

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PERFORMANCE) MEETING

MINUTES

The minutes of the 6th meeting of the Performance SMIG held on Tuesday 15th October 2013 at 1:30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT:

- Danny O'Connor (Sport Northern Ireland)
- Ian Taylor (SkillsActive)
- Roy Millar (Northern Ireland Sports Forum)
- Jerry Bingham (UK Sport)
- Robert McVeigh (Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council)
- Jim Magilton (Irish Football Association)
- Sheelagh Quinn (Coaching Ireland)
- Jimmy Darragh (Gaelic Athletic Association)
- Michael Black (Irish Rugby Football Union – Ulster Branch)

In attendance: Jill Poots, Paul Donnelly (Sport Northern Ireland).

1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the 6th meeting of the Performance SMIG. In particular, the Chair welcomed Jim Magilton (IFA) to his first meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Stephen Martin (Olympic Council of Ireland), Dr. Eugene Young (Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association), Shane McCullough (Sport NI) and Paul McDermott (Irish Sports Council).

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE FIFTH PERFORMANCE SMIG MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2013

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 The Chair took Members through each of the four actions from the previous meeting and asked the respective Member to provide an update:
- *Action 1: An update on current progress towards target PE17 to be circulated to all members. – completed.*
 - *Action 2: Coaching Ireland to present an overview of their database at a future SMIG meeting. – agenda item for Performance SMIG meeting.*

- *Action 3: Sport NI to engage with stakeholders in high performance sport when developing plans for the new proposed capital programme – completed.*
- *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" – completed and agreed by SMMG – completed (note 4.3 below)*

4.3 The Chair advised members that progress towards and issues around target PE14 were discussed at the SMMG meeting on 7 June 2013. He reported that the Group (& Minister) acknowledged the work carried out by Sport NI in assisting funded governing bodies to improve their level of assurance and the decision that the completion of governance audits should be proportionate to the level of funding provided to organisations and that the Performance SMIG should continue to work towards achieving the target by 2015.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

5.1 The Chair invited members to provide a verbal update on significant actions that had 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:

- Confirmed funding across the partners;
- Boxing investment programme;
- Pilot International Sports Events Programme;
- Preparation for Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games;
- Support to Sport NI in relation to the development of a business case for the provision of high level support services to NI's top athletes and coaches; and
- Plans to develop grassroots/high performance coaches and coaching.

6. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2012 – OCTOBER 2013

6.1 The Chair asked if Members had any comments on the fourth progress report covering the period 1 October 2012 – 30 September 2013.

6.2 The Chair thanked all Members for the contribution and advised that DE's contribution and Lisburn City Council's contribution will be included in the final draft.

6.3 Members approved the fourth progress report.

7. CONSIDERATION OF TARGETS REVIEW PAPER

- 7.1 The Chair moved to the targets review paper and advised Members the report articulates the current status of Sport Matters targets (Participation – 11, Performance – 9 and Places – 6) The following discussion ensued:
- 7.2 RMcV highlighted details of a consultation exercise currently being undertaken by the Department of Education 'Common Funding for Schools in Northern Ireland' and suggested that all members should consider and respond reinforcing the need for quality and accessible sports facilities for school and community use. Further details can be found on (<http://www.deni.gov.uk/june-2013-common-funding-scheme-consultation>)

Action 1: All Performance SMIG members to consider and respond (if appropriate).

- 7.3 RMcV also noted the UK Governments plans to invest £150m in after school sport in England (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/21808982>) and suggested that the proportionate levels of funding and support should schools in Northern Ireland. RMcV and RM acknowledged that this issue is probably more relevant to the Participation SMIG, but felt it is an important issue that should be raised and discussed at the next SMMG meeting.

Action 2: Performance SMIG Chair to discuss this issue with the Participation SMIG Chair for discussion at the next SMMG meeting.

- 7.4 JB noted progress against PE12 (By 2010 to have a fully operational Sports Institute that supports 100 athletes per annum to achieve 70% of their agreed annual performance targets) and suggested that it might be useful for members to receive an update in relation the future of Sport Institute (NI) following the completion of the business case for provision of high level support services to NI's top athletes and coaches beyond April 2014.

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

- 7.5 The Chair noted Members approval of the targets review paper, however it did acknowledge some frustration that was being expressed by some Members in relation to a perceived 'pressure' to focus on delivering against Ministerial priorities such as promoting equality, tackling poverty and social exclusion, particularly in relation to performance sport. PD suggested that this 'direction' should not be viewed as a hindrance but as an opportunity to demonstrate how performance sport (e.g. athletes, coaches, administrators) can make a positive contribution to lives of

individuals and communities.

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

8. PRESENTATION BY COACHING IRELAND

- 8.1 SQ delivered a presentation in relation to Coaching Ireland's Coaching Database.
- 8.2 The Chair thanked SQ for her presentation and suggested that Sport NI officials should meet with Coaching Ireland to discuss how best to apply/utilise the coaching data gathered and recorded and by Coaching Ireland in a Northern Ireland context.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 The Chair asked for any other comments from Members. No additional comments were noted.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting will be confirmed following the Sport Matters Monitoring Group meeting in November.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____