

## **SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND**

### **MINUTES**

### **CONFIDENTIAL**

#### **Fourth (Special) Meeting 2008**

Special Meeting held on Thursday 26 June 2008 in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

### **PRESENT**

In the Chair:	D Walsh
Members:	M Cowan U Duncan A Money Penny M Muldoon B McCargo D O'Connor J Rodgers A Strong P Turnbull
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness W Devlin C McGurk T Smyth E Bailey

#### 1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Dr O Brown, Mr J D'Arcy, Mr B Macauley and Mr H McCaughey.

#### 2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman welcomed Members to this special meeting. He informed them that it would last until 10.45 am as a meeting of the 2012 Leadership Group was due to take place at 11 am and the Minister and Permanent Secretary would arrive at the House of Sport at 10.45 am.

#### 3 **MINUTES**

Members noted that the Minutes of the Third Meeting held on 3 June 2008 would be presented for the meeting on 5 August.

#### 4 **MATTERS ARISING**

None for this meeting.

5        **CORRESPONDENCE**

None for this meeting.

6        **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interest to declare. Miss M Muldoon declared an interest in the Soccer Strategy. Mr C McGurk expressed an interest, as a member of the staff team, in Building Sport – Lavey GAC.

7        **STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN SPORTS FACILITIES**

Members considered Paper SNI/08/99.

The Director of Participation introduced Mr W Devlin, Mr C McGurk and Ms T Smyth.

The purpose of the paper was to consider and approve the development of two new policies relating to strategic investment in sports facilities and their associated Section 75 screening form; and approve Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) officers to work on the development of a new Building Sport Programme.

Members heard that significant progress had been confirmed yesterday on business approvals. Five Lottery business cases are now approved by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) for transfer to exchequer and, as a result, Mr C McGurk's team had been making significant progress on projects becoming initiated and starting to spend money. SNI is now making progress on all projects which plan to spend this year which was a dramatic change from the last Places Committee.

The Paper highlighted DCAL's request that SNI put plans in place to make strategic investments in important projects to pick up any capital under-spend across other capital spend areas.

The strategic rationale and research findings presented in the paper clearly identified the need for new capital strategic investment policies, Pitch Perfect Programme and Stadia Development Programme (included as Appendix 1 and 2). These new policies would lead to bespoke capital programmes aimed at addressing the sports facility 'need' and 'gaps' identified in Section 4 of the Paper. These new programmes would be 'flexible' and 'open' to a wide variety of sports. SNI would prioritise applications to these programmes on their state of readiness and ability to delivery within the spend timeframe.

Members asked what consideration was being given to the resourcing of the organisation to be able to support the increased budget and noted that consideration is currently being given to recruiting three or four staff officers, although that would in turn raise problems with accommodation. The difficulty related to the revenue costs of paying staff; and that budget is under pressure in this year, although DCAL is exploring opportunities to charge staff costs for work on capital schemes to their capital budgets. Members identified the need to have appropriate resources, human and financial, to undertake this work.

***Cllr J Rodgers joined the meeting.***

Members agreed it was a good paper but there was no indication there would be revenue stream. From the screening document there is evidence that women are under represented; and Members asked officers to ensure that facilities would take this into account. Officers reminded Members about the revenue opportunities that would be available via the previously agreed Active Communities Programme.

After discussion Members approved the two new policies relating to strategic investment in sports facilities and gave approval for SNI officers to work on the development of a new Building Sport Programme.

***Mr A Money Penny, Ms M Muldoon and Cllr J Rodgers left the room.***

## 8 **SOCCKER STRATEGY CAPITAL – PLAYING FACILITIES PROGRAMME**

Members considered Paper SNI/08/100 which provided an update on the capital programme; the IFA/SNI proposal regarding the roll-out of the programme; and the proposed grant awards to the 23 applicants as attached at Appendix II of the Paper.

Members were updated on the current status of the legal charge and noted that, to assist in moving forward with the capital programme, four options had been reviewed.

Officers proposed option four, ie that the capital programme would be fully rolled out by SNI with the implementation of legal charges being as in option three. Members were advised that the IFA had accepted this proposal. It was pointed out that this will have revenue and staff implications for SNI.

Members thought this was an excellent approach which would enable control of the programme. Work had been ongoing on this for a long time and they complimented staff who had worked so hard in this area.

Members raised a number of questions about scoring criteria, partnership funding – its ring-fencing and protection, Ministerial policy, and instructions from DCAL officials. They noted that the Minister had not written to the Chief Executive but that his official had written outlining broad areas of policy development with no instruction.

The paper concluded that the proposed mechanism outlined would ensure that the objectives of the Soccer Strategy capital programme are fully realised, whilst ensuring that public funds are protected. The approach offers the IFA the opportunity to minimise the required legal charge on IFA assets whilst ensuring that the programme moves forward without any further delay.

Members noted that DCAL has indicated that they will approve SNI to proceed on the basis of the strategic business case without individual project business cases. Written approval is still outstanding.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations to take the roll-out (as well as the management) of the Playing Facilities Programme in-house to SNI. They also approved the proposed grant awards to the 23 applicants as attached at Appendix II of the Paper.

***Mr A Money Penny, Ms Muldoon and Cllr J Rodgers returned to the room.***

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## **BUILDING SPORT PROGRAMME – PROJECT ASSESSEMENT REPORTS**

Members considered Paper SNI/08/101 which sought a decision on the Project Assessment reports (PARs) attached. Members noted that the Delegated Authority Policy required projects to be brought back to Committee/Council where the award value has increased by more than 50% of the initial award amount. Two of the projects presented fell into that category – Hanwood Trust Company Ltd and The Cliff. The remaining two - Moyola Park Football Club and Lavey GAC/ Termoneeny Community Association had not received Places Committee approval and were presented for stage II assessment.

Members raised some questions of detail regarding grant information held on the GIFTs system. After discussion Members approved the project assessment reports.

The Chair congratulated Mr W Devlin on his promotion.

***Mr D Walsh and Mr E McCartan left the room.***

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## **REPRESENTATION AT THE 2008 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**

In the absence of the Chair and Chief Executive Mr P Turnbull assumed the Chair for this item. Members considered Paper SNI/08/102 which sought approval for the attendance of the Acting Chairman and the Chief Executive at the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Members noted that the Games would take place in Beijing from 8–24 August and 6–17 September respectively. The Chairman and Chief Executive of SNI have previously attended the Olympic Games in Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 as guests of the British Olympic Association.

Members noted the packages involved and the benefits of SNI's attendance at the Games. They also considered the total cost of £18,550 for the two packages.

In discussion Members agreed that it was important that SNI be represented at these major sporting events. They queried whether the representation would change should a Chairman of SNI be announced by DCAL in the near future; and noted that the current package was delivered by the British Olympic Association with deadlines for visas etc. Submissions had now been made for our representation by the Acting Chair and the Chief Executive.

Members agreed the business justification for attendance, particularly with the Olympic Games taking place in London in 2012; and approved the attendance of the Acting Chair and Chief Executive. They asked that a report be made to a subsequent Board Meeting giving feedback and evaluation of the visits.

***Mr D Walsh and Mr E McCartan returned to the room.***

11 The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and reminded them that the next meeting was Tuesday 5 August.

Members were invited to have refreshments and to meet the Minister and the members of the 2012 Leadership group which would convene at 11 am.

The meeting finished at 10.45 am

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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Upper Malone Road  
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