

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PERFORMANCE) MEETING

The minutes of the 7th meeting of the Performance SMIG held on Wednesday 30th April at 1.30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT

- Danny O'Connor (Sport Northern Ireland)
- Shane McCullough (Sport Northern Ireland)
- Ian Taylor (SkillsActive)
- Roy Millar (Northern Ireland Sports Forum)
- Jerry Bingham (UK Sport)
- Dr. Eugene Young (Gaelic Athletic Association)
- Michael Black (Irish Rugby Football Union – Ulster Branch)
- Karl Oakes (Student Sport Ireland)
- Michael McGeehan (Coaching Ireland¹)
- Paul McDermott (Irish Sports Council)
- Stephen Martin (Olympic Council of Ireland)

In attendance:

- Dr. Paul Donnelly - Sport Northern Ireland (Secretariat)
- Dr. Shaun Ogle - Sport Northern Ireland

1.0 APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from Jim Magilton (IFA) and Liz McLaughlin (SSI).

2.0 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

2.1 The Chair welcomed members to the seventh meeting of the Performance SMIG and thanked everyone for their attendance. After a short introduction from all members present, the Chair provided information on some key events that have taken place over the last six months.

2.2 The Chair noted the 'Celebration of Sport Event' hosted by DCAL at the Antrim Form on 26th March, and also noted Sport NI's work in developing a new capital investment programme.

2.3 RM had a query in relation to the community planning presentation provided by Nichola Cregagh (DoE) at the beginning of the SMIG meeting. In particular, RM asked how DCAL/Sport NI could use the opportunity afforded by the Review Public Administration (RPA) to influence the development of high performance sports facilities across Northern Ireland. SMcC also queried how 'Sport' could tap into the surplus resources (£38m highlighted in presentation) that have been generated as a result of RPA in order to develop sports facilities, such as those highlighted by RM. SO and PD provided members with an update on Sport NI's plans for developing a new capital investment programme and a Sports Facilities

¹ Coaching Ireland is now integrated with Irish Sports Council

Strategy for Northern Ireland and advised that both will make a contribution to addressing the sports facilities needs/gaps that exist in Northern Ireland. PD advised that these matters will be discussed at length during the Places SMIG meeting.

- Action 1: Performance SMIG Chair to raise the above points with the Places SMIG Chair in advance of the next SMMG meeting.

3.0 REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE 6TH PERFORMANCE SMIG MEETING HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER 2013

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and approved by all in attendance

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The Chair reviewed the actions from the previous SMIG meeting and asked members to update on their respective actions:

Action 1: All Performance SMIG members were asked to consider and respond (if appropriate) to the consultation exercise that was being undertaken by the Department of Education in relation to 'Common Funding for Schools) – completed.

4.2 Several members of the SMIG indicated they responded to consultation reinforcing the need for quality and accessible sports facilities.

Action 2: Performance and Participation SMIG Chairs to have a discussion in relation to the UK Governments plans to invest £150m in after school sport in England and to determine whether or not proportionate levels of funding and support will be provided to schools in Northern Ireland – completed.

4.3 The Chair confirmed that this issue was raised at the last SMMG meeting on 14 November 2014 and that an official within DCAL important has been tasked with determining whether or not Northern Ireland schools will be benefit from this funding. The Chair indicated that an update should be provided at the next SMMG meeting.

4.4 IT advised that the £150m was ring-fenced for schools based in England for one year only and that the UK Government has made a decision to extend its planned investment in this programme until 2020.

- Action 2: Performance SMIG to raise this matter with the Participation SMIG Chair and agree how best to raise this important issue at the next meeting of the SMMG.

Action 3: Performance SMIG Chair agreed to arrange for an update presentation/discussion regarding the outcome of the business case process at the next Performance SMIG meeting – completed.

Action 4: Performance SMIG Chair agreed to allow time for further discussion on 'Ministerial Priorities' at the next Performance SMIG meeting – completed.

- 4.5 The Chair invited members to discuss the role of high performance sport in contributing to Ministerial/Executive priorities (i.e. equality, tackling poverty and social exclusion). SO commented on the fact that high performance sport has and will continue to make a positive contribution to individuals and communities across NI and that it is important to see the links/pathways between community and high performance.
- 4.6 RM asked for clarification on what evidence exists to support the claim that sport [in its broadest sense] makes a positive contribution to the lives of people across NI, particularly those suffering from disadvantage. PD confirmed that a significant [and growing] evidence base relating to this subject matter exists much of which can be found in a recent publication [2012] by the Sport and Recreation Alliance (SRA) called 'Game of Life'. The 'Game of Life' report brings together, for the first time, all of the best evidence to support those gut feelings we have about sport. But it is also even-handed, pointing out where the evidence is patchy or where more research is required. See more at: <http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/gameoflife#sthash.BiE6wIn5.dpuf>.
- 4.7 EY raised an issue relating to 'rurality' and his view that many rural communities across Northern Ireland are being excluded from possible funding opportunities and support as a result of the current focus on targeting areas of greatest need across Northern Ireland.
- 4.8 JB confirmed that the same expectations are made for UK Sport and explained that whilst there have been many attempts to ensure social clauses are embedded with investment policies and programmes there are still no guarantees what can be achieved given that their *modus operandi* primarily relates to medal success at major events.
- 4.9 The Chair thanked all members for their contributions to Matters Arising.

5.0 MEMBERS UPDATES

- 5.1 The Chair asked members to provide a verbal update on significant actions that have been undertaken (since the last meeting) by each of the representative organisations which contributed to the implementation of Sport Matters.
- 5.2 Members heard of a range of initiatives and areas of progress, such as:
- ❖ People development programmes (Olympic Council of Ireland);

- ❖ Registrar of Personnel Development Practitioners in Sport (Skillsactive);
 - ❖ Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling Competition (GAA);
 - ❖ Concussion Awareness Programme (UBIRFU);
 - ❖ New Coaching Strategy for Ireland (Coaching Ireland);
 - ❖ Planning for the delivery of a Coaching Conference on 26/27 September 2014 in Sligo (Coaching Ireland);
 - ❖ Consultation exercise by UK Sport to finalise events targets for the period 2019-2023 [Home County Sports Council's will be involved] (UK Sport); and
 - ❖ Launch of the UK Coaching Framework (Sportscoach UK).
- Action 3: MMcG to provide SMIG members with further information/details relating the planned Coaching Conference in September 2014 in order to promote and support the event.

6.0 PROGRESS REPORTING

6.1 The Chair confirmed to members that the Sport Matters Monitoring Group (SMMG) approved the forth progress report covering the period October 2012 – September 2013 and thanked all members for their contributions. The Chair noted that Sport NI received a return from Newtownabbey Borough Council in December 2013, but advised that this was received following the approval of the SMMG and therefore it was not included in the report. The Chair advised that Edel Cosgrove will circulate the progress reporting template covering the period 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014 in early September. The Chair asked members to complete and return the report within the timeframe.

- Action 4: All SMIG members to complete and return progress reporting template within the specified timeframe.

7.0 UPDATE FROM SHAUN OGLE (SPORT NI)

7.1 SO provided members with a detailed update on Sport NI's plans for investing in and developing an effective high performance sports system in Northern Ireland, including specific reference to the following integrated areas:

- Performance Focus Programme 2013-2017
- Sports Institute for Northern Ireland;
- Athlete Investment Programme; and
- Performance Views.

7.2 The Chair thanked SO for his comprehensive update relating to the work of Sport NI [in collaboration with its partners] in contributing to the creation of an effective sports development system in Northern Ireland.

8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 No other business was recorded.

9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 The Chair advised that dates for the next SMIG meetings will be confirmed following the Sport Matters Monitoring Group meeting in May 2014.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____