

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Third Meeting 2009

Held on Tuesday 2 June 2009 in the Wellington Park Hotel, 21 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 6RU

PRESENT

In the Chair: D Walsh

Members:

- O Brown
- M Cowan
- U Duncan
- B Macaulay
- A Money Penny
- M Muldoon
- B McCargo
- D O'Connor
- J Rodgers
- A Strong
- P Turnbull

Chief Executive: E McCartan

Staff in Attendance:

- N Harkness
- S Ogle
- A Sloan
- R McCormick
- E Bailey
- A Campbell
- T Smyth (for part)
- C McCurk (for part)

In Attendance: Mr Peter Curran (Arthur Cox Solicitors)
Ms Nicola Armstrong

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr J D'Arcy and Mr H McCaughey.

2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

2.1 The Chairman welcomed Members.

2.2 Elite Facilities Programme. The Chairman said he would like to take this item at this stage in the meeting. Before doing so he sought declarations of interest.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had an interest to declare. The following declared interests.

Mr A Strong – Belfast City Council - Velodrome

Mr D O'Connor – Belfast City Council

Dr O Brown referred to the fact that she had been on the Appeals Panel; however legal advice from Arthur Cox Solicitors confirmed that she should remain in the room.

Cllr J Rodgers – Belfast City Council

Mr A Money Penny – North Down Borough Council – 50m pool

Mr M Cowan – Delegated Decisions. Confirmed it was not necessary to declare this or to leave the room.

Ms M Muldoon - Delegated Decisions. Confirmed this would not be a conflict.

Cllr J Rodgers, Mr D O'Connor and Mr A Strong left the room.

Belfast City Council Appeal: Elite Facilities Programme
(Chairman's Business Item 2.2)

Members considered the Appeals Summary Form signed by the Appeals Panel. Members noted that, following consideration of all the arguments put forward by Belfast City Council in their Appeal and the relevant facts and circumstances, the Appeals Panel had recommended that Council should reject the Appeal from Belfast City Council for the reasons set out in the Appeals Summary Form.

Members discussed the recommendation made by the Appeals Panel to reject the Appeal. It was unanimously decided to accept that recommendation and to reject the Appeal made by Belfast City Council.

Cllr J Rodgers and Mr D O'Connor returned to the room.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Second Meeting of 2009 held on 21 April and the Special Meeting held on 7 May 2009, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS (Agenda Item 2)

The Chairman updated Members on a meeting UK Sport Members had with Lord Triesman, Chairman of the Football Association. The key purpose had been to seek support from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England to support a Team GB combined for the London 2012 U-23 Football. After meetings with the four home country Sports Councils the decision was to permit England to put a team in under Team GB; but Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland would not be participating.

6 **CORRESPONDENCE** (Agenda Item 5)

6.1 Fort Centre Riding for the Disabled

Members noted letter dated 10 April 2009 which expressed appreciation for Sport Northern Ireland's (SNI) assistance in their securing the full grant to provide a new floor for the arena in the Centre at Maghera.

6.2 Irish Rugby Football Union

Members noted letter dated 15 April 2009 which thanked SNI for the letter of support sent following Ireland winning the Six Nations Championship.

7 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

7.1 Assessing and Baselining of Physical Literacy in Children in Northern Ireland

Members received Paper SNI/09/93 and noted the findings of the Physical Literacy Research Project. Members congratulated staff on the paper.

7.2 Development of a New Countryside Recreation Strategy for Northern Ireland

Members received Paper SNI/09/94 which provided an overview and background to the existing Countryside Recreation Strategy for Northern Ireland. It also provided an overview of the context and environment for developing a new Countryside Recreation Strategy; and the proposed process and role of SNI in developing a new revised Countryside Recreation Strategy.

7.3 Independent Review of SNI Awards for all Small Grants Programme

Members received Paper SNI/09/95 which provided an update in relation to the key findings of an Independent Review of SNI's 'Awards for All' small grants programme 2005-2008; and updated Members in relation to the development of 'Awards of Sport' – a new SNI small grants programme to support the development of sport in Northern Ireland.

7.4 Delegated Decisions - Participation

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/09/96).

7.5 Programme Capital Budgets Profile for Period 2009/10 – 2012/13

Members considered Paper SNI/09/97 which advised of developments since the special capital budget prioritisation meeting of council on 10 November 2008. It recommended a new capital budget profile based on the recent notification from the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) of additional capital budget allocation for 2009/10. Appendix I to the Paper provided a full breakdown of the total capital budget allocation (£23 million) across the proposed programmes and individual projects.

The Paper concluded that SNI had two key options; one, to adopt an extremely cautious and risk adverse approach; and two, to adopt a balanced risk management approach.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations to:

- Implement option two and the corresponding capital budget profile for 2009/10 (attached as Appendix I).
- Launch both Phase II (May) and Phase III (June) of the Places for Sport Programme and
- Use Active Places 'Bridging the Gap 2009' Research document to evaluate strategic need against applications received.

7.6 Elite Facilities Programme: 50m Swimming Pool

Mr A Moneypenny left the room.

Members considered Paper SNI/09/98 which referred to the progression of the North Down Borough Council (NDBC) application for a 50m swimming pool. Members noted the background and the Stage Four provisional offer and requirements.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations:

To approve the Places Committee recommendations for the progression of the NDBC application for a 50m swimming pool from full business case and procurement strategy stage to detailed design stage subject to DFP and DCAL FBC approvals.

To approve the Places Committee recommendations of £15 million grant-in-aid for the proposed project subject to the provisional and then subsequent full terms and conditions of award.

To approve, as part of the EFP retrospective staged capital grant policy, the Places Committee recommendations of capital grant-in-aid for NDBC pertaining to their stage three capital costs up to £3.5 million.

7.7 Building Sport Programme Reserve List Projects for Consideration

Members considered Paper SNI/09/99 which sought a decision on nine "Reserve List" projects which had been placed on the reserve list as they were deemed to be of a very high quality with regard to sports development and retained until a budget could be secured to support the projects in the long term.

The Paper recommended that six of the projects, having fully met the criteria, would be issued with a full stage 2 Letter of Offer; and that the three projects that did not fully meet the criteria be rejected.

Members approved the recommendations and confirmed that the three applicants who had been rejected would be provided with information regarding their weaknesses and opportunities; and that outreach work would be undertaken to help communities that lack capacity.

At this point in the meeting the Director of Corporate Services returned to the room with a draft minute regarding Elite Facilities (item 4 above).

Mr A Strong, Cllr J Rodgers, Mr D O'Connor, Mr C McGurk and Ms Tracy Smyth left the room.

Members approved the drafted minute and it was duly signed by the Chairman.

Mr A Strong, Cllr J Rodgers, Mr D O'Connor returned to the room.

7.8 Active Places Research Report "Bridging the Gap" 2009

Members received Paper SNI/09/100. They noted its contents and the potential for its use in the strategic delivery of capital programmes operated by SNI.

Cllr J Rodgers left the meeting.

Members commended the authors of the report.

7.9 Delegated Decisions – Places

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/09/101).

8 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

8.1 Presentation of SNI Coaching Delivery Plan 2009-2013

Members considered Paper SNI/09/102. It sought approval for the SNI Coaching Delivery Plan 2009-13 which was attached as Appendix 1.

Members noted that the Participation and Performance Committees had welcomed the paper and had stressed the need for clearly defined ways of working on a North-South, West-East basis in complex environment.

Members agreed that coaching is critical to the development of sport across all levels in Northern Ireland and approved the SNI Coaching Delivery plan 2009-2013.

8.2 Comparative Analysis Report to Identify/Substantive Differences Between UK and Irish Anti-Doping Rules

Members considered Paper SNI/09/103 which informed of the conclusions and recommendations from the Comparative Analysis study commissioned by SNI to identify any substantive differences between UK and Irish Anti-Doping Rules. The paper sought agreement on how SNI can improve harmonisation of the interpretation and implementation of the Anti-Doping rules in Northern Ireland with Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Members approved the recommendation to support the seven recommendations in the paper for further action.

Members commended the Anti-Doping Officer on the work in the paper.

Mr M Cowan left the meeting

8.3 Policy on the Operation of the Pilot Performer Development Centres

Members considered and approved the policy on the Operation of the Pilot Performer Development Centre programme (Paper SNI/09/104).

8.4 Delegated Decisions – Performance

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with SNI policy (Paper SNI/09/105).

9 **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

9.1 Management Accounts

Members considered the Management Accounts for the one-month period to 30 April 2009 (Paper SNI/09/106) and, after discussion of variances, approved their submission to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure.

Members also noted that DCMS had given Section 27 approval for funding for SINI.

9.2 Delegated Decisions – Contracts

Members noted delegated decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/09/107).

9.3 Marketing

9.3.1 Press and Media Report

Members received an update on the work of the Marketing Department (Paper SNI/09/108).

Members were pleased to note the level of recognition that SNI gets at events.

Ms M Muldoon left the meeting.

Members also expressed the view the Marketing team are much more involved in unexpected work when they attend events.

9.4 Business Plan Review 2008-09

Members noted the business Plan Performance Review (Paper SNI/09/109). The paper had been considered by DCAL at the quarterly monitoring review and they had expressed their satisfaction. Members noted that 95% of targets had been achieved and the 5% not achieved were due to circumstances beyond the control of SNI.

10 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR ADOPTION**

10.1 **Participation Committee**

Members adopted the minutes of the Meeting of the Participation Committee held on 22 January 2009.

10.2 **Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland**

Members adopted the minutes of the Ninety-Seventh Meeting of the Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland held on 4 March 2009.

10.3 **Northern Ireland Mountain Cave and Cliff Rescue Co-ordinating Committee**

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninetieth Meeting held on 12 March 2009.

10.4 **Performance Committee**

Members adopted the Minutes of the Tenth Meeting held on 19 March 2009.

10.5 **Places Committee**

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 2009.

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR INFORMATION**

There were no Committee Reports for information.

12 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 4 August 2009 1.30 pm
Tuesday 6 October 2009 1.30 pm
Tuesday 1 December 2009 1.30 pm

14 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

House of Sport
Upper Malone Road
Belfast
BT9 5LT