



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE SPORT NI BOARD  
HELD ON FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 @ 10.00AM (VIA ZOOM MEETING)**

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| <p><b>Present: Board members:</b><br/>George Lucas<br/>Jay Colville<br/>Richard Bullick<br/>Wilma Erskine<br/>Darryl Petticrew</p> | <p><b>In attendance: Sport NI Officials</b><br/>Antoinette McKeown, CEO<br/>Adrian Doherty, Chief Operating Officer<br/>Richard Archibald, Head of Sports Systems<br/>Peter McCabe, Interim Director of Performance<br/>John News, Interim Director of Participation<br/>Ali Campbell, Executive Unit Manager<br/>Gillian Gilliland, Board Secretary<br/>Ian Weir, Performance Governance Manager<br/>(for item 4)</p> |
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| Agenda Item  | Record of main discussion   |
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| <p><b>1. Apologies</b></p>                                     | <p>Apologies were received from Kyle Ferguson and Kieran Harding.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated Richard Archibald on his appointment and welcomed him to today's meeting.</p>  |
| <p><b>2. Register of Member's Declarations of Interest</b></p> | <p>There were no new declarations of interest to note.</p> <p>Members agreed that if there were discussions about their specific clubs or other interests they would leave the discussion.</p>  |
| <p><b>3. Draft Business Plan 2021-22 SNI 21 05</b></p>         | <p>Members received paper number SNI 21 05 for approval.</p> <p>The Chair advised the plan was fluid and this was the Board's opportunity to make a contribution before formal approval.</p> <p>Members were advised the target is to have the plan in place for the end of March but it was better to get it right. There have been ongoing discussions with the department and we want to ensure the Board are content with it.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged we are in the middle of a pandemic and everyone is working very hard but in future if the Board were able to have earlier drafts it would be appreciated. The Chair asked members for their views and comments on the draft plan.</p> <p>Members queried the possibility of including specific research targets to provide evidence and it was advised there were two research pieces referenced within</p> |

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|   | <p>the draft plan and SNI have set up a Cultural Diversity Panel to carry out specific research.</p> <p>Members discussed the areas of physical recreation and physical literacy following on from the recent Board Workshop. It was advised SNI want to ensure that our partners get people physically active to allow us to transition them into the club environment and sustain club membership.</p> <p><b><i>D Petticrew joined the meeting at 10.25am.</i></b><br/> <b><i>W Erskine left the meeting at 10.30am.</i></b></p> <p>The Chair raised the possibility of developing a plan to become a strategic partner with the view to bringing large sporting events to NI and whether this could be included within the business plan. Members discussed this in terms of the current situation with Covid alongside SNI's capacity and resources. It was queried whether NGBs would have an appetite for this currently and this shouldn't get in the way of Build Back Better.</p> <p>It was agreed that would be kept on the agenda for the next 6 months and not included within the Business Plan for now. It was further agreed to revisit this around May/June to look at ideas of what we can do.</p> <p>Members agreed there were no changes required to the current draft Business Plan and the Board were content for further discussions to take place with the department.</p> |
| <p><b>4. Sport Sustainability Fund – Investment Decisions SNI 21 06</b></p> | <p>Members received paper number SNI 21 06 for approval.</p> <p><b><i>I Weir joined the meeting at 10.40am.</i></b><br/> <b><i>W Erskine re-joined the meeting at 10.40am</i></b></p> <p>Members agreed as the same template as previous awards is being applied we don't need to go over due diligence again.</p> <p>Members raised queries in terms of some figures within the paper for golf and cycling.</p> <p>It was confirmed that there had been a formatting error in Section 3.1 Table 2 in respect of the 'verified amount' for golf; the correct figure is as noted in Section 3.2 Table 3 'Recommended award'.</p> <p>It was advised Board approval was not required on the cycling award but it was confirmed that within their initial application cycling had misunderstood the process and requested an amount of £400k figure. Cycling subsequently submitted a much reduced application and an award of £14k was verified through the process.</p> <p>Members queried why some clubs didn't receive awards based on the amounts applied for. It was advised some individual clubs had misunderstood what could be included and that largely led to the shift in amounts. Within the final part of the application they didn't net off income and losses and demonstrate the financial need. Members also queried was there a similar reason regarding</p>                      |

sports within Table 1 being awarded a recommended amount which is greater than the requested amount and this was confirmed.

Members heard the figures submitted by all applicants have been scrutinised by the team working on this to evaluate applications on fairness and financial rigour. Some applicants misinterpreted information and the team have checked figures on a sample basis based on the procedures; there have been differences to the detriment and benefit of applicants.

Members queried the position on clubs with large reserves and it was advised the programme wasn't set up to consider reserves as these could not be quickly monetarised. A lot of sporting organisation haven't been able to operate as normal and we need to help keep sports going but this wasn't based on reserves of clubs.

Members queried the promotion and publication of the programme and it was confirmed social media assets had been developed including videos, e-zines and public advertisement of the programme as we normally do and reach was good.

It was advised NGBs were managing the process of the applications and at the initial engagement meeting with NGBs there were 80 participants representing 70 sports which equated to 90% representation of sports across NI. Subsequently 15 or 20 sports recognised they don't lease their own facilities and therefore did not apply. We are confident that we have had a good representative uptake across the sporting sector. In addition, in terms of knowledge and awareness within sports SNI did the regional piece and many of the sports were retweeting and sharing links. SNI also encouraged sports to do their own publicity and we know that a number of sports carried out specific awareness sessions with their clubs. Outside SSF, another 1,200 clubs received support through the Sport Hardship Fund; this is not a single intervention but a whole suite of interventions.

Members approved the recommendations within the paper.

The Chair thanked I Weir for attending today's meeting and providing explanations to the Board.

It was highlighted to members there was an award for Castlerock GC within the paper in red as we are waiting for a response. The award amount is under £34k and it was queried that rather than delay other clubs and having to bring another paper to the Board were the Board content for the application to be reviewed as soon as the clarification comes from Golf Ireland. The Board confirmed they were content with this approach.

Members queried when these awards would be announced. It was advised following the letters of offer being issued to the applicants a press release would be agreed with the department. It was requested that the press release be shared with the Board before going out to the media.

***D Petticrew, J News and I Weir left the meeting at 11.00am. The CEO thanked J News for attending today's meeting during annual leave.***

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|   | The Chair thanked the staff involved in this whole process and acknowledged this had involved a lot of hard work.   |
| <b>5. Draft response to Programme for Government consultation SNI 21 07</b> | <p>Members received paper number SNI 21 07 for approval.</p> <p>Members discussed the draft response to the PFG consultation and agreed there was nothing untoward within it.</p> <p>Members were advised this is our policy position and therefore required Board approval before submission to the NI Executive.</p> <p>Members expressed thanks to A Campbell for drafting the response which is a very good document. Members noted this provides a massive opportunity for inter-departmental working and we need to ensure the policy and strategy are right.</p> <p>Members approved the draft response.</p> |
| <b>6. AOB</b>   | The Chair asked everyone did they think today had been a good meeting with good discussion and everyone agreed.   |
| <b>7. Date of next meeting</b>  | <p>Monday 22 March @ 7.00pm (following the ARAC meeting) to approve accounts. The Chair expressed thanks to the team for the work on the accounts.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss the meeting finished at 11.07am.</p>   |

*George Lucas.*

Approved by:  
Sport NI Chair

Date: 14 April 2021