

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

FOURTH MEETING

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Tuesday 30 September 2014 in the House of Sport, Upper Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5LA

PRESENT:

In the Chair: **B Henning**

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

Chief Executive: **A McKeown**

Staff in Attendance: **A Sloan**
 N Harkness
 S Ogle
 E Bohill
 L Beattie

1 APOLOGIES

Mr F Devitt, DCAL

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2014, having been previously circulated were approved and signed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Decision List

Members considered the Decision List from the Meeting held on 23 June 2014 which had previously been circulated. Members noted that all decisions had been completed or were ongoing.

4.2 Value for Money Review

The Chairman advised Members that the Value for Money Review has been sent to DCAL with the response revised to take account of the Board discussions at the June Board meeting.

4.3 Developing SNI's Risk Appetite

The Chair advised that there was work to be undertaken in this area and Members agreed that it would be useful to discuss as we develop Corporate Planning work.

4.4 Sporting Events

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update following discussions that had taken place at the June Board Meeting.

Members noted that Sport Northern Ireland was working in conjunction with Northern Ireland Tourist Board on development work for events but that neither the Events Development Group or the Events Bidding Group had met as yet. It was noted that the first Bidding Group meeting is to take place on 22 November 2014.

It was therefore agreed that a paper on Sporting events would be brought to the next Board meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5.1 Board Effectiveness Away Days

The Chair advised Members that he felt they had had a very successful and useful two days away. Members noted that D Nicholl was to provide a report on the Board Effectiveness Away Days and advised that this had been received on 29 September 2014.

Members noted that the Chair and Vice Chair had reviewed the report prior to the Board meeting and that they are content with it. The Chair advised that he would now have this circulated to Board Members to review and asked that they advise of any comments they have within a couple of days of receiving same.

The Chair advised that there would be a discussion at the end of the meeting regarding dates for Corporate Planning, another Board Effectiveness meeting and a Board meeting before Christmas.

Visit of UKS Chairman

- 5.2 The Chair advised Members that the Chair of UK Sport, Rod Carr had visited Northern Ireland to meet with him on UK Sport business. The Chair advised that it had been a visit at very short notice but was pleased to have secured a meeting with the Minister and DCAL, Permanent Secretary last Thursday morning with Chair of UK Sport.

Members noted that the Chair and Chair of UK Sport visited SINI and met with the Sport NI, Chief Executive and the Athlete Services Manager.

6 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

6.1 Management Accounts for the 5 months to 31 August 2014

Members received papers SNI/14/39 the purpose of which is for Members to consider and approve Sport Northern Ireland's Exchequer and Lottery management accounts as at 21 August 2014.

The Director of Sports Management Services advised Members that there is significant variance from the start of the year due to the requirement for in year cuts of £408,000 from the June Monitoring Round.

Members noted that the Accounts have not been adjusted to reflect the outcome of June monitoring round.

The Chief Executive advised Members that bids have been submitted to DCAL as part of October monitoring round but that results of this may not be known until December / early Jan which would mean money would have to be spent quickly.

Members noted the summary within the Accounts on both Sports Institute for Northern Ireland (SINI) and Tollymore National Outdoor Centre (TNOC)

The Director of Sport Management Services advised Members that Sport Northern Ireland has additional 2 million in budget for Departmental Identified projects.

Following an in-depth discussion regarding Departmental Identified projects it was suggested that the Board may like to meet and have a session with the Minister regarding these projects. Members agreed that the meeting should not take place until the Board Effectiveness had finished.

Members approved the Exchequer and Lottery Accounts Management Accounts as at 31 August 2014.

6.2 Executive Strategic Update

The Chief Executive advised Members that it had been a fantastic summer for sport to include the best Commonwealth Games medals haul, and the following successes Tony McCoy, Rory McIlroy, Karl Frampton, Ryder Cup, Down Women All Ireland Cup, Sainsburys School Games. Also summer schemes in grassroots sport and sporting volunteers.

Review of Sport Matters

The Director of Sports Management Services advised that he and the Policy, Planning and Research Manager had met with Mr R Heyburn, DCAL who had received a lot of useful information.

Members noted that the review of Sport Matters will be light touch with no major changes with it continuing for next four years.

A few Members felt it would be useful for SMIG Chairs to meet with an appropriate officer within DCAL to discuss concerns it was agreed that this meeting should be arranged to take place before 5 November 2014.

Sporting Ambassadors

The Chief Executive advised that the launch of Sporting Ambassadors is taking place on 8 October 2014.

Members noted that Sport Northern Ireland attended the All Ireland Final with a number of Sporting Ambassadors on Sunday 21 September 2014. Sporting Ambassadors also attended the All Ireland Hurling Final on 28 September 2014.

CAL Committee

The Chief Executive advised Members that Sport NI had briefed CAL Committee on 25 September 2014 on Women in Sport & SPLISS and that they had been joined by Angela Platt, Executive Officer, Ulster Hockey Union. Members noted that feedback from the Committee was very positive.

Members noted that the CAL Committee have asked to hold a meeting in the HOS in the New Year.

Commonwealth Games – Report

Members noted that this will happen but will be undertaken in-house.

Mr J D'Arcy commended Sport Northern Ireland's contribution to Team NI at the Commonwealth Games and advised that the relationship

between the two organisations was much improved.

Casement Park

The Chief Executive advised that 30 September 2014 was to be the last day of the Judicial Review but that it could run on. Members noted that a further meeting is planned between Chief Executive, Director of Participation and GAA within the next few weeks.

Casement Capacity issues

The Director of Participation advised that Sport Northern Ireland is yet to receive emergency exiting plan for Casement so cannot provide advice until same is received. It was noted that this was not covered at Judicial review.

Members asked if Sport Northern Ireland had investigated the possibility of involving an independent facilitator with regard to emergency exiting. Members were advised that the football licencing authority had been considered and may be involved at later date.

Dissolution of SINI

The Director of Sports Management Services advised that SINI accounts are currently being prepared. Members noted that there will be a final Board meeting arranged of the Company.

It was also agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Board Members who are Directors of the Company to meet with the Director of Performance to clarify any queries they may have.

Tollymore National Outdoor Centre

The Director of Participation advised that a marketing expert had been employed to assist in the development of Marketing plan.

Members noted that there is to be discussion with the Irish Sports Council and Sport Northern Ireland regarding an Outdoor Centre on All Ireland basis. It was noted that Mountain Training a sub- committee of Sport Northern Ireland would be moving to an All-Ireland basis.

The Director of Participation advised that the Business Case would be sent to DCAL in the near future.

7 GOVERNANCE AND RISK

7.1 Risk Register

Members received and reviewed Paper SNI/14/40 the purpose of which is for Members to consider and approve the Risk Register.

The Director of Sports Management Services advised that the risks

associated with in-year cuts have been taken account of in the risk register.

Members advised that they felt an Audit and Risk Management Meeting should be scheduled in the near future.

The Risk Register was approved.

7.2 Revised Business Plan

Members received Paper SNI/14/41 the purpose of which is to ask Members to consider and approve the Business Plan areas where cuts will be made 2014-2015.

The Director of Sports Management Services advised Members that correspondence had been received from DCAL highlighting the need to manage a potential shortfall in 2014-2015 due to (1) overall financial pressures within the Executive and (2) over-commitment within DCAL.

The total cut is 4.4% which equates to £408,000 in year budget for 2014/2015.

Members noted that these figures are subject to further consideration by the Executive during October Monitoring Round Exercise. It was noted that there is possibility of further cuts in year.

Members noted that Facilities strategy £120,000 cut but noted that this will still happen albeit with a slight delay.

The Chair advised Members that there was a possibility of cuts being more next year 10% - 14%.

Members asked what process had been followed in relation to the proposed cuts. The Director of Sport Management Services advised that the initial starting point was to identify those items that Sport Northern Ireland were not legally committed to and then these were prioritised on the basis of least impact on the Corporate and Business Plan.

Following in-depth discussion on the situation Members approved the business areas where cuts will be applied in the 2014-15 financial year.

8 POLICY AND STRATEGY

8.1 Future Investment in Grassroots Sports Participation

Members received Paper SNI/14/42 the purpose of which is to make recommendations on future direction of SNI investment in grassroots sports participation for the period 2015/16.

The Director of Participation advised Members that staff have undertaken work to secure additional financial support from District Councils for next year. The District Councils have cited severe pressure

on their budgets as the reason for not being able to find the 30% contribution for next year but there is willingness to do so in the future.

It was noted that there may be other partners which Sport Northern Ireland works with which may be interested making a contribution to grassroots participation in the future.

As a result of the above and with severe financial pressures on Sport Northern Ireland the proposal is a twelve month extension to the Active Communities programme with a reduction of the management fee that Sport Northern Ireland currently provides. This action would allow us to safeguard the 117 active community coaches and allows time to consider a more co-ordinated oversight of the coaches in line with emerging Corporate Plan.

A couple of Members advised that they had been approached by Councils with regard to the funding situation and advised that they had felt the request had come out of the blue and they had found it difficult to factor into their processes.

The Director of Participation advised Members that Sport Northern Ireland are engaging with Councils in respect to Sport Northern Ireland having a role in the community planning process.

The Chief Executive advised Members that she is attending a meeting of the newly appointed Chief Executives along with the Director of Participation on 14 November 2014.

Members agreed that the Business Case addendum for Active Communities Investment in 2015/16 should be brought to the next Board meeting.

Approval was also given for a twelve month extension for the current Active Communities programme to 31 March 2016, and the 10% reduction which is a management fee currently paid to Councils in addition to salaries for Active Communities Coaches.

It was noted that a further paper would be brought to the Board as Corporate Planning progresses.

8.2 Sports Facilities Investment

Members received Paper SNI/14/43 the purpose of which is to ask Members to consider a refined delivery option for Sport Northern Ireland's £17.5m sports facility investment opportunity. Members are also asked to approve the addendum to the Programme Level Business Case.

The Director of Participation advised Members that they had considered and approved the Business Case – with a preferred option of a two strand programme at the June Board albeit with concerns that it was splitting the investment between grassroots sport and performance

sport facilities and that there may be scope to take a more integrated approach.

Members noted that staff have now achieved this approach and are proposing a more strategic approach to funding.

The Director of Participation advised that from a range of evidence, and information from the facilities strategy commissioned with local councils, it is felt that we should seek partners which would add to resources to enable a small number of high quality community sports facilities on the ground also facilitate high performance sporting needs.

Members felt that it was sensible to combine the two strands to incorporate both community and high performance in multi-sport facilities.

Members approved the addendum to the Programme Level Business Case and approved the adoption of the proposed one strand investment which integrates the facility needs of performance athletes and community participants (where practicable) within a multi-sport environment.

8.3 New Corporate Plan Progress Update

Members received Paper SNI/14/44 the purpose of which is to ask Members to note progress by all involved in corporate planning.

The Director of Sports Management Services advised Members that planning sessions have taken place with the Executive Team, Management Team and there has been an all staff planning session.

The Director of Corporate Services further advised that Business Consultancy Services (BCS) has been engaged to undertake independent consultation with 14 key stakeholders.

Members noted progress made in relation to the development of Sport NI's new Corporate Plan 2015-2020.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of Next Board Meeting: Wednesday 22 October 5.00 pm – Corporate Planning Session

Tuesday 18 November @ 5.00 pm – Corporate Planning

Tuesday 16 December @ 5.00 pm

Tuesday 30 December @ 5.00 pm (if required)

10 ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

There was no other notified business.

Signed:



Dated:

18th November, 2014

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

