

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

SEVENTH MEETING 2008

Held on Tuesday 2 December 2008 in Wellington Park Hotel, 21 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6RU

PRESENT

In the Chair: Mr D Walsh

Members: Dr O Brown
Mr J D'Arcy
Mr P Turnbull
Mr B McCargo
Mr M Cowan
Mr D O'Connor
Mr A Moneypenny
Ms U Duncan
Mr A Strong
Ms M Muldoon
Mr H McCaughey
Mr B Macaulay

Chief Executive: Mr E McCartan

Staff in Attendance: Mr S Ogle
Mrs R McDowell
Mr T Gorman
Mr J News
Mr W Devlin
Mr C McGurk
Mr R McCormick
Miss L Beattie

1. APOLOGISES

Apologies were received from Mr J Rodgers, Mr A Sloan, Mr N Harkness

2. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Mr D Walsh welcomed Mr J Palmer, DCAL's Head of Sports Branch to the meeting and advised Members that Mr J Palmer would be retiring early in 2009. Members noted that Mr J Palmer had been 110% committed to sport and had represented sport at UK level, that he had been instrumental in new Strategy for Sport, and Soccer Strategy. Members noted that Mr J Palmer had major input with regard to Special Olympics 2003 and with World Rally Championship in 2007 and commended his dedication and commitment to sport in Northern Ireland.

Mr E McCartan advised that he had worked with Mr J Palmer for fifteen years and that he found him to have great leadership skills and understanding. Mr E McCartan advised he had learnt a lot from Mr

Palmer for example humility and patience, and advised that he had great trust and confidence in Mr J Palmer and thanked him for support over the years.

Dr O Brown also thanked Mr J Palmer for all support he had given to sport and his willing advice and his quiet loyal commitment and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr D O'Connor advised that it had been a pleasure to work with Mr J Palmer and wished him all the best for his retirement.

Mr B McCargo advised that he had worked with Mr J Palmer on other matters and that he always was supportive of sport and wished him well on his retirement.

Mr A Moneypenny advised that he used to work with Mr J Palmer and advised that he is honest man with a good sense of humour and wished him well.

Mr J Palmer thanked everyone for their kind words and advised that felt a sense of achievement having worked with Sport NI and thanked Mr E McCartan and staff for all help and co-operation over the years.

Members noted that he has many memories from his time working with Sport NI and he thanked Mr D Walsh for Chairmanship and paid tribute to Professor E D Saunders on is Chairmanship. Mr J Palmer advised that he had enjoyed working with Mr E McCartan and advised that Sport NI has an impressive team, and finished by thanking everyone for the memories.

Mr D Walsh and Members expressed deepest sympathy to Council Secretary, Elizabeth Bailey on the death of her mother. He indicated that the timing of the Council Meeting had been change to enable Members to pay their respects at the funeral which was being held at Roselawn Crematorium at 1.30 pm.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the Sixth meeting held on 7 October 2008 having been previously circulated were approved and signed.

Minutes of Special meeting held on 10 November 2008 having been previously circulated were approved and signed on the undertaking that Item 5.4 is re-worded to ensure that approval has been sought for SNI to fund SCNI Trust.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

6. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

7. PARTICIPATION UNIT

7.1 Building Sport Programme – Donaghadee Sailing Club

Members received Paper SNI/08/194. Members reviewed the project assessment report and approved the recommendation to increase the award to £725,074 towards the capital costs of the project.

7.2 Building Sport Programme

Members received Paper SNI/08/195 which required consideration and approval of attached Stage II assessment reports for John Mitchel's GAC, Claudy and Cookstown Hockey Club.

Following discussion Members approved the awards to both Clubs.

7.3 Stadia Safety

Members received Paper SNI/08/196 which advises of the implications of the SNI Capital Budget Prioritisation on the Stadia Safety programme and seeks approval of the method to prioritise applications.

It was agreed that SNI officers would contact the relevant projects to inform them of the process and work with projects to complete their business cases and to have them in a state of readiness. Members approved the prioritisation process.

7.4 Report of Delegated Decisions – Places Committee

Members received Paper SNI/08/179 which outlined decisions taken by Management in accordance with Council Policy on Delegated Decisions.

7.5 Review of Public Administration

Members received Paper SNI/08/198 purpose of which was to update members on progress of Review of Public Administration and its application within health sector, identify key points for action by Sport NI.

Members noted the structural and operation reforms within the health sector and the highlighted implications of the RPA in health for sport, physical activity and Sport NI. Approval was given for officers to progress the action points identified in paragraph 8.2.

7.6 Sport in our Community

Members received Paper SNI/08/199 which provided an update on the outputs of the Sport in Our Community Investment Programme for period 1/4/06 – 31/3/08.

Members noted progress made in programme to end of the second year of the four year term and noted the intention to disseminate the publication in house to DCAL, the CAL Committee and the Community and Voluntary

Sector.

Mr H McCaughey joined the meeting

7.7 Small Grants Programme for Sport in Northern Ireland

Members received Paper SNI/08/200 which asked Members to assess options for future SNI investment in a small grants programme and recommend preferred option.

After discussion Members approved preferred option as Option 4 in paragraph 5.2 as shown in Table 1.

The name, timeline and grant size were also approved. The new programme will be called Awards for Sport it was agreed that SNI will develop a new programme which will be launched in April 2009 with the award values ranging from £1,000 to £10,000.

The proposed budget for the programme was approved by Members in line with NLDF policy as £450,000 per annum over the next three years.

7.8 Report of Delegated Decisions – Participation Committee

Members received Paper SNI/08/201 which outlined decisions taken by Management in accordance with Council Policy on Delegated Decisions.

8. PERFORMANCE UNIT

8.1 Review of the Current Athlete Support Programme

Members received Paper SNI/08/202 which sought approval for proposed changes to the management and administration of the Athlete Support Programme over 2009-2013.

Members approved the recommendation and the programme will open for application in January 2009 with initial awards being made from 1 April 2009.

8.2 Request for an Increase in Award

Members received Paper SNI/08/203 which sought approval for request from Jenna McCorkell to extend and increase her current Living Costs award under the Athlete Support Programme for the period October 2008 to March 2009.

Members approved the recommendations.

8.3 Club Development – Delivering a Quality Accreditation Programme for Sports Clubs

Members received Paper SNI/08/204 which sought approval of a Business Case (Appendix 1) recommending the preferred option for SNI to manage a club accreditation programme which endorses/licenses governing body or Local authority accreditation schemes with the support of a consultant.

Members approved the recommendation.

8.4 Anti-Doping

Members received Paper SNI/08/205 which provided an update on anti-doping and sought endorsement for UK Sport's Supplements Position Statement.

Members noted findings and agreed that it would be useful to undertake a comparative analysis. It was noted that SNI operates under two systems; UK Sport and ISC. Members agreed it would be useful to have matrix of variances to see differences and measure what impact they have.

8.5 Report of Delegated Decisions – Performance

Members received Paper SNI/08/206 which outlined decisions taken by Management in accordance with Council Policy on Delegated Decisions.

8.6 An Analysis of the Northern Ireland Talent Landscape

Members received Paper SNI/08/207 which provides them with a picture of the current talent identification and development investment in Northern Ireland.

Members noted that a presentation had been given to the Performance Committee and felt it would also be useful for all Members to receive this presentation at the next meeting.

Members noted the findings.

8.7 Update on the Implementation of the Investing in Performance Sport Programme

Members received Paper SNI/08/208 which provided an update on the implementation of the Investing in Sport Programme.

9. CORPORATE SERVICES

9.1 Management Accounts

Members received Paper SNI/08/209 Management Accounts for the 7 month period to 31 October 2008 and noted and approved the accounts.

Members noted that Business Case for Places for Sport needs to be approved by DCAL before Christmas to ensure spend as there will be no carry over to next year. Members noted if this is passed before Christmas all money will be spent it was noted that Ms T Smyth is dealing with the Department in respect of this matter.

9.2 Statement of Accounting Policies

Members received Paper SNI/08/210 which asked Members to note existing accounting policies and to give delegated authority to officers to make amendments in line with Government guidelines when required.

Members reviewed the policy and gave delegated authority to Officers

within SNI to make amendments when necessary.

9.3 Delegated Decisions – Corporate Services Unit

Members received Paper SNI/08/211 which outlined decisions taken by Management in accordance with Council Policy on Delegated Decisions.

9.4 Sports Council for Northern Ireland (SCNI) Trust

Ms R McDowell advised Members that Solicitors are still working on some issues. Members noted that Ms R McDowell felt it would be useful to propose two trustees that could be given delegated authority with respect to the Trust. Members put forward Dr O Brown, Mr P Turnbull and Mr D O'Connor as members with delegated authority.

9.5 Marketing
Press and Media Report

Members considered Paper SNI/08/212 which updated them with recent activities of Marketing Department.

Members were made aware that a Marketing Officer has been appointed for SINI.

Members also noted that SNI are taking the lead with regard to Pre-Game Training Camps through a Service Level Agreement with Invest NI and NI Tourism.

Mr P Turnbull enquired if there was any help or support SNI could be giving to Athletics with regard to Championships which are held in Odyssey in January. It was agreed that Mr R McCormick would investigate.

9.6 Dates of Council and Committee Meetings in 2009

Members considered Paper SNI/08/213 which provided Members with dates for Council Meetings and Committee Meetings for 2009. These dates were approved.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR ADOPTION**

Participation Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of meeting held on 23 September 2008.

11. **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR INFORMATION**

There were no Committee Reports for information.

12. **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 3 February 2009

14 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and flexibility regarding changes to the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

House of Sport
Upper Malone Road
Belfast
BT9 5LA