

## **PLACES SMIG (30.04.14) – Update on the Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland (and 11 District Council Area Reports)**

- Sport Northern Ireland (Sport NI) plans to open a new Lottery funded community capital programme later this year. The programme represents a Sport NI investment of £17.5m over the next four years approximately.
- To inform the allocation of funding to this programme, Sport NI is seeking to work in partnership with the new District Councils and other stakeholders to develop a Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland, and 11 associated District Council Area Reports.
- Through extensive consultation, it is hoped that the Strategy and Reports will help a range of funders to prioritise investment and ensure that future funding is targeted at evidenced facility need.
- Sport NI is committed to investing funds in this Strategy (and Reports) to build consensus for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland. We will also be contributing to the vision and targets set out within the Programme for Government, Together Building a United Community, and Sport Matters, the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation.
- Sport NI is delighted to have the current support of representatives from the Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA), NILGA and SOLACE, who have also nominated representatives to contribute to a 'Project Delivery Group'.
- The Project Delivery Group has met and has agreed a Terms of Reference to inform the procurement of a specialist organisation to deliver the Strategy and Reports on behalf of Sport NI, the new District Councils and other stakeholders.
- A Business Case for project has been developed and agreed. This financial approval and the final draft of the Terms of Reference have been forwarded to the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD). Sport NI met with CPD on 29<sup>th</sup> April to initiate the procurement process.
- During this contract, District Councils will have major priorities associated with RPA, including the transfer of decision making powers from statutory organisations. It should therefore be expected that the Strategy and Reports may be delivered in two phases. Phase 1: The Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland, completed by September/October 2014 and Phase 2: The 11 associated District Council Area Reports, completed by February/march 2015.
- The high level purpose of a Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland and 11 associated District Council Area Reports is:
  1. To define 'where we are' with regards to existing sports facility provision
  2. To identify 'what we need' at a Northern Ireland level and at a local level
  3. To provide a tool that can be used to prioritise investment in sports facility provision
  4. To provide a tool that can be used to bid for additional resources or funding