

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Sixth Meeting 2008

Held on Tuesday 7 October 2008 in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

PRESENT

In the Chair:	D Walsh
Members:	O Brown U Duncan B Macaulay A Money Penny M Muldoon B McCargo H McCaughey D O'Connor J Rodgers A Strong P Turnbull
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness S Ogle A Sloan R McDowell E Bailey C McGurk) M McClure) for part J News) M Orr)

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr M Cowan and Mr J D'Arcy.

2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

2.1 **Olympic Games, Beijing**

The Chairman Welcomed Members to the meeting and gave a verbal report on his visit to the Olympic games in Beijing from 11–17 August. He praised the organisers for the superb arrangements and the infrastructure provided for the Games. The athletes' village was superb with everything in place to ensure that athletes could perform at the highest level.

He had been able to attend a number of events including cycling, hockey, boxing, gymnastics, judo, swimming, rowing and athletics. He had taken part in a number of structured meetings with the Chairman and Chief Executive of British Olympic Association, the Performance Director Sir Clive Woodward, and Lord Coe all of whom were supportive on the subject of pre-games training camps.

Members noted that Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) will not be able to play an active role in the 2012 Games without a multi-purpose stadium.

- 2.2 Regarding capital spend the Chairman reported that the executive team had met with the Permanent Secretary at Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL). As a result of that meeting it is likely that a another special Council meeting will be convened within the next 14 days. Members agreed that this was an important issue regarding SNI's strategic direction for the next three years and would affect the paper on national lottery distribution funds.

3 **MINUTES**

Members considered the Draft Minutes of the Meeting on 5 August. Members offered some amendments and empowered the Chief Executive to re-draft the Minutes consolidating their views.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Ref 8.2 – Coach Ireland Strategy

Members noted that the Chief Executive had been attending meetings and that the actual company "Coaching Ireland" had not yet been formed but that it was currently transforming.

4.2 Linfield Football Club

Members heard that the Chief Executive had received a letter by from the Secretary of Linfield Club in which they wrote that they appreciate the point raised in respect of the naming of a member of Sport Northern Ireland staff.

4.3 Ref 7.3 – Building Sport Stage II Project Assessment Reports

Members noted that significant progress had been made update vis-à-vis Eastside Boxing Club. A Development Officer had met with the club and others with a view to funding opportunities to build capacity within the club.

- 4.4 Mr Strong referred to the Places Committee and confirmed the ongoing work on a Facilities Strategy.

5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

6 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

7 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

7.1 Building sport Programme

Members considered Paper SNI/08/155 which sought approval for recommendations regarding decision on capital project over the threshold of £1 million. It sought approval of the recommendation of the Places Committee to make an indicative maximum award of up to £1,900,000 in respect of the Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group project.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations.

7.2 Policy on the Management of the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) Balance

Members agreed to withdraw Paper SNI/08/156 from this meeting in the light of recent discussions with DCAL regarding capital budgets.

7.3 Delegated Decisions - Places

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with Council Policy (Paper SNI/08/157).

7.4 Women and Girls in Sport

Members considered Paper SNI/08/158 and noted progress, emerging issues and their application to Northern Ireland for increasing participation and improving performance in sport by woman and girls.

Members approved the Women and Girls in Sport Policy and policy screening form.

7.5 Review of Public Administration and Reforms in Education

Members considered Paper SNI/08/159. The Paper outlined the proposed structural and operational reforms within the education system following the Review of Public Administration (RPA). It discussed possible implications for Sport and for SNI; and proposed a strategic response to the current consultation on area-based planning.

Members congratulated staff on the Paper. Mrs U Duncan referred to a recent meeting of the Area Planning Group. She could see value in all parties coming together and expressed great hope for the future if this process continued.

Members approved the recommendations.

7.6 Physical Literacy Research Project

Members noted the strategic rationale for a Physical Literacy Research Project and received an update (Paper SNI/08/160).

Members noted the international conference to be held in Belfast in Spring 2009 and Cllr J Rodgers suggested that an approach be made to Belfast City Council for sponsorship.

7.7 Delegated Decisions – Participation

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/08/161).

7.8 **SNI CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Members considered Paper SNI/08/174 which provided an update on programmes, budgets, issues and future plans for SNI investment in the Places for Sport in Northern Ireland.

Members noted that this had been considered by the Places Committee on 29 September 2008 when it had been requested that it be considered by the full SNI Board.

The Paper gave the background to capital funding and historical and current capital programmes ie Building Sport Programme, Stadia Safety Programme, Soccer Strategy Programme, and Elite Facilities and discussed new developments within the confirmed SNI capital budgets over the current CSR period 2008/09, 2009/2010, 2010/11.

The Paper referred to discussions that had taken place with DCAL regarding capital funding and set out Exchequer and Lottery summary profiles of spend. It referred to current and future developments re the Building Sport Programme, Stadia Safety Programme, Place For Sport - Surfaces Programme, Soccer Strategy Programme.

Members noted the background to SNI's capital programmes, new developments and current issues and, after lengthy discussion, agreed that it would be necessary to have a single-item meeting of Sport Northern Ireland within the next fortnight.

8 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

8.1 Performance Team Update

Members received an update on the work of the Performance Team (Paper SNI/08/162).

8.2 A Model for Service Provision through Sports Institute Northern Ireland (SINI) 2009-2013

Members received an outline of the strategic direction that SINI is proposing to take in terms of service provision over the period April 2009 to March 2013

(Paper SNI/08/163).

8.3 Contract for the provision of Child Protection Services

Members considered and approved Paper SNI/08/164 which sought approval of a business case (Appendix A) worth £225,000 for the provision of child protection services to Sport Northern Ireland by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

Mr B McCargo left the meeting

Cllr J Rodgers left the room

8.4 Performer Development Centres Business Case

Members considered Paper SNI/08/165 which sought approval for the Draft Business Case; the appointment of Belfast City Council and Lisburn City Council as preferred partners to host two pilot Performance Development Centres across Northern Ireland; and for an advertisement to be placed in the press.

Members approved the recommendation.

8.5 Recognition of Sporting Activities

Members considered Paper SNI/08/166. The Paper sought approval to recognise Ultimate as a sporting activity and reject applications to recognise Kickboxing, Chess and Sport Table Football as sporting activities.

Members noted the content of the paper and approved the recommendations.

8.6 Delegated Decisions - Performance

Members noted delegated decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/08/167).

9 **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

9.1 Management Accounts

Members considered the Management Accounts for the five-month period to 31 August 2008 (Paper SNI/08/168) and approved their submission to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure.

9.2 Report of Delegated Decisions – Corporate Services

Members noted delegated decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/08/169).

9.3 Sport Northern Ireland Environmental Policy and Management System

Members considered Paper SNI/08/170 which provided an overview and background to the rationale for the Sport Northern Ireland Environmental Policy and Management System; the findings of the Section 75 screening process of the environmental policy; and a proposal that Sport Northern Ireland approve

the environmental policy.

The Paper set out the aim of the policy is to continue to “make sport happen in a sustainable way”. There is widespread interest and concern in ensuring that sport and recreation are as sustainable as possible and take place with minimal adverse environmental impact.

Members noted the five key objectives within the Strategy:

1. to reduce the carbon footprint of Sport Northern Ireland;
2. to highlight the impact of waste and reduce it by 50% in year 1;
3. to procure materials and services that encourages sustainability;
4. to promote more sustainable approaches to travel and working programmes; and
5. to increase and enhance biodiversity at the House of Sport, Tollymore and other funded sites.

Mr A Strong offered to liaise with Mr McClure as he had an interest in and knowledge of this subject.

After discussion Members approved the recommendations.

9.4 Sport Northern Ireland Business Plan Review (July–September 2008)

Members received the Business Plan Review and noted the performance of SNI against its output targets for the first quarter of the 2008/09 Business Plan period (Paper SNI/08/171).

9.5 Marketing

9.5.1 Press and Media Report

Members received an update of recent activities in the Marketing and Communications Department (Paper SNI/08/172)

Members congratulated staff on the extremely well organised conference that took place recently.

9.6 2008 Paralympic Games – Beijing

Members received a report on the attendance of the Chief Executive at the Paralympic Games from 6-13 September (Paper SNI/08/173). It outlined the background to the Paralympic Games; representation of Northern Ireland athletes at the Games; the purpose of Sport Northern Ireland’s representation at the Games; schedule of his visits; key observations and messages from the Games.

Members agreed that the intelligence gathered from the visit of the Chief Executive would contribute towards the implementation of the NI 2012 Strategy.

9.7 Sports Council for Northern Ireland (SCNI) Trust

The Director of the Corporate Services reported that professional and legal advice was being taken on the SCNI Trust and the redevelopment of the Tollymore site.

Further discussion would take place at the meeting of SCNI Trust following the Council meeting.

10 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR ADOPTION**

10.1 Northern Ireland Mountain and Cave Rescue Co-ordinating Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Eighty-Seventh Meeting held on 1 May 2008.

The Chief Executive extended to Council the thanks of the Mountain Rescuers who had joined them at lunch for the funding for their three vehicles, one being a master control vehicle and two being traditional landrovers for rough terrain

Members noted that an opportunity will be taken in due course to acknowledge the work of Mr Tim McMillen who had chaired the Northern Ireland Mountain and Cave Rescue Co-ordinating Committee for five years until his recent retirement.

10.2 Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-fourth Meeting held on 6 May 2008.

10.3 Performance Committee

Members adopted the Minutes Sixth Meeting held on 22 May 2008.

10.4 Participation Committee

Members approved the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2008.

10.5 Places Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2008.

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR INFORMATION**

11.1 Audit Committee

Members heard a report from Dr Olive Brown, Chair of the Audit Committee on the meeting held on 7 October 2008.

Members were made aware of a training programme for Audit Committee Members which would be made available to all Members. If anyone was interested they should contact the Director of Corporate Services Unit.

Mr D O'Connor left the meeting

11.2 Staffing Committee

Members heard a report from Cllr J Rodgers, Chair of the Staffing Committee on the meeting held on 7 October 2008.

12 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

13 **NEXT OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 2 December. A Special Meeting would be convened within the next two weeks.

14 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14.1 Members expressed the view the Sports Link publication was an excellent document.

14.2 Members were informed that the 2012 Leadership Committee, chaired by the Minister, includes representatives from Sport Northern Ireland, Department of Education, Department of the Environment and relates to the legacy of 2010.

14.3 Dr O Brown informed Members of the continuing work of the Delhi Committee. Any suggestions from Members would be welcome.

14.4 Mr A Strong informed Members that the Regional Development Strategy will soon be out for consultation and it was important that SNI contribute to that document.

14.5 The Chief Executive informed Members that Mr H McCaughey had recently stood down as Chair of the Sports Institute Northern Ireland. In the near future an opportunity would be taken to recognise his contribution to SINI.

The chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed, to be followed by a meeting of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Trust.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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