

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Special Meeting 2008

Held on Monday 10 November 2008 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 B McCargo H McCaughey D O'Connor J Rodgers A Strong P Turnbull
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness T Smith R McDowell W Devlin
	E Bailey L Beattie (for part)

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr J D'Arcy and Ms M Muldoon.

2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman welcomed Members to this Special Meeting.

3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 11 October having been previously circulated were approved and signed.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

5 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

5.1 Capital Budget Prioritisation

Members considered Paper SNI/08/175 which advised of the developments since the Special Meeting of Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) on Saturday 11 October.

Members heard that in the Paper presented today Scenario 4 was now a new preferred option to the previously preferred option 2 at the Special Meeting on 11 October. The Paper outlined recent developments and Members noted the points that arose from the meeting that the Chair and Chief Executive had with the Minister on 13 October. The key message from the Minister at that meeting was to treat the Elite Facilities projects as the priority and that the proposed delay as outlined in the previously preferred option 2 was unacceptable.

The Paper concluded that none of the scenarios discussed were attractive but SNI had no option but to make the difficult decision in order to ensure that spend in 2008/09 and 2009/10 did not exceed now formal confirmed budgets. In doing so Members noted the Minister's request that SNI treat the Elite Facilities as a priority for capital investment.

After lengthy discussion in which Members fully considered the options and implications within each of the scenarios presented; and in which they considered the Ministerial priorities, they approved the implementation of option 4.

The Chief Executive undertook to keep Members apprised of any undue pressures on staff who are working very hard and very well but who, at the moment, are coping.

Mr H McCaughey left the meeting

5.2 Policy on the Management of the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) Balance

Members considered Paper SNI/08/176 which set out the proposed policy in Appendix 1 for managing the NLDF balances over the next five years. Members noted that the policy focuses on setting a target for the size of the NLDF balance for the next five financial years (2008/09 – 2012/13) and the proposed measures to actively manage balances during this period.

Members noted the background to the NLDF and the changes that occurred since DCMS issued the "National Lottery Guidance Note 1/03: Management of National Lottery Distribution Fund Balances".

The Paper concluded that whilst the NLDF balance at 1 August 2008 is £19.99m, the level of existing, indicative and potential commitments is considerable; and will reduce the available NLDF balance down to £2.15m by 31 March 2013. In addition, SNI has put into place a number of key measures (noted at 1.4 in the Policy), which will actively manage these balances during the period and ensure that the target is met.

J Rodgers left the meeting.

After discussion Members approved the Policy attached as Appendix 1 to the Paper and the proposed NLDF targets; and noted the findings of the Section 75 Screening attached as Appendix II.

5.3 Stadia Safety: Request for Increase in Award to Irish Rugby Football Union (Ulster Branch)

Conflicts of interest were declared by the Mr Dominic Walsh and Mr B McCargo both of whom left the room.

Dr O Brown assumed the Chair for this item.

Members considered Paper SNI/08/177. This advised of a revision to the proposals to upgrade the spectator accommodation at Ravenhill Rugby Football ground; and requested a variation in the quantum of award as previously approved by the Safe Sports Grounds Committee.

Members noted the background of the UBIRFU application under the Stadia Safety Programme for a series of safety works at Ravenhill and the original business case's preferred option which identified a series of safety works to be completed at the ground, including construction of Stand A and Stand B and a provisional offer was made.

UBIRFU subsequently advised that they wished to proceed only with Stand B and requested an increase in the award for that work. Members noted that due to circumstances outside the control of UBIRFU costs of the project approved by Committee on 7 February 2006 had escalated significantly. This had resulted in the UBIRFU having to scale down their original proposals. The new project had been re-scored and meets the minimum threshold and exceeds the original score due to improved management.

DCAL is aware of the proposed changes and an addendum to the original business case had been submitted to DCAL/DFP for consideration.

Members considered the Project Assessment Report and raised a number of questions regarding partnership funding, exchequer funding and the challenge of increasing attendance.

After discussion the acting Chair read out the recommendations and they were approved by Members.

Mr Walsh and Mr McCargo returned to the room

5.4 Capital Award to SCNI Trust and Approval for Regularisation

Members considered Paper SNI/08/178 which sought approval for a capital award to the SCNI Trust; and for SNI officers progressing with preparing a development agreement and management agreement.

Members noted that Tollymore Mountain Centre is one of only three National Centres in the UK that provides for the training and assessment of leaders in outdoor activities. The re-development plan is consistent with achieving excellence and aspires to build an iconic and innovative, environmentally friendly and sustainable building within the existing site of the centre.

Members noted that the SCNI Trust currently holds a 50-year lease with the Department Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) for an area at the Centre. However the re-development requires a larger area of land to be leased from DARD. After a number of options were reviewed by legal advisors, three options were reviewed and the preferred option agreed as follows:

SCNI Trust enters into a lease for the whole area (existing and new). There is a development agreement (licence) within the SCNI Trust lease, to enable SNI to carry out the re-development of TMC on the existing and new area. There is a requirement at the end of the construction when the building is completed for SNI to manage the whole area under a management agreement; or if the Trust is regularised the lease can be assigned to SNI.

Members discussed the recommendation, reviewed the paperwork and approved £5.173m capital award to the SCNI Trust; SNI to enter into a development agreement with SCNI Trust; SNI to enter into a management agreement with SCNI Trust; and the regularisation of the SCNI Trust.

Members noted and approved the draft documents and approved that SNI officers have delegated authority to make amendments in line with legal advice to ensure that paperwork would be finalised and ready for signature at the next SNI Council Meeting; and approved SNI officers to progress with an application to the Court to regularise the SCNI Trust.

6 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 2 December 2008. Venue to be confirmed.

7 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

House of Sport
Upper Malone Road
Belfast
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