



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPORT NI BOARD HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY 2020 AT 1.45PM IN THE HOUSE OF SPORT**

<p><b>Present: Board members:</b>  George Lucas  Jay Colville  Jackie Bryson  Richard Bullick  Wilma Erskine  Kyle Ferguson  Kieran Harding  Catherine O'Mullan  Darryl Petticrew</p>	<p><b>In attendance: Sport NI Officials</b>  Antoinette McKeown, CEO  John News, Director of Participation and Facilities  Peter McCabe, Director of Performance  Adrian Doherty, Director of Finance &amp; Governance  Ali Campbell, Executive Unit Manager  Caolan Ward, Policy, Strategy &amp; Insights Manager  Gillian Gilliland, Secretariat Officer</p> <p><b>Observer:</b>  Kathryn Hill, Department for Communities</p>
---	--

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Record of main discussion</b>
<b>1. Apologies</b>	None.
<b>2. Corporate Plan Draft for Consultation SNI/20/01</b>	<p>Members received a presentation on the amendments to the draft Corporate Plan following recent discussions and meetings with the department. Members discussed the amendments and made the following comments and suggestions:</p> <p>Members queried whether the general public would know what the term “strong sporting system” means. This will be clearly defined during consultation.</p> <p>Members queried the terminology used within the document referring to “our” volunteers stating that SNI work with various organisations who in turn develop the volunteers. It is a tweaking of language; SNI are not a direct deliverer but work closely and collaboratively with partners. Others agreed that the “we” language reflected inclusion and partnership.</p> <p>Members stated the first paragraph sets the tone of the whole document and highlighted words such as assisting were not sufficiently strong. Members felt a range of other verbs reflecting the extensive scope of work of the organisation would be better. However, it was advised SNI is quoting the legislation. It was noted that the inclusion of a concise and robust executive summary highlighting the main priorities of Sport NI would allow the range of activities to be articulated, while not adjusting, but complementing, the legal requirements as presently set out.</p>

Members discussed the sequencing of the document and whether the general public would understand it as the various parts of the document were not linked.

Members heard there had been good discussion at the meeting with the department on Monday and it was noted that the current language style reflects the fact that the document is going through several iterations and different requirements. Members heard an Executive Summary would be developed which would contain the strategic context and setting the scene; the feedback and questions sections need to be expanded on.

Members queried the visuals within the document relating to Outcomes 1 and 2 which don't appear to be equal; members agreed there was a strong message from the document scale difference between the 2 outcomes and we need to represent how best to show this difference. Members also heard the Sporting system diagram showed all this detail and it was possible to put this back into the document. Members also highlighted the dangers of silo working as currently there is no link between the outcomes as they have been written in different ways.

The Interim Director of Participation presented Outcome 1 advising the language has been updated to put people in NI at the centre of the plan.

Members highlighted people are getting fit in a number of different ways (e.g. parkrun) and our challenge is to capture this also. There are things we haven't fully maximised in terms of changing lifestyles; people are still participating in sport through groups but not necessarily through clubs.

Members suggested we need to "sportify" the programme for government, embed this across and link this in. We should refer back to the document about children and young people and how we link to this.

Members agreed there are opportunities that we need to highlight as well as the challenges.

The Interim Director of Performance presented Outcome 2 with refers to a smaller mass of people and therefore less information. We are trying to ensure people understand the term high performance sport; in terms of athletes and the level of competition this becomes important in terms of best in the world with the ultimate ambition for an athlete to hold the number one ranking.

Members noted the focus in this area is to work with sports about what they currently do and where are their gaps to develop people who work on that pathway.

Members suggested in terms of sporting heroes and social benefit this would be a great area to be highlighted to the Minister. Members stated we can't underestimate the outcomes of the last Olympics and the buzz factor this created. Members agreed that regional success impacting communities was as important as the Olympics.

Members queried the reference to a high performance strategy and the rationale for this. It was noted that Sport Ireland and UK Sport would be producing high performance strategies and we need to produce something regarding our impact

	<p>and how this links to their strategy for NI; however this would probably be a framework and members noted this wording would be amended in the document.</p> <p>Members queried the social impact from high performance sport on communities locally from national success; it was confirmed this could be added as a 4<sup>th</sup> indicator for social impact.</p> <p>Members noted the outcomes in the document are what the Board have been discussing for the last year. We want to develop a sporting system for NI, this is critical in terms of where we want to get by 2025. We are very clear on the principles the Board have given us and the cornerstones of inclusion are absolutely central to our work – inclusivity agenda on how we deliver. This is very much putting an equality agenda at the front of everything we do to build a strong sporting system</p> <p>The Chair asked was everyone content with process and the strategy that was being developed and noted the agreement between SNI and the department. The Chair requested members to review the document and feedback comments.</p> <p>It was agreed the revised Corporate Plan will be emailed to Board members on Thursday afternoon, for comment. Comments should be received back from Board members by 3pm on 24 January 2020; following this a Board meeting would take place on Tuesday 28 January, 2-5pm at House of Sport to review the final draft plan before submission to DfC is proposed.</p> <p>The Board approved the outline of where are now subject to ongoing engagement and update at the next Board meeting. The Chair expressed thanks to everyone involved for the work to date.</p> <p>J Colville left the meeting at 2.50pm.</p>
<p><b>3. Business Plan 2020/21 SNI/20/02</b></p>	<p>Members noted this was a transition year closing out the four year investment programmes and there was a need to take forward new programmes which reflect the new corporate plan as well as working in the strategic context of sport matters. We are also conscious that as we move to a substantive structure we will not be as reliant on temporary staff and we need to focus more on culture and strategy in the year ahead; this will be factored into the business plan.</p> <p>Members noted we are using the balance scorecard for this year’s business plan however we may move away from this next year as per discussions with DfC.</p> <p>Members queried had the document been discussed with the department and it was noted a brief discussion had taken place on Monday; K Hill confirmed the department would go through this in more detail when the revised version was submitted to them. K Hill further advised SNI need to ensure targets are challenging and robust.</p> <p>Members noted in terms of targets we are trying to articulate the connectivity of the business plan and the context of the corporate plan. Members agreed that by simplifying the language this would ensure the connection and targets are clearly linked.</p>

	<p>Members queried what the baselines are currently; as this is a transition year members suggested this should be used as a period of reflection and learning in terms of what worked and didn't and why.</p> <p>Members agreed the area of audit and risk was very strong and there had been a fantastic improvement since the Interim Director of Finance &amp; Governance commenced in role. Members queried the outputs for Outcomes 1 and 2 on pages 7 and 8 which were currently not of the same value. The Sporting Clubs programme was mentioned under outcome 1 but there was currently on mention of Sporting Winners under outcome 2.</p> <p>Members queried the social impact of someone getting a medal and how this could be reflected; members noted ways of doing this consistently are being investigated.</p> <p>Members were advised the final draft business plan would be presented to the March Board meeting therefore any feedback from members would be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Members queried in terms of organisational growth and staff training and development when this plan would be delivered; it was advised there is an annual training and development plan arising from end of year and in year reviews and this was implemented throughout the year.</p> <p>K Hill stated she looked forward to receiving the next iteration of the document.</p> <p>Members approved the draft business plan subject to members' comments and would review the next version at the March Board meeting.</p>
<b>4. AOB</b>	<p>There was no other business to discuss.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to today's meeting and expressed thanks to all those involved in producing the documents which had been discussed at today.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted the SportMaker Awards on 24 February and advised the Minister has been invited.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 3.20pm.</p>
<b>5. Dates of next meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SportMaker Awards at Titanic on 24 February 2019 @ 6.30pm</li> <li>• 11 March 2020 – Board Meeting @ 5.00pm</li> </ul>

*George Lucas*

Approved by:  
Sport NI Chair

Date: 11 March 2020