

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PLACES) MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

The minutes of the 11th meeting of the Performance SMIG held on Thursday 16 June 2016 in the National Stadium at Windsor Park.

PRESENT

- Richard Bullick, Chair (Sport Northern Ireland)
- Bob Bleakley (Northern Ireland Environment Agency)
- Chris Webster (Ulster Rugby)
- Ciaran Kearney (Northern Ireland Sports Forum)

In attendance:

- Tony Murphy (Department for Communities)
- William Devlin (Sport Northern Ireland)

Non-attendance:

- Patrick Nelson (IFA), John Johnston (Department for Social Development); Steven Law (Department of Education), and Linda McAllister (Department of Education)

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Angela Platt (Northern Ireland Sports Forum); Stephen McGeehan (GAA Ulster Council) and Caro-Lynne Ferris (Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland).

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- 2.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the 11th meeting of the Places SMIG and thanked everyone for their attendance. Areas of particular interest for discussion during the meeting included the PfG consultation, Sport NI's Transformation Programme and the positioning of sport within Department of Communities (DfC).

3. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

4. MEMBERS UPDATES

- 4.1 The Chair asked Members to provide a short update on how each of their organisations is contributing towards the implementation and delivery of Sport Matters.
- a. **Northern Ireland Sports Forum** – CK provides details regarding the cross party sports group which had met on 28 June 2016. The meeting was well attended by MLAs and is a useful lobbying mechanism. The Sport Forum is also very active in the Rates Relief Consultation and is working with its members to ensure a substantial response.
 - b. **Northern Ireland Environment Agency** – BB gave an update on the potential use of the extensive walks through NIEA property. It is estimated that there are over 190 walks and these could be opened to facilitate outdoor recreation e.g. walking and cycling. The opening of these facilities would require facility maintenance which the NIEA could not provide at this time due to budgetary constraints.
 - c. **Ulster Rugby** – CW informed the meeting that the decision on RWC 2023 would be made in Oct/Nov 2017. If Ireland was successful that there would be need to be an upgrading of rugby facilities.
 - d. **Sport Northern Ireland** – WD provided an update on the current and future funding programmes available from Sport NI as follows:
 - i. Single Facility Fund
 - ii. Multi Facility Fund
 - iii. Performance Facility Fund.
 - e. **Department for Communities** – TM provided details on the Football Sub-Regional Fund and the funding that could be potentially available to football clubs. TM also added that DfC was making bids for future capital funds through the CSR.
- 4.2 The Chair thanked all members for their updates.

5. SPORT MATTERS PROGRESS REPORT 2015-2016

- 5.1 The Chair made members aware that a progress reporting template is to be issued by Dr Paul Donnelly in August 2016, for completion in advance of the next SMIG meeting in November 2017.

Action 1: All Members to consider the progress reporting template and provide an approved response by 7 October 2016.

6. SPORT MATTERS ACTION PLAN 2015-2019

- 6.1 The Chair introduced the action plan (1 April 2015-31 March 2019) which is seen as a 'living' document which can be amended based on changes that may arise in terms of policy, strategy, work priorities and budget and availability.

Action 2: All Members to advise of any amendments and/or inclusions to be articulated in the report for approval by 26 August 2016.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1 No other business was recorded.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 The Chair advised that dates for the next SMIG meetings will be confirmed following the Sport Matters Monitoring Group meeting.