

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Fourth Meeting 2011

Held on Tuesday 2 August 2011 in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

PRESENT

In the Chair: D Walsh

Members: O Brown
R Carr
P Cummings
J D'Arcy
U Duncan
B Macaulay
H McGrady
A Money Penny
B McCargo
J Rodgers
A Strong

Chief Executive: E McCartan

Staff in Attendance: N Harkness
S Ogle
A Sloan
C McGurk
P Donnelly
R McCormick
J News
C McLister
C Southern
E Bailey

In Attendance: D Warden, North Down Borough Council

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr D O'Connor, Mr M Cowan and Mr P Turnbull.

2 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

2.1 Mr Edgar Jardine

The Chairman welcomed Mr Edgar Jardine, former Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL). Council had wished to mark Mr Jardine's contribution to the work of DCAL and Sport Northern Ireland (SNI). He thanked him for his assistance and guidance over the years and

wished him well in his new temporary post and planned retirement.

Members who had worked with Mr Jardine in various situations commended him for his wise counsel, diplomacy and ability to find a suitable compromise in his work with the IFA, Odyssey, Ministerial Advisory Groups and SNI. In particular he was respected amongst political parties for his honest integrity, high principles transparency and approachability.

Mr Jardine thanked Members for their comments. He referred to the various areas of work carried out by DCAL and SNI over the years and the outcomes that had been achieved. The Chairman then presented Mr Jardine with a small gift from Council.

2.2 50-m Pool

The Chairman welcomed Mr Carl Southern who introduced Mr David Warden, Head of Leisure and Community Services at North Down Borough Council who gave a presentation on the background, technical aspects and progress of the 50-m pool. Members heard about costs, progress, layout, car-parking, usage statistics. Members noted that the completion date of 19 October 2012 was on target and hopefully there would be no slippage.

Members had the opportunity to raise a number of questions. Topics included:

Squash court usage, particularly with lesser participation in the sport. It was noted that the existing leisure centre had four courts but they have been reduced to two in the new centre.

Car-parking charges. It was noted that it was currently intended that the 665 spaces would be free of charge.

Legacy and what that would be to the local community. Members heard that North Down Borough Council had engaged with sports clubs, schools, and the general public. Mr Warden emphasised the aspiration for legacy outcomes relating to participation.

Leisure facilities usage. Members heard that North Down Borough Council hoped to double the current usage of approximately 400,000 customers a year.

Chairman thanked Mr Warden for the presentation and wished him every success and he in turn thanked SNI and officers for the support they had received.

2.3 Declaration of Interests

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interest to declare. Mr B McCargo declared an interest in Special Olympics and World Police and Fire Games.

2.4 New Members

At this stage the Chairman welcomed the three new Members of Council and asked them to introduce themselves.

Hilary McGrady – Director for National Trust in Northern Ireland – interested in

people being active in sport, and outdoor recreation in a rural environment.

Paul Cummings – Director of Finance at Heath and Social Care Board – interested in Tennis, Football and is a Performance Manager in Archery.

Ross Carr – property and finance – interested in Gaelic Games, Boxing, Athletics, Rugby, and Soccer.

- 2.5 The Chairman expressed his condolences to Mr Danny O'Connor who had suffered a recent bereavement in the loss of his brother.
- 2.6 The Chairman then referred to the breadth of performance and success recently achieved by sports people in Northern Ireland in particular Darren Clarke in golf and other sporting achievers. Members hoped that such high performance would in turn drive participation in sport.
- 2.7 The Chairman suggested that, as there is now one year to the London 2012 Olympics, a standing item be put on Council Agenda "London 2012".
- 2.8 The Chairman informed Members that SNI had recently, in conjunction with Sport England, Sport Scotland, Sport Wales and UK Sport, signed a document supporting Government's approach to homophobia and transphobia indicating that sport transcends boundaries. Members approved the signing.
- 2.9 Members heard that Professor Eric Saunders, past Chairman of SNI, was in hospital following heart bypass surgery. Members agreed to send a card extending their best wishes for his recovery.

3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Third Meeting of 2011 held on 7 June, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

Mr B McCargo said that the Minutes had shown that he had left the room for Item 11 but did not show that he had returned to the room before Item 12. It was agreed to note this in the Minutes.

Members noted that the Performance Investment Principles referred in Item 7.2 had been approved by the Performance Committee

Mr A Strong referred to delivering of high performance athletes. He felt that the minute had not captured the essence of the comments made.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 **Irish Football Association**

Members noted letter dated 4 July 2011 which reported on the General Meeting of the Irish Football Association and the overwhelming support for changes in the new Articles of Association, Football Regulations and Standing Orders.

5.2 BBC Audience Council Northern Ireland

Members noted letter dated 8 July 2011. This related to a recent meeting which took place in the House of Sport and referred to the thoughtful and considered contributions made at the meeting which would help in informing the Audience Council's response to the BBC Trust's public consultation.

5.3 Special Olympics Ireland

Members noted letter dated 8 July 2011 from the Chief Executive expressing thanks for SNI's commitment to Special Olympics Ireland and referring to the success of the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens where 107 medals were achieved.

6 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

6.1 Awards for Sport 2011/12

Members considered Paper SNI/11/113 which outlined some key learning points and sought approval to commit small grants.

The Chairman thanked Mr N Harkness, Director of Participation and Facilities for interrupting his holiday to come to the Council meeting today. Mr Harkness then asked Mr John News, who manages the Participation Team to present the paper.

The Chairman said there was an expectation that Members would have read papers before coming to Council and for that reason and because the Paper would have gone through Committee, he would not go through everything in detail.

Members referred to timelines shown in the Paper and requested that dates be circulated to Members.

Members approved the recommendations.

6.2 Stadium Project

Members received an update on progress on the three Stadium Projects at Ravenhill, Casement Park and Windsor Park (Paper SNI/11/114).

Members noted that each of the three governing bodies have unique project risks which are managed via individual Project Risk Registers.

Members noted the progress being made in each of the three governing bodies but commented on ongoing planning issues at Ravenhill. They noted that the planners are liaising with residents about these issues. Members were reminded that if any comments were required on any sensitive issues related to these projects that would be done only by the Chairman and Chief Executive.

Members also discussed issues to do with Windsor Park and acquisition of land.

Members queried the appropriate state of readiness of each project and when money would be released. Members also queried if the speed of progress by any of the three governing bodies would affect the others. Officers were asked

to check that all the risks discussed were covered by the risk Register.

Members will be provided with regular updates on progress on all these projects to allow them to have an overview of SNI's risk management of the projects and to allow them to approve funding decisions and any necessary deviations from existing SNI policies.

6.3 Participation Team Update

Members received an update of the work of the Participation Team in the period May – August 2011 (Paper SNI/11/115). The Paper also referred to key areas of work over the next four months and reported on delegated decisions taken in accordance with Council policy.

Members noted a career break being taken by Ms Angharad Bunt and wished her well. Members also congratulated Mr John News on the very well-managed Active Communities Programme.

7 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

7.1 Investing in Performance Sport Programme

Members received an update on officers' actions taken since 7 June with regard to the Investing in Performance Sport Programme (Paper SNI/11/116).

7.2 Delegated Decisions – Performance Unit

Members received Paper SNI/11/117 and noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy.

7.3 Performance Sport

Members received an update on the progress of the Performance Team over the past two months in implementing actions in line with SNI priority areas as detailed in its Corporate Plan and Business Plan (Paper SNI/11/118).

8 **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

8.1 Management Accounts

Members considered and approved the Management Accounts for the 3-month period to 30 June 2011 (Paper SNI/11/119).

8.2 Delegated Decisions- Corporate services Unit

Members received Paper SNI/11/120 and noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy.

8.3 Risk Register

Members received a summary of the key corporate risks, their ratings, agreed mitigation activities and progress against those activities (Paper SNI/11/121). Members noted that the DCAL review of arms-length bodies was considered at the Audit Committee earlier and asked that it be included in the Risk Register.

8.4 Advocacy and Communications

Members received an update of recent and upcoming activities in the Advocacy and Communications Department (Paper SNI/11/112).

Members noted that the Boccia World Cup 2011 was being held at the end of August in University of Ulster Jordanstown.

Members commented on the success of the recent Milk Cup and that SNI had been recognised at every opportunity. There had been very positive feedback from the international visitors.

8.5 Corporate Plan 2011-15 and Business Plan 2011/12

Members received and noted Sport Northern Ireland's Corporate Plan 2011-2015 and Business Plan 2011-2012 which were now approved by DCAL (Paper SNI/11/122).

8.6 Business Plan Review 2011/12 (Quarter 1)

Members received and noted the Business Plan Quarterly Review (Paper SNI/11/123).

8.7 Review of Arms-Length Bodies

Members noted correspondence from DCAL on its review of arms-length bodies which had been initiated in 2010 (Paper SNI/11/124).

Members noted the background to the review and noted that it will be undertaken in two phases. They discussed the process and could not see process or structure in it. Members expressed the view that if SNI was drawn into DCAL it would lose its impartiality.

It was agreed that officers would obtain dates and comments from Members for circulation.

9 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

9.1 Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland

Members noted the Minutes of the One Hundred and Third Meeting held on 7 February 2011.

9.2 Performance Committee

Members noted the Minutes of the Twentieth Meeting held on 24 March 2011.

9.3 Places Committee

Members noted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2011.

9.4 Participation Committee

Members noted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 May 2011.

9.5 Audit Committee

Members noted the Minutes of the Sixty-Sixth Meeting held on 7 June 2011.

9.6 Northern Ireland Mountain Cave Rescue Co-Ordinating Committee

Members noted the Minutes of the Ninety-Eighth Meeting held on 24 February 2011.

10 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications

11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 4 October 2011

12 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

12.1 Pre-Games Training Camps (PGTC)

The Minutes for this item are Strictly Private and Confidential and Commercially Sensitive and as such will be presented to Council on the day.

12.2 Tickets for Olympics 2012

Members heard that 200 tickets have been offered by LOCOG for the Olympics. They are designed to be used by children, youth, and community. Members approved the recommendation that SNI accepts the tickets. This will, however, present challenges in finding a means to distribute them fairly and equitably. Members expressed the view that young athletes be considered for these tickets as they are the athletes who will excel for future Olympics.

12.3 Members' Appraisal Forms

The Chairman asked Members to complete and return their Appraisal Forms within a week as these were required by DCAL.

12.4 World Police and Fire Games Reception

DCAL are to be requested to send an invitation to all Members to the reception on Wednesday 17 August.

12.5 Sport Matters

Members asked that this subject be put as a standing item on the Council Agenda.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

House of Sport
Upper Malone Road
Belfast
BT9 5LT