

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PERFORMANCE) MEETING

MINUTES

The minutes of the 5th meeting of the Performance SMIG held on Thursday 28th February 2013 at 1:30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT:

Danny O'Connor, Chair (Sport Northern Ireland)
Brian Henning (Sport Northern Ireland)
Shane McCullough (Sport Northern Ireland)
Jerry Bingham (UK Sport)
Kevin O'Neill (Disability Sports NI)
Ian Taylor (SkillsActive)
Roy Millar (NI Sports Forum)
Robert McVeigh (NI Commonwealth Games Council)
Stephen Martin (Olympic Council of Ireland)
Gary Longwell (Ulster Rugby)
Desi Curry (Irish Football Association)
Peter Ezard (Sportscoach UK)
Michael McGeehin (Coaching Ireland)

In attendance:

Shaun Ogle, Jill Poots, John News; Jamie Uprichard; Paul Donnelly, Conleth Donnelly (all Sport Northern Ireland)

1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the 5th meeting of the Performance SMIG and updated the group on progress against the 26 high level targets. In summary, 6 targets were achieved, 16 were on track for achievement and 4 were on track but with some delay or uncertainty.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Eugene Young (Ulster Council GAA) and Sarah Collings (Sportscoach UK).

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE FOURTH PERFORMANCE SMIG MEETING HELD ON 27th SEPTEMBER 2012

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING & CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 The Performance target PE17 refers to a target of 100 athletes from Northern Ireland achieving medal success. The measurement of this target is a continuing process and requires input from all governing bodies of sport. The NI Sports Forum has facilitated the capture of information and this continues to be an on-going research project.

Action 1: An update on current progress towards target PE17 to be circulated to all members.

- 4.2 The Chair acknowledgement that Coaching Ireland had not been represented at the previous meeting and requested that Michael McGeehin present an overview of the Coaching Ireland database.

Action 2: Coaching Ireland to present an overview of their database at a future SMIG meeting.

- 4.3 The Chair also updated members on correspondence received from SkillsActive noting their thanks for being invited onto the group.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

- 5.1 The Chair invited members to provide a verbal update on significant actions that had been undertaken by each of the representative organisations which contributed to the implementation of Sport Matters.

- 5.2 The group received updates including Sport NI's collaborative work with the IABA as part of the Boxing Investment Programme; medal success by Kelly Gallagher at the recent World Championships; the Ireland women's rugby team winning the Triple Crown/ Six Nations; preparatory work by the OCI ahead of the Youth Olympic Games and first ever European Games in 2015; the development of the Irish FA Strategy 2013-16; and Coaching Ireland was integrated within the Irish Sports Council.

6. PL23 – DISCUSSION ON HIGH PERFORMANCE FACILITY NEEDS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 6.1 John News, the Acting Director of Participation and Facilities presented a discussion paper related to the Places target PL23 and the provision of high performance facilities across Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the group heard that Sport NI was also in the early stages of consulting on a high performance capital investment programme.

- 6.2 It was acknowledged that while this target was previously reported as 'Red', it was regarded as being achieved, albeit not as had been originally intended. The group agreed that focus should now divert to the unmet facility needs of high performance sport. In order to develop a strategic business case for any high performance facilities programme, engagement is needed with a range of stakeholders in high performance sport. In addition, it was agreed that priority should be given to those sports that have the potential to deliver medal success at the highest level.

Action 3: Sport NI to engage with stakeholders in high performance sport when developing plans for the new proposed capital programme.

- 6.3 Shaun Ogle, Director of Performance Sport at Sport NI highlighted that

high performance facilities are not just for elite athletes but rather they also provide significant community use and present an opportunity for increased participation in sport and addressing social deprivation. In order to support the development of high performance athletes, access needs to be agreed and granted to these athletes. Stephen Martin added that a strategic business case for the provision of high performance facilities should be linked to strategic plans of individual sports. It was agreed that a robust methodology is required to determine where any potential investment would receive its greatest return on investment.

- 6.4 Roy Millar, NI Sports Forum suggested that Northern Ireland was over-subscribed with too many 'community' or 'low level' sports facilities and not enough elite level facilities. Jerry Bingham, UK Sport reinforced that facility provision should be allocated to those sports that have the maximum performance impact.
- 6.5 Desi Curry, Irish FA pointed out that Northern Ireland is a particularly small country with a small population and therefore it would be more beneficial to invest more resources into a smaller number of multi-sport high performance facilities as opposed to spreading investment too thinly where it may not have a significant impact.
- 6.6 The group agreed that an overarching high performance facilities strategy should be developed which would prioritise those facilities/sports to receive investment. The strategy should also take into account factors such as the geographical location and distribution of the sport and its elite athletes.

7. PE14 - DISCUSSION PAPER ON PE14 AND NEW TIMEFRAME FOR ACHIEVEMENT

- 7.1 Jill Poots, Sport NI Performance Sport Manager presented a discussion paper on the Performance target PE14 which aspires to fit for purpose funded governing bodies of sport. The definition and measurement of 'fit for purpose' bodies are those organisations that receive at least an overall satisfactory level of assurance following a Sport NI governance and management audit. It was acknowledged that the timing of this target was particularly aspirational although significant work has been undertaken to progress from a baseline of 24% of organisations to the present figure of 69%. It was proposed and accepted by all members that the target timeframe for this target be extended until 2015 and sustained throughout the lifetime of Sport Matters. In addition, it was recommended that the target also extends to those sporting organisations in receipt of long term revenue investment.

Action 4: Propose that the SMMG approve that the target PE14 be amended to: "By March 2015, to ensure that governing bodies and sporting organisations in receipt of long term revenue investment through Sport NI are "fit for purpose" organisations, and continue to be "fit for purpose" throughout the lifespan of the strategy".

8. PE15 PRESENTATION BY NI COMMONWEALTH GAMES COUNCIL

- 8.1 Robert McVeigh of the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council delivered a short presentation highlighting their preparation ahead of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

9. PE20 – PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SPORT NI’S PROPOSED EVENTS PROGRAMME

- 9.1 John News delivered a presentation on Sport NI’s planned International Sports Events Programme which aims to make a contribution towards PE20 and the gaps identified by the SPLISS research.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 Paul Donnelly informed members that the next progress reporting exercise (highlighting members’ contribution to Sport Matters over the period October 2012-September2013) would commence in August 2013.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 The Chair suggested that it may be beneficial for all 3 SMIGs to come together for a joint meeting in September/ October 2013. Members will receive confirmation of the date of this meeting in due course.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____