

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 16 October 2012 in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

PRESENT

In the Chair:	P Turnbull
Members:	M Cowan P Cummings J D'Arcy B Delaney B Macaulay R Mallon S McCullough D O'Connor
Acting Chief Executive:	N Harkness
Staff in Attendance:	S Ogle A Sloan J News J Poots T Smyth A Campbell R Gregg E Bailey

1 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interests to declare. No-one declared any interests.

2 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr G Campbell, Mr R Carr, Mr J O'Neill and Mr C Watson (DCAL).

3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 September 2012 were approved and signed.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Acting Chief Executive reported that there were six items recorded in the minutes for action and a progress report on those actions had been circulated to Members. All of the actions had been completed.

5 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

- 5.1 The Chairman apologised for cancelling at short notice the meeting set for 9 October: the reason being that he was awaiting the Governance and Review Report from CIPFA.
- 5.2 At this point the Interim Chairman asked staff to leave the meeting while Members discussed the Governance Review Report from CIPFA. On their return the Chairman noted that Council had addressed the Report with some comments and the comments would be issued to CIPFA for the finalisation of the report within in a few days.
- 5.3 The Interim Chairman informed Members that Mr Nigel Hart had been recommended as Chair of Mountain Training NI (MTNI). R Mallon reported that the MLTNI had recommended Mr Hart.
- 5.4 The Interim Chairman gained the approval of Members to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Mountain Training NI and Mountain Training UK subject to some minor amendments. This had been considered by the MTNI last week and approved by them for recommendation to Council.

6 **EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT**

Members noted Paper SNI/12/124 which provided information on a range of current topics and events since the Council Meeting on 10 September 2012. The Acting Chief Executive dealt with each item in the report.

Reference 5 – Review of Grant Management Process - it is planned to have a business case and the draft Terms of Reference for the consideration of Members at the December meeting of Council.

Action 1: Officers to prepare business case and draft Terms of Reference for a review of the Grant Management Process in SNI for the consideration of Members at the December meeting of Council.

Reference 6 – Lisburn Racquets Club – Members noted that this project is not the subject of an application to any of SNI's programmes. They suggested that the Chair, at the next meeting with the Permanent Secretary, should seek clarity on this.

Action 2: Chair to seek clarity of this at his next meeting with the Permanent Secretary.

Reference 9 – 50m Pool – Members noted the information provided and that the 50m pool was still on track for completion in February 2013.

Members noted DCAL correspondence seeking further assurances from SNI

regarding the financial stability of North Down Borough Council. It was the view of Members that this matter is outside the remit of SNI and Members expressed the view that protocol should dictate that the Permanent Secretary at DCAL should approach the Permanent Secretary in the appropriate Department for this assurance.

Action 3: Acting Chief Executive to respond to the Permanent Secretary in this regard.

Reference Issues Log – Members queried Newry City FC which was a concern regarding the recent report of insolvency. Members agreed that it be added to the Risk Register before the Council Meeting in November. Members also asked that the issues log should form the basis of regular meetings between the Acting Chief Executive and the DCAL Head of Sport.

Action 4: Acting Chief Executive to set up regular meetings with DCAL Head of Sport.

Action 5: - Officers to review the value of grants to Irish Premier League Football Clubs still within conditions of grant and add this issue to the Risk Register.

Reference 11 – Business Planning – Members suggested that the Legacy Meeting should feed into the Draft Business Plan going to DCAL in December. The Interim Chair informed Members that the Legacy Meeting had been postponed because of low attendance and emphasised the need for a good turnout for the re-arranged workshop.

Action 6: Executive to notify Members of a new date for the Legacy Workshop.

7

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

Members considered the Management Accounts for the six month period to 30 September 2012 (Paper SNI/12/126).

Members noted the underspend in Lottery Accounts. Members queried whether, in terms of previous years, there had ever been such a high level of budget surplus in Lottery. Members noted that much of the underspend of the Lottery budget is caused by staff shortages and noted that this issue had been reflected in recent Council Papers.

Members also clarified a variance shown incorrectly in the Accounts which would be corrected the Director of Sports Management Services Unit.

8

PERFORMANCE FOCUS

Members considered Paper SNI/12/129 which provided an overview of the current status of the Performance Focus investment process and outstanding significant strategic decision-making required by Council. Members also received a slide presentation which outlined the Pathways to Podiums, Need for Investment, Consultation Process, Next Steps, and the elements of a successful sporting system.

Members heard that investment in performance sport is about establishing and

sustaining world leading sporting systems leading to improved athlete performances, and not simply about investments in sporting organisations as an end in itself.

B Macaulay left the meeting.

Members thanked the Director of Performance for the very informative presentation.

Members agreed that investment in performance was a vital area of SNI work and that the establishment and embedding of performance systems in sports would be a valuable legacy from the 2012 London Olympic Games. Members asked that a part of the planned 2012 Legacy Workshop address this legacy and the proportion of SNI's investment being directed to Participation, Places and Performance.

Members asked therefore that the workshop be arranged to enable their further consideration, discussion and decision making. It was agreed that 1pm – 6pm would be the most suitable time.

9

REVIEW OF DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

Members considered Paper SNI/12/127 which presented the recommendations of an independent reviewer.

Members noted that three requests for a formal review had been received under the Sport Matters Community Capital Programme:

- Ballyholme Yacht Club
- Knock Grattan Hurling club
- Malgrove Football Club

Members considered each request in turn and, after discussion, agreed with the independent reviewer's recommendation in connection with Knocks Grattan Hurling Club and Malgrove Football Club.

In relation to Ballyholme Yacht Club Members agreed with the independent reviewer that the review be rejected on the basis of the findings but that it should not be returned to the waiting list as the project had already commenced and was therefore ineligible.

10

TOLLYMORE NATIONAL OUTDOOR CENTRE PRICING STRUCTURE

Members considered Paper SNI/12/132 which set out changes to the Tollymore National Outdoor Centre (TNOC) pricing structure. Members noted that TNOC is a wholly owned asset of SNI and is the primary delivery route for SNI in the development of outdoor recreation skills and leadership training. Members noted that the anticipated outworking of the paper will be increased revenues (income) from TNOC in future years which, with prudent management of associated expenditure, would enable SNI to continue to provide more value for money for the public investment in TNOC.

The Paper took account of the view of a range of stakeholders and provided a mechanism for the pricing structure to be reviewed annually as part of routine operational planning. It presented a number of financial scenarios based on the

current and proposed pricing structures and planned, actual and anticipated throughput at TNOC.

Members heard that the intention of the proposed changes is to ensure that TNOC is better equipped to identify, react to and maximise changing market environments.

The paper sought approval of a scheme of delegation. The Executive Team believe that the changes will enable it to meet the expectations of the various stakeholder groups, to meet future business plan targets and to drive continuous improvement and business development and reduce the annual subvention required.

After discussion Members agreed the recommendations of the Paper.

11

CHANGE OF PROJECT SCOPE – MALGROVE PROJECT

Members considered Paper SNI/12/128 dealing with Malgrove FC's request to change their project from that applied for under the Sports Matters Community Capital Programme (SMCCP). Members noted the original project details and the proposed project details. Members also considered the various 'state of readiness' assessments which formed part of the SMCCP programme, and the SNI administration errors outlined in the paper

Members were informed that with reference to the matter of consideration of a change of project, the applicant had requested that the SNI Board consider an additional factor to those outlined in the Paper. Members considered the applicant's proposal:

'The applicant notes that they accept that if their proposed project was re-scored and they were given an increased score, it would result in an unworkable process for SNI. They propose that if a re-scoring exercise resulted in an increased score for them, that this should not be applied and their original score stand. The applicant also proposes that if the score was decreased, Malgrove FC would accept the lower score and the new position on the call-off list'.

Members discussed this consideration as part of their discretion; and rejected its inclusion in their unfettered consideration of relevant factors.

Members considered if the Malgrove application had complied with programme requirements with their original application. It was concluded that they were indeed eligible and that the proposed change would have been an eligible project, had it been the initial application.

Members then looked at the nature and extent of the proposed change. They noted that Malgrove FC had originally applied for the construction of a permanent modern joint changing/pavilion/community use building to be used by both clubs and the local community in the area (size/dimensions of the pavilion are 48m x 12m and to build an adjoining indoor multi-sports facility on the site (proposed size/dimensions are 60m x 40m). They were now proposing a soccer size 3G pitch with floodlighting. The changes were deemed by Members to be material in nature; moving from indoors to outdoor; removing changing; and altering dimensions significantly.

Members then recalled the nature of the competitive process under the SMCCP

to date and they decided that if this change in application was considered then a re-scoring exercise would need to be carried out for assessment criteria one (shortfall of provision in Local Authority area), two (other facilities in the local catchment area) and six (level of demand/need from user groups). This could therefore impact on the score, on the overall rank and on other applicants. This would allow this applicant to have a second chance at assessment, which was not afforded to any other applicants and would be deemed unfair.

Members stated that applicants have only been invited to progress because of the ranking their original project obtained. A re-scoring exercise would need to be carried out for assessment criteria one and two and could therefore impact on other applicants' ranking.

Members were minded to note the importance of ensuring procedural fairness and integrity; and the equal treatment of all applicants in the process; and they stated that no other applicants have been afforded the opportunity to submit a materially different or revised project in order to meet the 'State of Readiness' requirements.

Members then turned to the practicalities of running a competitive programme and resource management and noted that SNI would not be able to meet the spend deadlines imposed for this programme if applications were permitted to change projects and be re-scored. Offering all other applicants the opportunity to change their project would impact on SNI's resources to manage the programme and accrual/spend profiles.

In the applicant's favour, and in relation to any relevant public interest factors, it was agreed that this was a strategically relevant project in an interface area with low provision of pitches. However Members stated that this factor did not override the other stronger factors. They also noted that fairness to other projects was a significant public interest factor.

Members unanimously agreed to reject this request for a change of application.

12 **RECOGNITION OF DODGEBALL**

Members considered Paper SNI/12/131 which sought approval to recognise Dodgeball as a sporting activity and to recognise the UK Dodgeball Association as the governing body for Dodgeball operating across the UK.

Members approved the recommendations.

13 **LEGAL SERVICES BUSINESS CASE**

Members considered Paper SNI/12/135 which sought approval for the contracting of provision of Legal Services over the period 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2018.

Members compared the use of an in-house solicitor to out-of-house legal advice. They noted issues relating to work volume and wide-ranging legal knowledge. They also noted the potential risk to continuity.

Members agreed the recommendation and approved the contracting of provision of legal services for the period 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2018.

14 **DELHI 2010 REPORT**

Members noted Paper SNI/12/130 and agreed that it would be considered in detail at the forthcoming workshop.

Members gave authority to the executive team to draft a Terms of Reference for the Commonwealth Games Glasgow Preparation Committee.

15 **DELEGATED DECISIONS**

Members considered Paper SNI/12/137 and noted decisions taken in accordance with SNI's Policy on Delegated Responsibility. Members also noted the update to Section 5 of that Paper.

16 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports.

17 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 13 November 2012

19 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 19.1 Members raised the issue of declaration of interest and conflict of interest and asked for clarity in these matters. Some Members sit on outside boards such as SINI and World Police and Fire Games and yet when these matters are discussed at Council they have to leave the room.

The Interim Chairman asked that debate on this matter be taken up at a later meeting.

- 19.2 The Director of Sports Management Services Unit asked Member to submit their travel claims.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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Upper Malone Road
Belfast
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