

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

SECOND MEETING

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Thursday 19 February 2015 in the House of Sport, Upper Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5LA

PRESENT:

In the Chair: G Campbell, (Chair of Audit & Risk Management Committee)

Members: G Wilson
A Bingham
B Delaney
D O'Connor
E Lynch
S McCullough
P Cummings
R Mallon
R Bullick

Chief Executive: A McKeown

Staff in Attendance: N Harkness
S Ogle
A Sloan
E Bohill
L Beattie

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from
B Henning,
I McAvoy,
J D'Arcy,
J O'Neill

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015, having been previously circulated were approved and signed.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Decision List

4.1.1 Board Meeting Dates

It was agreed that Board meeting dates for 2015 should be agreed and circulated to Members as soon as possible to enable Members to note dates in diaries and ensure high attendance at meetings.

ACTION: Dates of Meetings to be circulated to Members as soon as agreed.

4.1.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee

Members noted that a meeting of the above Committee is scheduled to take place on 25 February 2015.

4.1.3 Active Clubs

Members noted that letters of offer have been issued to all four organisations which met the threshold for funding but had not received funding under the reduced budget.

4.1.4 Risk Appetite Workshop

Members noted that the above workshop had been postponed as the Chair was unable to attend this evening's meeting. It was noted that this will be rescheduled to coincide with a Board meeting on another date.

ACTION: Risk Appetite Workshop to be rescheduled

4.2 Recognition Policy Judicial Review

The Chief Executive advised Members that Sport Northern Ireland and all other UK Sports Councils have been named as interested parties in a Judicial Review leave application taken by the English Bridge Union against Sport England.

It was noted that a decision had been taken by all five Sports Councils not to recognise the Bridge Union as a Governing Body for Sport.

The Chief Executive advised that the Chief Officers meeting is taking place next week on 24 February and that this issue is on the agenda. It was noted that a suggestion has been put forward for Sport England's legal advisers to represent all five Councils and for costs to be pro-rata if leave is granted for the judicial review. The Chief Executive advised that matters would be clearer next week following the meeting on 24th.

Public Consultation Schedule – SNI Corporate Plan

- 4.3 The Chief Executive thanked Members for their commitment to attend.

The Chief Executive gave a brief overview of plan for consultations. Members noted that Members will welcome and open the session. It was noted that there will be a short presentation for about 7/8 minutes given by a lead officer, it is then planned to break into small workshops.

The Chief Executive advised it would be useful if Members were available ½ hour before the consultation to receive a briefing.

Members noted that these are open consultations and that all Governing Bodies should have received information.

Meeting with Public representatives in relation to Boxing

- 4.4 The Chief Executive updated Members on a meeting that had taken place earlier today with K Hoey, J Allister, N Dodds and representatives from the newly formed Northern Ireland Boxing Association.

Members noted that this meeting was to seek Sport NI's support for the recognition of the new organisation as a Governing Body for the sport. The Chief Executive advised that a number of issues had been discussed including the process for a body to be recognised as a Governing Body of Sport, the fact that a Governing Body for Boxing is already recognised, and, Sport Northern Ireland's commitment to ensuring that athletes can express their Britishness or Irishness and represent their country as detailed within the Belfast/Good Friday agreement.

Members were advised that staff intended taking forward more work on this and that Members will be advised as necessary.

The Chief Executive advised that the media had been present at the House of Sport this afternoon to report on this issue and that a statement had been given to the press by Sport NI.

5 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

Disability Sport Northern Ireland

The Chair advised Members that Disability Sport Northern Ireland had contacted the Chair and himself as Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee in respect of funding for next year.

The Director of Participation advised Members that Sport Northern Ireland has invested and worked strategically with Disability Sport Northern Ireland since 2003.

It was noted that Sport Northern Ireland currently invests in Disability Sport Northern Ireland (DSNI) through an approved Strategic Business case 2012 – 2015 and that this has been subject to a number of addenda as resources became available. These have been communicated as "one off" grant funding

to DSNI.

Members noted that Disability Sport Northern Ireland wrote to Sport Northern Ireland in May 2014 regarding financial pressures and copied the letter to the CAL Minister and CAL Committee. Sport Northern Ireland has engaged with Disability Sport Northern Ireland at Officer and CEO level over last nine months to work on a new business model to support sustainability in DSNI.

Members noted that Sport Northern Ireland's Executive Team had recently considered new investment in DSNI aligned to the new Corporate Plan and revisited a previous designation of Disability Sport as a strategic partner.

The Chief Executive advised Members that she had written to Disability Sport Northern Ireland in November advising them of a 10% cut which had been reduced from 20% cut. This was based on cuts of 11.2% passed onto SNI and was based on last year's Business plan activities.

Members noted that an officer had been advised that Disability Sport Northern Ireland may go to press regarding the financial situation. A further email was received on 17 February advising that they would go to the media regarding funding and may also take a complaint in respect of SNI's Equality Scheme.

R Mallon left the meeting (potential conflict of interest)

Members agreed that in the absence of an approved Business Plan the CEO was not in a position to confirm the level of approved funding to DSNI. Members were also advised that more detail was needed on what DSNI was offering and what Sport NI was already delivering on mainstreaming disability sport.

Members were advised that a meeting with DSNI and the Director of Participation had been arranged for Monday 23 February and a further meeting was arranged with DSNI and the Director of Corporate Services in relation to the EQIA and Equality Scheme complaint.

ACTION: Members agreed that Executive Team and the CEO needed to be given the space to make the right decision on funding aligned to Sport NI's corporate and business plans.

ACTION: It was also agreed that the Executive Team should set criteria on the definition of a strategic partner before any decision is taken.

6 POLICY AND STRATEGY

6.1 Draft Business Plan 2015-16

Members received Paper SNI/15/12 the purpose of which is for Members to approve Sport Northern Ireland's final draft Business Plan for the period 2015-16.

The Chief Executive advised that the plan has been reviewed by staff and that

success measures have been tightened and further clarified.

Members thanked staff for work on tighter success measures for the new Corporate Plan and Business Plan and noted a lot of measures are new and therefore we will be setting baselines in year 1.

The Chair advised that J D'Arcy and J O'Neill had both given their endorsement to the plan.

Members raised a few of queries with the draft document such as; how investment is being monitored; timing issues with regard to year end; satisfaction levels with regard to safety certificates and boxing clubs; the use of percentages versus numbers.

It was noted that work needed to be taken forward with sports to define medals at the "highest level" as set out in Strategic objective 3.

Members advised that they were concerned that the financial outlook would have an impact on the plan and that they felt that a letter to the Department accompanying the Business Plan should state it was based on the allocated funding notified currently by the Department.

Members noted that the Business Plan would be submitted to the Department week commencing 23 February 2015.

ACTION: Members approved the final draft Business Plan 2015-16 for submission to DCAL once amendments are made.

7 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be agreed and circulated.

8 **ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

Signed Jon McAuley

Dated 21.4.15

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