

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUPS

FOR DISCUSSION

**21/11/2012
(UPDATED 21/02/13 REF. DSD PROJECTS)**

AN ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF PL23 AND FUTURE OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Following a request by the Minister of Culture Arts and Leisure, at the Sports Matters Monitoring Group (SMMG), on Wednesday 18 April 2012, SNI was asked to consult with key groups and to provide a paper that outlined the progress made against target PL23 and options for delivery to achieve this target. The results of that exercise were to be reported back to the SMMG.
- 1.2 Therefore this paper will examine and clarify the meaning of the target PL23, to establish a clear benchmark; to ascertain what progress has been achieved in the interim from 2009. This paper will also consider any future options to meet any shortfall noted in existing progress made compared to the target stipulated.
- 1.3 It is important to note that while this paper will offer evidence of progress made, as well as identify target shortfall and facility shortfall, associated costs, risks, outputs and outcomes, it has reached these conclusions with only limited and high level consultation with key partners and has not been subjected to a robust costing exercises or strategic business case appraisal considerations, which would be required to validate the findings. Achieving a clearer understanding of needs and costs would require a more widespread consultation with stakeholders. This may be undertaken at the next stage of any programme development process.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 In order to determine the progress against target PL23, SNI obtained data from the SNI Facilities database, the SNI Grants Information and Finance Tracking System (GIFTS), as well as consultation comments from local authorities and governing bodies of sport. This paper has also been updated with contributions from DSD, regarding their funded projects which contribute to this target.
- 2.2 SNI also utilised the Elite Facilities Programme technical and operational specifications, obtained in 2009/10, from the governing bodies of sport who were engaged at that time. SNI then sought up to date consultation comments from the present Olympic and Paralympic governing bodies of sport (an expanded list) to determine the facility needs for NI's high performance athletes/players. The governing bodies of sport were provided with clarity and context regarding target PL23, as stated in this paper.
- 2.3 SNI then engaged its lead technical consultant to carry out a costing exercise, based on benchmarked estimates, to determine an early total investment required to meet this demand.
- 2.4 Mindful of the capital budgetary restrictions and the specific number of facilities required to meet target PL23, SNI engaged with its own Performance Unit to identify a methodology for prioritisation of governing bodies of sport to receive any capital investment.

- 2.5 SNI then considered four options for delivery against this target shortfall, taking into account: practicalities; costs; risks; procedural fairness and integrity; legal considerations and Section 75, public interest factors and consultation comments.
- 2.6 Any further steps in the programme development would follow the Office for Government and Commerce, Managing Successful Programme and would require further consultation.

Sport Northern Ireland would like to thank the various consultees for their valuable comments provided to form this paper for the Sports Matters Monitoring Group.

3. SPORT MATTERS – THE NORTHERN IRELAND STRATEGY FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION 2009 – 2019, PL23: DEFINITION OF THE TARGET.

3.1 In order to measure the progress made against the target PL23, it is necessary to firstly examine this target and address any assumptions and misunderstandings with its definition, before measuring progress.

3.2 The target referenced as PL23 in Sports Matters states:

'By 2014 to have a minimum of 10 new or upgraded facilities that will support Northern Ireland player/athlete development in Olympic and Paralympic sports'.

3.3 Table 1 within Sports Matters, which outlines Key Steps for Success, notes these as:

- 'Develop world class facilities for Olympic and Paralympic sports
- Establish quality assured Performance Development Centres'.

3.4 Appendix 7 of Sports Matters provides a rationale and measurement source for these high level targets.

REF	BASELINE	BACKGROUND/RATIONALE	MEASUREMENT	FUTURE DATA AVAILABILITY
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PL23	At present there are a limited number of sporting facilities that possess the necessary technical and operational specifications to meet the needs of elite athletes competing in Olympic, Paralympic and other sports.	The purpose of the target is to address some of the infrastructure deficit, which has contributed to the underdevelopment of sport in Northern Ireland. When completed these world class sporting facilities will increase the standards of performance of elite athletes and also increase levels of sustained participation in sport in Northern Ireland.	SNI will monitor this target in collaboration with governing bodies of sport and successful applicants to the Elite Facilities Programme. By the commission of an impact evaluation (conducted on behalf of SNI and DCAL)	Annually from project completion.
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3.5 Sports Matters also defines what will success look like as follows:

'Athletes aspiring to high performance will have world class training facilities within a 60 minute travel time. There will be a range of facilities capable of hosting major sports events. The construction of a range of

- 3.6 Bearing these references in mind, it is necessary to firstly clarify the definition of this target; to ensure that measurement of progress towards this target is correctly assessed in this report. It is also necessary to understand assumptions made in Sports Matters at this stage.
- The target allows for the measurement of 10 new or upgraded facilities. An upgrade may be defined as a significant capital investment that improves the existing specification/size of the existing facility.
 - The PL23 target focuses on facilities that 'support player/athlete development in Olympic/Paralympic sports', the key steps for success mentions 'world class facilities' and 'world class training facilities', all of which may be deemed to be training facilities, whereas if we look at what success will look like, it mentions 'a range of training and competition facilities'. This anomaly (single reference to competition facilities) must be addressed, at this stage in the paper, in order to answer the questions raised by this paper. It would seem reasonable that since the target itself does not mention competition facilities, the 'key steps for success' does not mention competition facilities and 'what success will look like' specifies training facilities that training facilities should be taken as the meaning of the target. There is one reference in 'what success will look like' to 'training and competition' facilities and it should therefore be proposed that measurement of this target is against 10 new or upgraded training facilities that will support Northern Ireland player/athlete development in Olympic and Paralympic sports, with at least one of which being a competition facility.
 - Bearing this anomaly in mind, and the raised expectations brought about by the Elite Facilities Programme, the target therefore may have been interpreted externally and incorrectly as Olympic/Paralympic competition standard facilities.
 - The assumption that Elite Facilities Programme will deliver the anticipated £53M investment can no longer be made as the economic climate has significantly changed and this level of investment is no longer available.
- 3.7 Therefore this paper will measure the progress against the delivery of 10 new or upgraded training facilities that are deemed, by the relevant Olympic/Paralympic governing bodies of sport, to support the development of their high performance players and athletes (with at least one competition facility included).

4. SPORTS MATTERS, PL23 TARGET: PROGRESS.

- 4.1 This section of the paper will provide data that evidences existing facility stock and specifically facility stock that has been constructed since 2009 and then facilities that are planned to be delivered, per Olympic/Paralympic sport.
- 4.2 **SNI FACILITIES DATABASE:** In order to determine the progress against target PL23, SNI has obtained data sets from the SNI Facilities database, which outlines total facility stock in existence.

***Please note;** the primary function of the Active Places NI database is to record information relating to the quantity, quality, accessibility, and ancillary provision at key sports facility types (i.e. Halls, Pools, Pitches etc. It does not record facility information by sporting activity. Active Places NI records no facility information relating to Judo, Wrestling, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Weightlifting, Fencing, Rowing, Gymnastics, Canoeing, Archery, Shooting, Triathlon, or Cycling.*

4.3 **SNI GRANTS INFORMATION AND FINANCE SYSTEM (GIFTS)**: In order to further determine the progress against target PL23, SNI has obtained data sets from the SNI GIFTS system, which outlines total SNI investments per Olympic/Paralympic sport and specifically SNI investments, since 2009, per Olympic/Paralympic sport. Data was then extracted to evidence investments in facilities to support the development of high performance players and athletes and specifically since 2009, SNI investments that may be considered as progress against PL23.

4.4 Those projects, identified below from these sources, may be deemed as making some contribution towards this target in that they support NI athlete development in Olympic and Paralympic sports, although they do not fully meet the needs specified by the governing body of that sport.

Organisation Name	SNI Reference	Project Title	Award Amount
<u>Hockey</u>			
NI Civil Service Sports Association	BS/2867C/EXQ	Construction of water based hockey pitch; sand dressed multi purpose pitch; 3G synthetic surface (7 x 5-a-side pitches); relay shale pitch to natural grass; floodlighting, fencing and enabling works	Grant: 1,209,391
Cookstown Hockey Club	BS/2505/EXQ	Water based hockey pitch with fencing and floodlights	Grant: 660,566
<u>Equestrianism</u>			
Coleraine and District RDA	BS/2250C/EXQ	Purpose built multipurpose sports centre	Grant: 1,224,269
Fort Centre RDA	PFS/08/3631/EXQ	Upgrade of existing indoor arena flooring	Grant: 79,005
<u>Badminton</u>			
Lisburn Racquets Club	PFS/08/3650/EXQ	Upgrade of indoor lighting in main and minor hall at the National Badminton Centre	Grant: 124,914
<u>Shooting</u>			
Omagh District Rifle and Pistol Club	SMCCP/5518	Replacement of nissen with a newly developed 25m full bore indoor shooting range plus electronic targeting systems and scoring systems to aid and improve performance.	Grant: 245,000
<u>Athletics</u>			
Strabane District Council	PFS/09/4072/EXQ	Upgrade of existing athletic track at Melvin Sports Complex.	Grant: 112,439
St Colman's College	BS/2715/EXQ	1 synthetic pitch, athletics track and changing facility	Grant: 1,378,165
<u>Swimming</u>			
North Down Borough Council	MET/2836	50 metre swimming pool - Bangor Castle Leisure Centre 2010-11	Grant: 14,438,639
<u>Basketball</u>			
Antrim Borough Council	PFS/08/3628/EXQ	Upgrade of indoor sports hall floor and supply of portable basketball floor	Grant: 160,126

Boxing			
Down District Council	BS/2615C	Development of 4 court sports hall, 4 changing rooms, boxing club, community fitness suite	Grant: 1,294,000
St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club	SMCEP/PART/5138	Purchase of boxing ring, minor building works to include new floor and upgrade to boxing club	Grant: 29,574
Immaculata ABC	SMCEP/PART/5296	Upgrade & modernisation of the clubhouse	Grant: 29,395
Eastside ABC	SMCEP/PART/5100	Pre fabricated structure to include boxing ring, gym, shower and changing facilities	Grant: 30,000
Holy Trinity Youth Club	SMCEP/PART/5038	Upgrade of gym/boxing room flooring (sanding, sealing, remarking); additional running track; upgrade of changing room; and purchase of equipment.	Grant: 24,322
Cycling/Mountain Biking			
Down District Council	BC/4901	Mourne Mountain Bike Facility	Grant: 150,000
Judo			
Derry City Council	PFS/08/3658/EXQ	Supply of Judo safety mats for use as a temporary dojo at Clondermott School	Grant: 66,235
Rowing			
Portadown Boat Club	BS/3090/EXQ	Construction of a boat house and sporting complex	Grant: 430,313
Belfast Rowing Club	SMCEP/PART/5052	Purchase of a floating pontoon - amended from 'Construction of a new slip facility' as per milestone minutes 21.01.11	Grant: 29,885
Wrestling			
NI Wrestling Association	SMCEP/PERF/5188	Purchase of Olympic training and competition mats	Grant: 12,588

4.5 **LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSULTATIONS:** It is apparent that other partners have delivered facilities, with/without SNI funding that may be considered as progress against target PL23 and while the SNI Facilities database should capture this, it was deemed prudent to consult with local authorities to ascertain which capital projects had been constructed since 2009 or were planned to meet the target PL23. The consultation comments in relation to capital developments undertaken since 2009, which would qualify under PL23, were returned as follows:

Local Authority:	Consultation response:
Antrim Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £250K international basketball floor (SNI funded) - completed;
Belfast City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3.5M upgrade of Mary Peter's track to an eight lane competition standard track with spectator stand: open by March 2013.
Craigavon BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £25M new leisure centre with 8 court sports hall – to be completed 2015 (potential for volleyball and other elite sports).
Derry CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judo, wrestling and climbing performance centre – at procurement stage.
Magherafelt DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50m 6 lane pool – completed.

4.6 The Department of Social Development, as a member of the SMMG, also made the following contributions to Target PL23:

Award of Capital Funding under the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund to the Gleann Amateur Boxing Club (West Belfast) in September 2011 to enhance club facilities.	£100k (2011/12)
Award of funding to St Colman's sport facility, Newry (athletics)	£312k
Award of funding for refurbishment of Dungannon Youth Resource Centre (includes Olympic standard basketball court)	£342k
Award of funding for extension of Ballymote Sports Centre (includes Olympic standard basketball court and purpose built facility for amateur boxing club)	£400k
Award of funding for new Coleraine West Community Centre (includes Olympic standard basketball court and purpose built facility for amateur boxing club)	£900k

4.7 In summary, it may be concluded, based on data from the aforementioned sources that the following projects may be considered as progress against target PL23:

- TRAINING and COMPETITION: 50m swimming pool at Bangor;
- TRAINING AND COMPETITION: Mary Peter's Track;
- TRAINING: 50m 6 lane pool at Magherafelt;
- TRAINING and COMPETITION: Judo facility at Derry seeking full Council approval to tender (with funding secured) in next two weeks and built by 2013 for: Judo; wrestling; climbing and a Performer Development Centre;
- TRAINING AND COMPETITION: Antrim Forum basketball floor;
- A range of approximately 18 SNI funded small projects that go some way to support NI player/athlete development in Olympic and Paralympic sports.
- TRAINING: Five DSD funded facilities

5. SPORTS MATTERS PL23: FACILITY NEED AND SHORTFALL

5.1 In order to determine the present need for target PL23, and the options of projects to deliver against PL23, SNI, as part of this process, consulted with each of the Olympic/Paralympic sports, to determine their facility needs in relation to this target. It is important to note that this exercise was previously carried out in a detailed and extensive manner under the Elite Facilities Programme and the technical and operational requirements for the governing bodies of sport involved in that programme were prepared in detail at that time.

5.2 The Olympic/Paralympic governing bodies of sport were consulted with to identify their facility needs in relation to target PL23. A summary of their responses are collated below, with very early estimated costs identified through discussions with the SNI technical team, who cannot warrant the early statements of possible construction costs. Please note these costs are also exclusive of land acquisition

costs, public / utility connection charges, statutory fees, specific site difficulties / ground conditions and unknown inflation. These are not in any prioritised order.

Governing Body of Sport	Technical requirements	Early estimates
Swimming	Fit for purpose facilities in Belfast.	The 50m pool in Bangor, is within reasonable travel distance for any athletes wishing to train within the North of Ireland. A new 50m, 6 lane training facility has also just been completed in Magherafelt.
Cycling (Track)	1. Indoor Velodrome, possible retro fit to existing private / public industrial building. 2. Resurfacing / up-grade of existing outdoor track.	Option 1 = £300,000+vat Option 2 = £605,000+vat
Tennis	The construction of a Performance Centre, 8 indoor courts and 4-6 outdoor floodlit courts along with the Erection of 15-20 'air inflated structures' in various tennis clubs.	Performance Centre = £4,025,000 + Vat. Additional 20 'air inflated structures' at various existing facilities is estimated to be an additional £1,000,000 + Vat.
Boxing	No response received to date.	IABA / UBC are receiving a £3m investment through a dedicated boxing investment programme over the next 3 years for both equipment and improvement of facilities across all clubs.
Athletics	Indoor Athletics facility 132m long x 24m wide, and ancillary accommodation.	£4,736,160 + Vat.
Hockey	Provision of a Regional Hockey Centre to include 2 No water based synthetic pitches and ancillary and strength and conditioning accommodation.	£2,185,000 + vat.
Badminton	8 court National Training Centre, with ancillary accommodation. 4 No. 4 court hall, Satellite Training Facilities throughout Northern Ireland.	National Training Centre = £3,450,000 + vat. 4 satellite facilities = £1,621,500 + vat. per facility.
Basketball	No response received to date.	
Canoeing	Up-grade of proposed new Police, Fire and Rescue training centre in Cookstown to a 250meter white water course.	£2,145,000 + vat
Judo	No response received to date.	

Taekwondo	Dedicated training / performance venue to take 3 No. Matts and associated ancillary accommodation.	£1,543,760 + vat.
Sailing	Development of 2 locations, in Belfast Lough namely, Ballyholme Yacht Club (BYC) for elite training and Carrickfergus Sailing Club (CSC) for Disability Sailing	Ballyholme Yacht Club = £1,058,000 + vat Carrickfergus Sailing Club = £220,000 +vat
Equestrian	8 various items of equipment or sets of equipment.	£45,043 + vat
Fencing	No response received to date.	
Gymnastics	Two options; A) One dedicated 2 sports hall facility. B) Two separate halls, extended onto existing facility.	Option A = £5,865,000 + vat. Option B as extensions to existing buildings = £2,760,000+vnt and £1,345,500+vnt retrospectively.
Shooting	Small-bore rifle and pistol 50 metre indoor venue	If incorporated into the proposed new Foyle College = £250,000 + vat. If dedicated new build = £575,000 +vat.
Table Tennis	Performance / Training (6 court hall) Centre with ancillary accommodation.	£1,967,592 + vat.
Volleyball	No response received to date.	
Weightlifting	No response received to date.	
Wrestling	No response received to date.	
Rowing	New 2000m multi-lane course, with associated ancillary accommodation at Cam Lough lake.	£2.5 Million.
Archery	New Indoor 35mx12m shooting range and 90mx15m outdoor with associated ancillary accommodation.	£460,000 + Vat
Triathlon	No response received to date.	
Golf	No plans for capital investments in its own elite training facilities.	
Disability Sport	Stated that all new facilities must meet the ISF requirements.	All SNI projects are assessed in line with ISF requirements and must comply.

6. SPORTS MATTERS, PL23: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.

- 6.1 Bearing in mind the quantum and early estimates for facility needs, identified by the relevant governing bodies of sport measured against the shortfall of target PL23 now identified and the economic climate, it is apparent that not all facilities may be considered. Therefore there exists a need to identify a methodology to prioritise the investments to be considered against the PL23 target shortfall.
- 6.2 The Performance Unit has provided a proposed methodology for prioritisation of governing bodies of sport:

ATHLETE POPULATION
Evidence of the current and future potential of the current athlete population (1-4 years out) to achieve international sporting success (top 8) (Potential weighting for the level of international competition (Olympic/World, European, Commonwealth, British, Irish)
Evidence of a sustainable pipeline of athletes (4 -8 years out) to achieve international sporting success (top 8) in international competition (Potential weighting for the level of competition (Olympic/World, European, Commonwealth, British, Irish)
Established Structures in place to feed the pipeline of potential athletes (8+ years out) on a long term basis – school/club structures and training/competition programmes in place.
SYSTEM READINESS
Evidence that high performance operations are at a state of readiness to maximise the impact of an elite training facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HP Systems; - HP Coaching - Use of Services.
Evidence that the talent system within the sport is at a state of readiness to maximise the impact of an elite training facility.
Evidence that the coaching system within the sport is at a state of readiness to maximise the impact of an elite training facility.
Evidence that the governance and culture within the sport is at a state of readiness to maximise the impact of an elite training facility.

7. SPORTS MATTERS, PL23: OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY

7.1 In determining how to address target PL23, the following options have been identified:

Option one: reopening of the Elite Facilities Programme with a dedicated capital budget on the basis on the stage two approved projects progressing with the same specifications.

Option two: a strategic led programme, determined by a Strategic Business Case; developed with prioritised sub business cases, in partnership with SNI and prioritised governing bodies of sport, to deliver facilities to meet athlete needs, with a dedicated capital budget.

Option three: a new reduced specification competitive programme that requires pre-formed governing body and delivery partner relationships.

Option four: Do Nothing

NB Option two and three could facilitate cross-border partnerships for All Ireland sports. However this may require a cross-border commitment to annual running costs, which may prove difficult.

7.2 Each option will be further clarified in this section and has been considered against type of funding source (exchequer/lottery funding) requirements; practicalities; costs; risks; procedural fairness and integrity; legal considerations

and Section 75, and public interest factors. This detail is not included in this paper but is available on request.

7.3 **OPTION ONE**

Option one: reopening of the Elite Facilities Programme with a dedicated capital budget, on the basis on the stage two approved projects progressing with the same specifications.	
General considerations in support of re-launch of EFP:	General considerations against re-launch of EFP:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Strategic Business Case for the Elite Facilities Programme was approved by DFP and DCAL and £53M was provisionally allocated in ISNI. There was a robust strategic case for the programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The budget of £53M is no longer available in the current economic environment. Therefore any available budget would be consumed by a significantly reduced number of schemes, which would deliver to a high performance competition specification.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Outline Business Cases were prepared. Applicants expended a significant amount of resources in progressing schemes to this stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Outline Business Cases, previously submitted to DCAL for approval, would need significantly updating; at additional cost to the applicant organisations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The applicant organisations' appetite for proceeding 'at risk' has been very negatively affected by the previous budget decisions, as evidenced by the consultation feedback.

7.4 **OPTION TWO**

Option two: a strategic led programme, determined by a Strategic Business Case; developed with prioritised sub business cases, in partnership with SNI and prioritised governing bodies of sport, to deliver facilities to meet athlete needs, with a dedicated capital budget.	
Considerations in support of a strategic led programme:	Considerations against a strategic led programme:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The governing bodies of sport would be able to select the best strategic site and delivery partner and are supportive of this option. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The legal risks of running a strategic programme would need to be fully considered. The governing document would be the Strategic Business Case that would outline the methodology and prioritisation outcomes for investment in governing bodies of sport and specific locations. Therefore considerations such as Section 75 and legal challenge must be fully tested.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A similar approach has been used by SNI for Boxing and 2 and 4 Wheel Motor Sports. However this is for investment through one governing body of sport into affiliated organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The overall Strategic Business Case would be a critical document in determining the level of investment per sport and determining the sub projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dialogue between the governing body and delivery partner would be unrestricted from the outset and present an opportunity to deliver the optimal impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The capacity of the governing bodies to manage a capital investment with a delivery partner must be fully assessed and any weaknesses addressed by funded personnel and capacity building. This may direct governing bodies of sport away from their key priorities. As these capital awards may be made to a number of organisations, with no

	affiliation to each other, the management of a technical post to address this capacity issue could prove problematic.
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7.5 **OPTION THREE**

Option three: a new reduced specification competitive programme. Option three has two sub options:	
(a) pre formed partnerships apply to the programme;	
(b) delivery partners bid to the programme to meet GB requirements.	
<i>Considerations in support of a reduced specification competitive programme:</i>	<i>Consideration against a reduced specification competitive programme:</i>
- This option can be designed to fit within available budgets as priority, as the number of projects and scale and specification can still be influenced.	- This option may not meet all the strategic needs of the governing bodies of sport; facilities may not have the budget to be future-proofed for training and competition needs.
- There will be reduced procurement requirements for these projects because the scale of the projects will have reduced and this will impact on a more expedient delivery timescale.	- Local authority reform means this is not an ideal time for seeking financial commitments.
- SNI applicants are experienced in this type of approach.	
- SNI could maintain this programme for a number of years; opening for applications annually until priorities have been met.	
- SNI could determine that the assessment criteria also considered participation objectives.	
- SNI would maintain management of all grants administration with experience to ensure compliance.	

7.6 **OPTION FOUR**

Option four: do nothing	
<i>Considerations in support:</i>	<i>Consideration against:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRAINING and COMPETITION: 50m swimming pool at Bangor; - TRAINING AND COMPETITION: Mary Peter's Track; - TRAINING: 50m 6 lane pool at Magherafelt; - TRAINING and COMPETITION: Judo facility at Derry seeking full Council approval to tender (with funding secured) in next two weeks and built by 2013 for: Judo; wresting; climbing and a Performer Development Centre; - TRAINING AND COMPETITION: Antrim Forum basketball floor. - A range of approximately 18 SNI funded small projects that go some way to support NI player/athlete development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PL23 under achieved.

in Olympic and Paralympic sports. - TRAINING: Five DSD funded projects.	
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8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is apparent that there are at least five major facilities that may contribute towards:

'By 2014 to have a minimum of 10 new or upgraded facilities that will support Northern Ireland player/athlete development in Olympic and Paralympic sports'.

- TRAINING and COMPETITION: 50m swimming pool at Bangor;
- TRAINING AND COMPETITION: Mary Peter's Track;
- TRAINING: 50m 6 lane pool at Magherafelt;
- TRAINING and COMPETITION: Judo facility at Derry seeking full Council approval to tender (with funding secured) in next two weeks and built by 2013 for: Judo; wrestling; climbing and a Performer Development Centre;
- TRAINING AND COMPETITION: Antrim Forum basketball floor.

8.2 Beyond this, there are other capital developments (approximately 18 SNI funded projects and five DSD funded projects) that support, to some extent, Northern Ireland player/athlete development in Olympic/Paralympic sports but do not fully meet the athlete's needs. However if one considers the consultation comments from the governing bodies of these Olympic/Paralympic sports, the main performance development facility needs are clearly identified as not yet being met.

8.3 It would be proposed that a total of five new or upgraded facilities represent the shortfall still to be achieved in PL23, although consultation would indicate the demand from governing bodies of sport far outweighs a quantum of five facilities.

8.4 In order to deliver target PL23, it is proposed that programme option three is selected (with a cross border dimension explored), subject to a strategic business case and further detailed consultation comments and developed by SNI in close adherence to OGC and DFP guidance, and subject to available exchequer funds and Lottery budget allocation.

8.5 It is envisaged that a budget of £10 - £20m would be required to fund the top priority projects (assuming this would be five).

8.6 In conclusion, based on the PL23 target:
'By 2014 to have a minimum of 10 new or upgraded facilities that will support Northern Ireland player/athlete development in Olympic and Paralympic sports',
it is unlikely that this target will be fully achieved by 2014.

8.7 In that context, this paper concludes that the SMMG has a number of options available to it:

- To endorse this paper and its option analysis as a viable approach to get PL23 'back on track' albeit with a revised (later) date;
- To 'park' the target based achievements to date and in light of other priorities and changed economic circumstances; or
- To redefine the target based on revised need.