arise due to government directions, policy and legislative changes, new and identified needs in sport. All such decisions would be subject to an appropriate business case appraisal.

Members approved the Policy and associated Section 75 Screening Form.

#### 9.6 Marketing

##### 9.6.1 Press and Media Report

Members received an update on recent activities in the Marketing and Communications Department.

Members agreed that it would be beneficial to provide seats at sporting events to schools if they reached certain targets. This would add to the volume of participation.

### 10 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR ADOPTION**

#### 10.1 Northern Ireland Mountain and Cave Rescue Co-ordinating Committee

Members adopted the minutes of the Eighty-Sixth Meeting held on 31 January 2008.

#### 10.2 Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-Third Meeting held on 25 February 2008.

#### 10.3 Participation Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 March 2008.

10.4 Places Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 March 2008.

10.5 Staffing Committee

Cllr J Rodgers reported on the meeting of Staffing Committee which had taken place at 12 noon. Members noted that the Minutes of Staffing and Audit Committees were available to them on request.

10.6 Audit Committee

Dr O Brown reported on the meeting of the Audit Committee which had taken place at 11 am. The meeting was not quorate but there had not been any decisions to take; and some of the issues would be presented to the next meeting. Dr Brown suggested that Members should get copies of internal audit reports.

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR INFORMATION**

There were no reports.

12 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Special Council Meeting – single item meeting- **Thursday 26 June 2008** at 11 am. Dr O Brown gave an apology owing to a family wedding.

Next regular Council meeting **Tuesday 5 August 2008**.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting finished at 3.40 pm.

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

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

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Upper Malone Road  
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