

## **SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND**

### **MINUTES**

### **SIXTH MEETING**

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Tuesday 18 November 2014 in the House of Sport, Upper Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5LA

#### **PRESENT:**

**In the Chair:**                    **B Henning**

**Members:**                    **I McAvoy**  
                                      **D O'Connor**  
                                      **E Lynch**  
                                      **G Wilson**  
                                      **J O'Neill**  
                                      **B Delaney**  
                                      **A Bingham**  
                                      **S McCullough**  
                                      **R Bullick**  
                                      **R Mallon**

**Chief Executive:**            **A McKeown**

**Staff in Attendance:** **A Sloan**  
                                      **N Harkness**  
                                      **L Beattie**

#### **1        APOLOGIES**

P Cummings, G Campbell, J D'Arcy.

#### **2        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

I McAvoy advised he had conflict of interest with regard to Paper SNI/14/48 – Active Communities – Moving Forward 2015-16 as he is Board Member of Disability Sport NI.

B Delaney also advised of conflict of interest with regard to Paper SNI/14/48 – Active Communities – Moving Forward 2015-16 as he is a Director of Belfast Community Sports Development Network.

### **3 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2014, having been previously circulated were approved and signed given slight typographical areas are amended.

### **4 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 Meeting with Minister on Capital Investment**

The Chair and Chief Executive met with the Minister as discussed at the last Board meeting.

The Chief Executive advised that the Minister outlined her concerns that the capital investment to be made had no provision for community sports. The Minister stressed her wish for reassurance from Sport Northern Ireland and also recognised that this programme is Lottery funded.

The Chief Executive confirmed that they had assured the Minister that the investment was for a smaller number of high quality community facilities with the capability to deliver high performance in the sports provided.

Members noted that the Minister was advised we are seeking partners to invest with us and are looking to invest strategically for better impact.

The Minister noted that the work is supported by a Sports facilities strategy which local Councils have bought into and are working with Sport Northern Ireland on; this will determine priorities.

Members noted that the Minister had been advised of a funding gap between the small grants programme capped at £10,000 and the major Lottery capital investment and sought her support to work with Sport Northern Ireland to develop a way to close this. The Chief Executive advised that the Minister has agreed to this and there is to be a meeting between staff to progress this.

#### **SMIG meeting**

- 4.2 The Chair advised that at the last Board meeting he had asked Members for expressions of interest to Chair the Place SMIG and also to Chair the Participation SMIG. Members noted that the Groups had new Chairs in place being Richard Bullick and Geoff Wilson.

### **6 BUDGET REDUCTIONS 2015/16**

Members received Paper SNI/14/46 the purpose of which is to ask Members to consider and approve the business areas where budget reductions will be made in 2015/16.

The Chief Executive advised Members that a letter had been received from the Permanent Secretary advising that Sport Northern Ireland would be expected to make an 11.2% cut in 2015/16. Members noted that this information was requested by 14 November 2014 initially; however the date was brought forward to 7 November 2014.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the Permanent Secretary acknowledged that there would not be time for Board approval prior to the information being provided.

Members noted that the budget reductions were discussed with the Chair and Vice Chair before submission to the Department and it was noted that the Permanent Secretary had phoned the Chair.

The Chief Executive advised that budget holders had been asked to look at what areas cuts could be made and that these were put to Directors and then to the Executive Team for a decision.

The Director of Sports Management Services advised Members that a summary of proposed reductions is included in Table 1.

The Chief Executive also informed Members that Sport Northern Ireland has confirmed an interest to DCAL in the DFP central pot for a voluntary severance scheme.

Members advised that they felt it would be useful if the budget cuts in programmes were illustrated in percentage of funding to the programme.

Members discussed several issues including identifying new sources of income, partnerships with other bodies, and impact on delivery of Sport Matters targets.

**Action: Sport NI to confirm if budget cuts will impact on any other Sport Matter targets.**

Members queried how budget cuts will be communicated. The Chief Executive advised that there will be a communication plan and stakeholders involved in cuts will be written to or met with.

Members expressed their thanks to the Director of Sports Management Services, budget holders and other staff on work undertaken with regard to budget reductions in a short timeframe.

Members approved the business areas where budget reductions will be applied for 2015/16.

## **7 BI-ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT**

Members received Paper SNI/14/47 the Statement outlines the Chief Executive's assurance on governance structures and identifies any realised or emerging issues. This bi-annual statement is also counter-signed by the Chair.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the Statement had been considered by the Audit and Risk Management Committee at its meeting on 16 October 2014 and no issues were raised for referral to the Board.

Members noted under Procurement there is an issue marked partly. It was noted that the NIAO raised this last year and the issues are being worked through and will not be fully met until the NIAO advise at the next audit.

Members noted that there was a typo in second paragraph of Risk Management and of should read or.

Members noted and approved the Bi-Annual Assurance Statement April – September 2014.

## **8 ACTIVE COMMUNITIES – MOVING FORWARD 2015-2016 (BUSINESS CASE ADDENDUM)**

### **I MCAvoy and B Delaney left the meeting.**

Members received Paper SNI/14/48 the purpose of which is to:

- Ask Members to consider a business case addendum for Sport Northern Ireland future funding in Active Communities 2015/16. 12 month extension – ending March 15.
- Approve a preferred option based on the addendum, and
- Approve a budget to enable delivery of the programme in 2015/16.

Members noted that this paper was deferred from the last meeting as the Board was not quorate.

The Director of Participation advised Members that the Business Case Addendum sets out three options and that on the basis of monetary, non-monetary and risk scores Option 3 has been identified as the preferred option.

Members noted that the extension to Active Communities is to allow Sport Northern Ireland to align future sports participation investment to priorities in the new Corporate Plan and to seek partners to invest with Sport Northern Ireland.

Following a lengthy discussion on issues ranging from securing contributions from local Councils to clarifying outcomes Members noted the business case addendum for investment in Active Communities in 2015/16 including the three options and approved the preferred option (Option 3) outlined in the Addendum. The budget of £3,037m to resource programme delivery in 2015/16 was also approved.

### **I McAvoy and B Delaney re-joined the meeting**

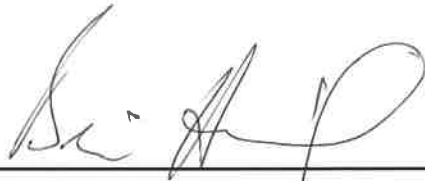
**9**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 16 December 2014 Board Session @ 3.00 pm with  
Board meeting starting @ 5.00 pm  
Tuesday 30 December @ 5.00 pm (if required)**

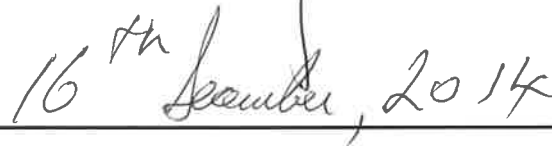
**10**      **ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

No other notified business.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Si A P', written over a horizontal line.

**Dated:**

A handwritten date '16<sup>th</sup> December, 2014' written over a horizontal line.

**Sport Northern Ireland  
House of Sport  
Upper Malone Road  
Belfast  
BT9 5LA**

