

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Fourth Meeting 2009

Held on 20 October 2009 in Belvoir Park Golf Club, 73-75 Church Road, Newtownbreda, Belfast BT8 7AN.

PRESENT

In the Chair: D Walsh

Members: J D'Arcy
U Duncan
A Money Penny
M Muldoon
D O'Connor
J Rodgers
A Strong

Chief Executive: E McCartan

Staff in Attendance: N Harkness
S Ogle
A Sloan
A Campbell
W Devlin
S O'Hare
J Thompson
J Poots
P Donnelly
R McCormick
T Smyth
C McGurk
E Bailey
L Beattie

In Attendance: P Curran, Arthur Cox Solicitors (for part)

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from, Dr O Brown, Mr M Cowan, Mr B Macaulay, Mr B McCargo, Mr H McCaughey and Mr P Turnbull.

2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

2.1 The Chairman informed Members that he would leave the meeting when discussion took place under Any Other Business on World Police and Fire Games.

2.2 The Chairman updated Members on the meeting to discuss capital budgets that had taken place earlier in the day with the Permanent Secretary and other

officials of the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL). The meeting had been very constructive and a good level of teamwork had been demonstrated.

The Council and the Chief Executive paid tribute to Mr N Harkness, Mr A Sloan, Mrs A Campbell, Ms T Smyth and Mr C McGurk for the work carried out to prepare the required paperwork.

3

MINUTES

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2009 were tabled to Members. The Chairman asked Members to be aware of any conflict of interest that may arise, particularly in reading the minutes at item 8 and to absent themselves.

Members drew attention to the spelling in item 1 of Martin Lindsay and a typographical error in item 7.

Mr D O'Connor and Mr A Strong left the room.

Item 8.2 – Members noted that the Chief Executive would produce a short report on his recent visit to New York and Washington.

The Chairman referred to the draft Minutes at item 8 and asked Mr Curran of Arthur Cox Solicitors if he was content that this was a true and accurate record of the meeting. Mr Curran referred to the Judgment of the High Court which required SNI to make a fresh decision on Belfast City Council's application to the Elite Facilities Programme. SNI had reconsidered the matter and taken a fresh decision on the factual issue of lateness, on the possibility of a reduced offer of award and on whether or not the application should be accepted in full. There had been a very full and comprehensive discussion, particularly around the reduction point. Mr Curran was content that the minutes were a true and accurate reflection of that discussion. The matter had been fully discussed and members had gone to significant length to record their decisions on all the key issues.

The Chairman referred to the draft Minutes page by page and they were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting and approved for signing by the Chairman.

Members agreed that the Minutes were a very comprehensive record of what had taken place at the previous meeting.

Mr Curran updated Members on letters issued to Belfast City Council and Antrim Borough Council updating them on the situation and informing them how SNI would proceed with the Elite Facilities Programme.

Members noted that this programme was a unique opportunity for sport in Northern Ireland to celebrate and secure a lasting legacy from the 2012 Olympic and **Paralympic** Games.

Mr Curran left the meeting.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Members sought an update on the Galbally review and the Chief Executive reported that SNI was awaiting a report from the GAA which would facilitate officers in preparing a full report for the Council.

4.2 The Chairman noted that one Member had still to return the Self-Assessment Form in connection with Members' Performance Appraisals.

5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Mr C Kennedy, Omagh District Council

Members noted e-mail dated 4 September thanking Mr P Scott and Ms L Strong for the excellent seminar in Omagh District Council on Safety at Sports Grounds.

6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interests to declare.

Mr D O'Connor – Basketball Development, Lisburn

Mr N Harkness – Canoeing Association of Northern Ireland

Mrs A Campbell – Antrim Borough Council

Miss M Muldoon - Irish Football Association

Mr D Walsh – Delegated Decisions – Ocean Youth Trust – it was agreed that there was no need for him to leave the room.

7 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

7.1 Elite Facilities Programme – Stage 2 Decisions

Members considered Paper SNI/09/162 which sought approval of the Places Committee recommendations pertaining to the assessment of Stage Two applications to the Elite Facilities Programme. Members noted that a range of assessors had been present to advise Places Committee members of strengths of the scores. Members were also requested to consider the assessment of the application for an athletics facility but to set the decision aside. It was proposed that a provisional decision be made today and that it was necessary to park the athletics decisions until the appeal period is exhausted.

Mrs J Poots declared an interest in Lisburn City Council and left the room.

Cllr J Rodgers declared an interest in Belfast City Council and left the room.

The Chief Executive informed Members that it was hoped to meet with the Minister soon to update him on SNI decisions and therefore no announcement should be made yet.

Members heard **from the Chair of the Places Committee** that the integrity of the process was thorough. The Places Committee had identified some common issues regarding procurement, sustainable development, etc and assessments were carried out honestly and fairly. The Chair of Places Committee commended the **thoroughness and accuracy of the** paperwork. The Chairman commended Mr Strong on **the work of the** Places Committee.

Members asked if the meeting with the Minister was a courtesy information meeting. The Chairman replied that out of courtesy the Minister would be updated on the decisions of SNI as an arms-length body. **He confirmed that it is the responsibility of SNI to make decisions based on the quality of the bids.** The Chairman confirmed that the Permanent Secretary asked that the Chairman and Chief Executive meet the Minister on Friday so that decisions may be progressed.

After lengthy discussion Members approved the recommendations.

Cllr J Rodgers and Mrs J Poots returned to the room.

7.2 Physical Education in Primary Schools in Northern Ireland

Members received an update (Paper SNI/09/163) which outlined the rationale for conducting a baseline survey of timetabled physical education in Primary Schools in Northern Ireland, the key findings of the survey and the implications for SNI and partners.

Members noted the Department of Education has been involved and it was suggested that a letter be sent to the Minister for Education and that it would be useful to have an update meeting with Dr E Rooney of the Public Health Agency. Members also recommended that the findings are presented to both the Education and CAL Committees as well as being circulated widely to the general public and the education sector.

7.3 Windsor Park Urgent Works

Miss M Muldoon and Cllr J Rodgers left the room.

Members considered Paper SNI/09/164 which provided an update regarding ad DCAL request to carry out urgent safety works at Windsor Park Stadium and SNI's response to date.

The Paper also sought clarification as to whether or not the DCAL request was a Ministerial Direction or not.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations of the Places Committee:

- to note the request from DCAL and approve an award;
- to approve the conditions of the award;
- and to clarify with DCAL if the works are to be carried out as a DCAL policy Direction or a Ministerial Direction and seek confirmation of a Section 75 Screening **of the policy decision** as appropriate.

Ms M Muldoon and Cllr J Rodgers returned to the room

7.4 Stadia Safety Phase IV

Members considered Paper SNI/09/165 which sought approval to accept the recommendation of the Places Committee to accept the Coleraine Football Club Ltd application to Phase IV of the Stadia Safety programme.

Members approved the recommendation.

7.5 Regional Stadium Development

Members received an update on the development of regional stadia to meet the strategic needs of the Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association, Irish Football Association and Ulster Branch Irish Rugby Football Union (Paper SNI/09/166).

7.6 Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006

Members considered Paper SNI/09/167 which advised Members on progress regarding the anticipated implementation of the Articles within the Safe Sports Grounds (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 relating to certification; the implications this will have for steward training and for safety officer training; the intention of SNI to provide funding to address these issues; the role of SNI in issuing guidance relating to Safe Sports Grounds issues and to seek approval to undertake this role; and progress regarding the Stadia Safety Capital Programme.

Members noted the work of SNI in this area and approved SNI guidance on operational matters relating to Safe Sports Grounds Legislation to stakeholders, as the agents of DCAL, and providing funding for stewards' training.

7.7 Capital Budget Prioritisation

Members considered Paper SNI/0/168 which sought approval for an updated profile of capital spend. This update is mainly reflective of the current delay in the Elite Facilities Programme and recent capital budget updates from DCAL.

Members were taken through the budget. NH proposed that they were approved with a degree of flexibility which is necessary to maximise spend across all programmes.

After discussion Members approved the spend profile for the period 2009/10 to 2016/17 subject to DCAL caveats and the delegation of authority to SNI officers to allocate projects approved by Council to the appropriate funding stream. Members also approved officer delegated authority to allocate any anticipated underspend to other projects and programmes that could be accelerated.

7.8 Ulidia Integrated College

Members considered a request for Ulidia Integrated College to transfer the Building Sport Stage 1 award to Carrickfergus Borough Council (Paper SNI/09/169).

Members approved the recommendation of the Places Committee to note the withdrawal of the Ulidia Integrated College; to decline the request to transfer the project; and that no reduced offer of award be made as this would significantly impact on both the capital project viability and the timescales for the project.

7.9 Knocks Grattan Hurling Club

Members considered Paper SNI/09/170. This enabled Members to reconsider a previous decision made by SNI in June 2009 in light of the recent High Court Northern Ireland Judicial Review ruling. The Judge had noted that under SNI's appeals procedure a decision to reduce the award was available to Council as well as the option to reject the application and concluded that Council should have considered the option to reduce the award in its decision making.

The matter had been brought to Places Committee who proposed to Council that they make a new decision on this application. Having considered the application afresh, including the option of reduction, it was the recommendation of Places Committee that it be rejected.

Members approved the recommendation of the Places Committee that the application be rejected and that the current grounds for appeal be noted.

7.10 U3A Foyle

Members considered Paper SNI/09/171 and approved an increase in awards towards project developments costs for U3A Foyle.

7.11 Delegated Decisions – Participation

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with SNI policy (Paper SNI/09/172).

8 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

8.1 Delegated Decisions – Performance

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with SNI policy (Paper SNI/09/173).

8.2 Athlete Progress

Members received Paper SNI/09/174 which provided an update on recent medal winning success at European and World level and significant international performances by athletes supported through the Athlete Support Programme. These successes related to the period between July and September 2009

8.3 Investing in Performance Sport Programme

Members considered Paper SNI/09/175 and noted progress made by governing bodies and SNI officers in the implementation of the Investing in Performance Sport Programme since April 2009. Members approved the format of the Performance Assessment Tool.

8.4 Talent Identification

Members received an update on aspects of the Talent Systems team work over the past six months and noted key events and planned future development (Paper SNI/09/188).

9 **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

9.1 Management Accounts

Members considered the Management Accounts for the six-month period to 30 September 2009 (Paper SNI/09/176) and, after a comprehensive discussion, approved their submission to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure.

9.2 Risk Management Policy

Members approved the Policy on Risk Management and delegated authority of officers should any amendments be necessary as a result of the screening process (Paper SNI/09/177).

9.3 Fraud Policy

Members approved the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy (Paper SNI/09/178).

9.4 Taxi Policy

Members approved the Policy on use of taxis for official business travel (Paper SNI/09/179).

9.5 Freedom of Information Policy

Members considered and approved the updated Freedom of Information/Environmental Information Policy (Paper SNI/09/180).

9.6 Information Request Policy

Members considered and approved the Policy on Department of Culture Arts and Leisure's Information Requests (Paper SNI/09/181).

9.7 Grants Monitoring Policy

Members considered and approved the Grant Monitoring Policy (Paper SNI/09/182).

9.8 Redundancy Policy

Members considered and approved the draft Redundancy Policy and Civil Service Compensation Scheme prior to going out to public consultation (Paper SNI/09/183).

9.9 Uplift on Banking BACS Limits

Members considered Paper SNI/09/184 which sought approval for an uplift in approved limits.

Members approved an uplift from £200k to £500k in the daily approved limits for making BACs payments.

9.10 Delegated Decisions – Corporate Services Unit

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with SNI policy (Paper SNI/09/185)

9.11 Marketing

Members received an update on recent and upcoming activities in the Marketing and Communications Department (Paper SNI/09/187).

The Chairman referred to the extensive workload that Council Members had undertaken as a result of the special meetings and as a result of the plethora of representations. He thanked Council for their commitment and support. Members expressed their appreciation to staff for the background information and support they received. It was agreed that SNI's branding was prominent and strong in a number of sports grounds including Ravenhill.

10 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR ADOPTION**

10.1 Northern Ireland Mountain and Cave Rescue Co-ordinating Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-First Meeting held on 14 May 2009.

10.2 Performance Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting held on 21 May 2009.

10.3 Participation Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 July 2009.

10.4 Places Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 July 2009.

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS - FOR INFORMATON**

There were no Committee Reports for information.

12 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 1 December 2009.

14 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14.1 A Member referred to recent additional meetings that had taken place and the difficulty in being able to attend at such short notice. The Chief Executive reported that after this meeting there was not likely to be any further additional meetings.

14.2 Members expressed the view that they would welcome a visit to the Tollymore Mountain Centre.

14.3 World Police and Fire Games Belfast 2013

At this point Mr D Walsh declared an interest and left the room.

The Vice-Chairman, Mr A Money Penny took the Chair.

The Chief Executive provided an overview to Council outlining the nature, context and importance of the World Police & Fire Games (WPFG). He described them as largely participatory in nature. He also provided background information on the SNI involvement to date. He advised that a due diligence on the Games had been undertaken and was now nearing completion.

Over the last number of months there had been a growing recognition by DCAL and others that there is insufficient capacity within the existing Committee of the WPFG. Consequently it was the view of the Department and other key stakeholders that SNI should take a lead role in the strategic planning and management of the sports theme. This of course would be undertaken giving due recognition to the importance of the services involved ie PSNI, NIFRS, NI Prison Service. The Chief Executive emphasised that there was a need to ensure these services play a crucial role in the development and delivery of the games. The Chief Executive pointed out that there is lot of work still required to be done, but that he was content to recommend in principle that SNI undertake this role. Members sought clarification on the importance of sport in the overall context of the Games, and were advised that sport was the core activity ie it was the purpose of the Games and without it the Games had no reason to take place. Members noted the interdependency of sport with other themes including transport, marketing, hotels et al. Members accepted the recommendation without risk and without prejudice.

Members tasked the Participation Committee to produce a paper that would outline the way forward including terms and conditions upon which SNI would become involved. Members noted that this is very exciting project which required the highest level of management and control and would therefore need to have the vision, strategy, structure and staff in place to ensure successful delivery of the Games. Members tasked the Participation Committee to bring a paper forward outlining how SNI would successfully undertake that which has been requested from them.

Mr D Walsh returned to the room.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 4 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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Upper Malone Road
Belfast
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