

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Fifth Meeting 2010

Held on 28 September in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

PRESENT

In the Chair:	D Walsh
Members:	O Brown M Cowan U Duncan A Money Penny B McCargo D O'Connor J Rodgers A Strong
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness S Ogle A Sloan P Donnelly R McDowell C McGurk J Poots E Bailey

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr P Turnbull and Mr B Macaulay.

2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

2.1 **Cliff Project**

The Chairman informed Members that the Permanent Secretary had raised the issue of a communication to the NIAO that raised the potential of fraudulent claims having been made within the original application form relating to this project. It was agreed that this would be raised at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

The Director of Participation reported that a number of e-mails and telephone calls had been received from the Protestant Community Lobby Group, some of which were perceived as abusive and had been reported to the PSNI. SNI had initiated and concluded an initial investigation and were content that no fraudulent financial claim had been made. A further investigation would now be made into new claims of fraudulent statements within the original application. It was confirmed the Cliff Project is on the SNI Risk Register.

2.2 Commonwealth Games

Members noted that no further information had been available since the last Delhi Committee meeting. Dr Brown congratulated SNI on their work that was very patiently developed and progressed. Her view was that the SNI and SNI contribution to the Delhi 2010 Committee would result in better preparation and better performance and more medals.

2.3 Equality Clause

The Chairman referred to the tabled Paper "Sport Northern Ireland's Equality and Good Relations Clauses". Members noted that this Paper had been presented to both the Participation Committee and Performance Committee. Tabled Papers contained the comments of both of those committees.

The Chief Executive drew to Council's attention paragraph 1.3 of the SNI paper titled Equality & Good Relations Clauses. He advised Council that this issue had been raised in a minute of the Capital Management Group (11 June 2010). Furthermore he advised Council that the minute of the Capital Management meeting of 11 June 2010 had been sent for approval to DCAL and despite repeated attempts they had been unable to secure approval. As the Chief Executive was talking a telephone call was received from DCAL which he took, the output of which was DCAL's willingness to accept minutes of Capital Management meeting of 11 June 2010 with a slight amendment.

The amendment being "SB indicated a preference to consider potentially but not exclusively applications from community groups with links to Orange Halls for eligibility under this programme".

The SNI staff who had attended agreed to the amendment and Council were therefore advised that earlier uncertainty had been removed since DCAL were now content with minute of the meeting as was the Chief Executive.

Members were also notified that DCAL had received legal opinion on the matter and that, while the advice had not been seen by SNI, DCAL officials had indicated that it was supportive of the proposed amendment to the SNI equality condition.

Cllr J Rodgers left the meeting at this point in the discussion.

It was noted that the use of rural Orange Halls for sport is an aspiration of the Minister. It was also accepted that many rural, isolated protestant communities have little access to facilities other than Orange Halls.

Members noted the range of sensitivities in this area. By applying the proposed new conditions SNI could fund facilities that are owned by organisations whose membership is restricted on the basis of religion, gender, ethnicity and so on. On the other hand; by funding such facilities and requiring open access in an inclusive environment, SNI could ensure that funded organisations interact with all of the community.

It was accepted by Member that these are difficult and sensitive decisions brought about by long term problems within our community. No one decision

by a single body will resolve these difficulties but it was accept that sport has a role to play.

After a long debate and with some ongoing reservations Members agreed that the new equality condition, detailed within the paper, should be implemented. Members were given reassurances by officers that open access conditions would be carefully monitored.

Cllr J Rodgers returned to the meeting.

2.4 Letter from Permanent Secretary

The Chairman informed Members that the Permanent Secretary asked him to convey to the Chair and Members of Audit Committee her recognition of the good work they did and her belief that they were an example for others to follow. The letter that had been sent to the Chair of Audit Committee had been a blanket letter which had gone to all arms-length bodies rather than an individually tailored letter.

3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Fourth Meeting held on 3 August 2010, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed subject to an editorial change in date in item 8.1 where the last two lines should read:

.... despite SNI's best efforts "regretfully this has not been as far we would like".

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Members sought an update on the impact of reduced numbers of members. The Chairman informed them that the Permanent Secretary was understanding but had indicated that it would be unlikely that a recruitment process would take place in the very near future.

4.2 The Chief Executive reported on the series of meetings with IFA and DCAL to discuss the proposal put forward by Dunloy and to ensure maintenance of good governance of the IFA.

4.3 Commonwealth Games - Members noted that although approval had been given at an earlier meeting to send a number of representatives to the Games SNI would now be sending only one representative and that would be the Chairman. It was also noted that SNI would not be hosting a reception. DCAL would be sending the Minister who would be travelling in a party of four.

4.4 Appeals Policy and Procedure – Members noted that the Appeals Committee would now be stood down. The Standing Order would be changed accordingly.

5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

6 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interest to declare. Mr A Money Penny declared an interest in North Down Borough Council.

7 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

7.1 Participation Team Update

Members received an overview of the work of the Participation Team in the period July-September 2010 (Papers SNI/PAR/10/184 and SNI/10/202).

7.2 World Police and Fire Games Belfast 2013

Members received Papers SNI/PAR/10/185 and SNI/10/203 which provided updates on developments regarding the proposed delivery vehicle for the 2013 World Police and Fire Games and the progress of the Sports Workstream. This work was being undertaken by SNI as a result of a request by the Minister and DCAL.

Members sought clarification of various issues regarding strategy, structure, staffing and costs. Officers confirmed that DCAL had proposed the Governance & Staffing structure to DFP and approval of this is not yet secured. Officers also reassured Members that any cost over runs on the event would not be responsibility of SNI. Members noted that current operational costs of SNI for WPFG are being met by SNI. Members sought clarification on how these costs would be recovered. Members noted progress on the Sports Workstream and expressed concerns that other areas of work did not appear to be progressing at the same speed as sport. NH gave Members an update of what he had seen of the plans for the New York Games in 2011.

7.3 Participation Capital Programme Design

Members received Paper SNI/10/192 which informed them of further progress regarding the development of a capital investment programme for 2011/12 and advised them of communication with DCAL regarding this investment. It sought approval to launch the programme subject to full DCAL approval.

After discussion Members approved the development and launch of "Sport Matters – Community Capital Programme" subject to on-going possible minor adjustments to the assessment criteria in light of comments from DCAL.

7.4 Capital Programme and Overseeing Body

Members received Paper SNI/10/193 and noted progress on the various Capital Programmes run by Sport Northern Ireland.

7.5 Delegated Decisions – Capital Team

Members received a report of delegated decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/10/194).

7.6 Delegated Decisions – Participation Unit

Members received a report of delegated decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Papers SNI/PAR/10/188 and SNI/10/205).

8 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

8.1 Governing Body Plan Programme 2006-09 – Executive Summary

Members received Papers SNI/PERF/10/173 and SNI/10/207 and noted post-project evaluation undertaken in relation to Sport Northern Ireland's Investing in Governing Body Plan Programme 2006-09.

8.2 Recognition of Sporting Activities and Governing Bodies of Sport

Members considered Papers SNI/PERF/10/174 and SNI/10/208 and approved the recommendations to reject the application for the recognition of Rock-it-Ball as a sporting activity; and the application made by the Great Britain Powerlifting Federation to be the UK-wide recognised governing body for Powerlifting.

8.3 Recognition of Sporting Activities and Governing Bodies of Sport – Revision of Policy

Members considered Papers SNI/PERF/10/175 and SNI/10/209 and approved the recommendation to approve the proposed revisions to the UK Sports Council's policy on the Recognition of Sporting Activities and Governing Bodies.

8.4 Athlete Investment Programme 2011/12

Members received Papers SNI/PERF/10/177 and SNI/10/210 for information and noted changes to the Athlete Investment Programme 2011/12.

8.5 Practitioner Development Programme – Future Operation

Members considered Papers SNI/PERF/10/178 and SNI/10/211 and approved the recommendations for development of the programme.

8.6 Coaching Qualifications

Members considered Papers SNI/PERF/10/179 and SNI/10/212. The Papers sought support for a statement on the status of the coach Development Programme for Ireland (CDPI) and the United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC); and a Memorandum of Understanding on the development of coaching in Ireland.

After discussion Members approved the recommendation to support the Memorandum of Understanding as detailed in Section 4 of the paper and the Statement on the status of the CDPI and UKCC as detailed in section 5.

8.7 Award Adjustment

Members considered Papers SNI/PERF/10/180 and SNI/10/213 and approved the recommendations to increase the awards in respect of the Practitioner Development Programme (John O'Rawe) and Athlete Support Programme (Kelly Gallagher).

8.8 Delegated Decisions – Performance Unit

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Papers SNI/PERF/10/181 and SNI/10/214).

8.9 Performance Team Update

Members received an update on work within the Performance Team (Papers SNI/PERF/10/182 and SNI/10/215). Members commended the information in the paper and asked that congratulations be sent to the UK School Games Girls Hockey Team and the Boys Hockey Team.

9 **CORPORATE SERVICES**

9.1 Management Accounts

Members considered the Management Accounts for the five-month period ended 31 August 2010 (Paper SNI/10/195) and approved their submission to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure.

9.2 Exchequer Accounts 2006/07 and 2007/08

Members noted the printed and published Exchequer Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 and the final signed Exchequer Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 (Paper SNI/10/217).

9.3 Sport Northern Ireland Business Plan 2010-11

Members received Paper SNI/10/196 and noted the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure's approval of the Business Plan.

9.4 Business Plan 2010- Quarter 1 Review

Members received Paper SNI/10/197 and noted the Business Plan Quarterly Review which highlighted SNI's progress against key performance indicators for the first quarter (April-June) of 2010/11. Members congratulated staff on the achievement of so many targets.

9.5 Budget Cut Proposals

Paper SNI/10/98 was considered at a later stage in the meeting.

9.6 Capitalisation of Grants Issued by Sport Northern Ireland to Third Party Recipients

Members received Paper SNI/10/191 which reviewed and updated the current capitalisation policy applied by Sport Northern Ireland to third party recipients.

Members noted the background and approved the Policy.

9.7 Sport Northern Ireland Section 75 Annual Report 2009-10

Members received and noted an update on Sport Northern Ireland's Section 75 duties (Paper SNI/10/199).

9.8 Sport Matters

Members considered Paper SNI/10/200 which sought consideration of the current committee representations. The Paper also provided an update on the implementation of Sport Matters and Sport Matters Implementation Groups (SMIGs) and confirmed representation of five Members (in addition to the Chair and Vice Chair) on the Participation, Performance and Places SMIGs and noted the date of the first meeting of the SMIGs on 14 and 15 October.

Members noted that the Paper required some editorial changes and discussed the complexities associated with membership of committees and ensuring they have a quorum. The Chair and Chief Executive agreed to address this issue recognising that it may be necessary for some members to double up on committees. Whilst the Chair and Vice-Chair are ex-officio members of all Council Committees it was confirmed that they are not permitted to be ex-officio members of the Audit committee.

9.9 Gifts and Hospitality Policy

Members considered Paper SNI/10/204 which sought approval for the revised Sport Northern Ireland Policy on Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality.

Members approved the amendments to the policy and delegated authority to officers to make amendments to the policy should any be required by DCAL.

9.10 Delegated Decision – Corporate Services

Members received Paper SNI/10/206 and noted decisions in accordance with Council policy.

9.11 Publication of Register of Interests

Members considered Paper SNI/10/176 and approved the recommendations to provide amendments to the register of interests if there are data protection issues and delegate authority to officers to make amendments to the register in line with requested amendments by a Council Member or Senior Manager.

9.12 Marketing

9.12.1 Press and Media

Members received a report of recent and upcoming activities in the Marketing and Communications Department (Paper SNI/10/201).

9.12.2 Events and Openings Protocol

Members considered Paper SNI/10/218 which set out a new protocol in relation to SNI events and openings.

Members agreed that such a protocol would be helpful in ensuring appropriate representation at events and agreed that all requests for representation should be channelled through one member of staff in SNI.

Members approved the new protocol.

9.13 Meadows Equestrian Appeal

The Director of Corporate Services informed Members that the meeting of the Appeals Panel had taken place on Friday 24 September. He tabled the Appeal Summary Form and reported that the Appeals Panel had recommended to Council that they reject the appeal. He talked to each paragraph of the Appeal Summary Form and Members agreed with the recommendation of the Appeals Panel to reject the appeal.

Mr A Strong left the meeting

10 Budget Cut Proposals (Agenda Item 9.5)

Members considered Paper SNI/10/198. This invited Members to:

- Review and approve the submission regarding SNI Savings Delivery Plan (Scenario 1 - £6m resource cut) over the financial years 2011/12 – 2014/15.
- Review and approve the attached submission (Appx IV) regarding capital prioritisation over the financial years 2011/12-2014/15.
- Delegate authority to the three Chairs of SNI Committees (and acting Members if required) to meet, discuss and approve further submissions to DCAL.

Members noted that this Paper would be formally presented to DCAL after their consideration.

A lengthy discussion took place during which the the Financial Manager and the Policy, Planning and Research Manager talked to the matrix included in the Paper which set out priorities and scenarios. The draft Comprehensive Spending Review would be announced on 20 October after which there would be a consultation period before the budget is finalised.

The Chairman commended all those officers who had worked together to produce such an excellent Paper at short notice and Members approved the recommendations.

Mrs U Duncan left the meeting.

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR ADOPTION**

11.1 Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland

Members adopted the Minutes of the One Hundred and First meeting held on 11 May 2010.

11.2 Northern Ireland Mountain Cave Rescue Co-Ordinating Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-Fifth meeting held on 10 June 2010.

11.3 Audit Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2010 and the Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2010.

11.4 Participation Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2010.

12 **COMMITTEE REPORTS - FOR INFORMATION**

There were no Committee Reports.

13 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 7 December 2010.

15 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business. The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 1.35 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

House of Sport
Upper Malone Road
Belfast
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