

## **SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND**

### **MINUTES**

### **CONFIDENTIAL**

#### Sixth Meeting 2010

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

### **PRESENT**

In the Chair:	D Walsh
Members:	O Brown M Cowan U Duncan B Macaulay A Money Penny D O'Connor J Rodgers A Strong P Turnbull
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness S Ogle A Sloan R McCormick E Bailey

#### 1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr J D'Arcy and Mr B McCargo.

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

- 2.1 The Chairman said that he hoped to have the meeting speedily finished owing to a commitment with UK Sport; and that if he had to leave the Vice-Chairman would chair the meeting.
- 2.2 The Chairman congratulated Dr O Brown on the birth of her grandson.
- 2.3 The Chairmen informed Members of the Cliff project at Larne. At an earlier meeting Members advised that the PSNI should be approached regarding any potential threat to staff safety. Following a meeting with a PSNI Inspector SNI had been advised that PSNI was not aware of any personal threat to staff attached to the correspondence on the subject.
- 2.4 The Chairman informed Members that he and other Members met with the Minister at Stormont on Monday evening 15 November. The Minister had said that the meeting was intended to be informal and therefore no record would be

taken of the meeting. The Vice-Chairman gave a verbal summary of his sense of the meeting as follows.

The meeting was not part of the normal DCAL review process. The capacity of governing bodies was discussed at length and it was generally thought that there was a need to grow their capacity. Dual use and school estate was identified as an effective and efficient way of maximising capital investment.

The future of SNI as a non-departmental public body was not being actively considered. The knowledge, experience and expertise of Members was identified as exemplary as was the knowledge, expertise and commitment of the executive and staff of SNI. This meeting was the beginning of a process which would see other non departmental bodies meet in a similar fashion and outwith the sense of the meeting the Vice-Chairman reported that he had met the Minister at a function and that he had expressed his satisfaction with the meeting, with SNI Members, its executive and staff.

Members thanked staff for all their work in preparing them for the meeting.

2.5 The Chairman read out an e-mail from DCAL regarding new Members informing him that the process was being started.

Members noted that the membership expiry date of 31 December 2011 and heard that those Members in the first term of office who wished to re-apply for a second term should do that in January 2011.

Members asked if the Chairman was to be involved in the selection and recruitment process. On hearing that to date he had not been asked they expressed the view that it would be wrong if he were not involved in the interview and in the planning process.

Members agreed that a letter be sent to DCAL expressing their view on the matter. It was agreed that the Chairman and Chief Executive would take this up with the Permanent Secretary in due course.

2.6 The Chairman referred to media coverage of the Chief Executive's comments to the BBC which broke last Wednesday. The Chairman expressed his view on the issue and how it was broadcast and portrayed. Following a detailed discussion it was unanimously agreed that the subsequent reactions were unnecessary, unhelpful, and could have been managed in a much better fashion. The Council expressed the view that the report did not fully reflect the range of arguments that had been advanced in relation to the attracting of visiting Olympic teams to Northern Ireland. The Council expressed the view, as did the BBC, that the report was misleading.

The Chairman then informed Members of events which followed the BBC broadcast including interalia communications, meetings with the BBC, the Minister and DCAL. He brought to attention the two apologies that had been received from BBC which Members noted. He also referred to the meetings with the Minister and DCAL and reported that the issue had been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties as was clearly demonstrated in the press statement that was jointly issued.

Members heard that SNI had been approached by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure to conduct an interview as part of a BBC programme regarding

the legacy of the Olympic Games 2012. He noted that DCAL had been unwilling to take part. He informed Members that following an extensive pre-brief with the BBC they had broadcast a significantly edited version of what the Chief Executive had said.

Council then had considerable debate on the issue and after lengthy discussion unanimously expressed their total confidence in the Chief Executive and endorsed the position taken by him, his words and actions. Members expressed in the strongest terms their disappointment in the way in which the BBC and others had manipulated the content for a sensational headline.

It was Council's unanimous view that the Chief Executive had acted in the best interests of sport and SNI, conducting himself with integrity, honesty and objectivity.

### 3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Fifth Meeting held on 28 September 2010 were approved and signed. Mr B Macaulay stated that his apology had not been recorded and that will be corrected.

### 4 **MATTERS ARISING**

Item 7.3 – Capital Investment Programme. Members asked if this would go ahead in the light of the Minister's Advisor's comments at the recent meeting. The Director of Participation reported that there were 143 applications to assess which is a disproportionate burden to the public purse.

### 5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### 5.1 Lurgan Junior High School

Members noted letter dated 27 September 2010 which thanked Mr A Strong and colleagues for attending the opening of their new synthetic sports pitches and for Sport Northern Ireland's support.

#### 5.2 Cricket Ireland

Members noted letter dated 12 November from the Chief Executive which referred to the enormous role that Sport Northern Ireland and Sports Institute Northern Ireland played in helping Cricket Ireland achieve the great heights that have been reached by their international teams. The importance of this ongoing support could not be underestimated.

#### 5.3 Commonwealth Games

Members noted letter received by the Director of High Performance and the Executive Director of SINI from Mr R McVeigh. The letter referred to the very significant help and support that SINI had provided prior to and at the Delhi Games.

## 6 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interest to declare. No interests were declared.

## 7 **PRIORITY BUSINESS**

### 7.1 Delegated Decisions – Places Committee

Members considered Paper SNI/10/240 which sought agreement on delegation limits for the Sports Matters Capital and Equipment Programme, Stadia Safety: Urgent Works Programme and Building Sport. Members made suggestions regarding the presentation of figures in a more meaningful way and approved the recommendation.

### 7.2 Places Committee – Coleraine Borough Council Garvagh

Members considered Paper SNI/10/241 which sought approval to de-commit a revenue award made to Coleraine Borough Council within 30 days unless the they provided written confirmation that the opening times changed to mirror those propose within the business case.

Members approved the recommendation.

### 7.3 Recognition of Sporting Activities and Governing Bodies

Members considered Paper SNI/10/254 which recommended that Members reject the applications to approve Extreme In-line Skating and Mixed Martial Arts as sporting activities.

It also recommended the rejection of the application from the Weightlifting Association of Ulster and Northern Ireland to be the recognised governing body for Olympic Weightlifting and Paralympic Powerlifting operating in Northern Ireland.

Members approved the recommendations.

### 7.4 2011/2012 Athlete Investment Programme

Members considered Paper SNI/10/25 which outlined the assessment process that has been undertaken to date with regard to the Athlete Investment Programme.

Members approved the recommendation of the application of a quality threshold of 50% to the Athlete Investment Programme 2011/2012 assessment scores; and the prioritisation of investment into "World Class" athletes over "International and "Developmental" athletes within the 2011/2012 Athlete Investment Programme.5

## 8 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

### 8.1 World Police and Fire Games Belfast 2013

Members received Paper SNI/10/237 which provided an update on developments regarding the proposed delivery vehicle for the 2013 World Police and Fire Games and on the progress of the Sports Workstream.

It was agreed that Mr B McCargo would represent SNI as a Director on the Board of the new Limited Company.

Members noted that DCAL hoped that the Limited Guarantee Company would be set up soon. Members also referred to the changing European Union rules in this regard and the need for good governance.

### 8.2 Participation Team

Members received Paper SNI/10/238 and noted the work of the Participation Team in the period September – November 2010 and the key areas of work over the next four months.

## 9 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

### 9.1 SNI Talent Framework 2010-13

Members considered Paper SNI/10/242 and approved the SNI Talent Framework 2010-13.

### 9.2 Investing in Performance Sport Programme

Members received Paper SNI/10/243 which provided a progress report on the Investing in Performance Sport Programme 2009-2013 after 19 months of implementation. Members noted that this was a prelude to the full interim evaluation which will be undertaken in early 2011 and which will examine the impact of the initial two years of the Programme. Members commended the good work that staff had put into this programme.

### 9.3 Commonwealth Games Delhi

Members received Paper SNI/10/244 which provided an interim report on the performance of Northern Ireland athletes against targets set prior to the Games.

The chair thanked Dr O Brown for the diligence, guidance and expertise she had shown between the Melbourne and Delhi Games in chairing this Committee.

#### 9.4 SINI

Members received Paper SNI/10/245 which provided an update on progress in implementing the SINI Corporate Plan 2009-14. The three programme update reported progress for Quarter 2 in Year 2 of the Corporate Plan. Members noted the progress achieved in Quarter 2 of the SINI Business Plan 2010-2011.

Members agreed that it was important to have a system of robust governance. Members noted that the overall assurance rating for SINI was limited and work is progressing to raise the standard of overall assurance.

Members agreed that a letter be sent to Professor J Allen thanking him for his commitment to SINI, particularly during his recent illness.

#### 9.5 Performance Sport Team

Members received Paper SNI/10/246 which provided an update on aspects of the Performance Sport Team's work over the past two months and alerted Members to key events and developments. Members congratulated officers on the work involved.

#### 9.6 Delegated Decisions – Performance

Members received Paper SNI/10/247 and noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy.

### 10 **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

#### 10.1 Management Accounts

Members considered the Management Accounts for the seven-month period to 31 October 2010 (Paper SNI/10/248).

A Member raised a query in relation to note 7 of the Exchequer Accounts. The Director of Corporate Services agreed to provide an explanation to Members after the meeting.

Members approved submission of the Management Accounts to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure.

#### 10.2 Barclay Credit Cards

Members considered Paper SNI/10/249 and noted the new travel contract arrangements and credit card arrangements to be implemented.

Members noted that SNI had been informed by Central Procurement Division of the new contract in place with Chambers Travel and HRG for booking travel and hotels for Government Departments, NDPBs etc.

Members noted that the credit card would be available only to the finance team and that it would not normally be carried by anyone. They noted that this had been discussed at Audit Committee and assurances given regarding reconciliation and careful monitoring.

After discussion Members approved the new travel contract arrangements and credit card arrangements and delegated authority to SNI officers to progress the setting up of credit cards.

10.3 Risk Register

Members received Paper SNI/10/250 which provided a summary of the key corporate risks, their rating, agreed mitigation activities and progress against those activities.

10.4 Business Plan Quarter 2 Review

Members received Paper SNI/10/256 and noted performance of SNI against its KPI output targets for the second quarter of the 2010/11 Business Plan. Members heard that DCAL is content with progress against key performance indicators.

10.5 Environmental Policy Update

Members received Paper SNI/10/257 which provided a progress update on the implementation of SNI's Environmental Management Plan. Appendix 3 of the paper summarised progression to date with reduced internal waste savings of 40% and energy savings of gas and electricity of 30%.

10.6 Committee for Culture Arts and Leisure (CAL) Inquiry into Participation in Sport and Physical Activity

Members received Paper SNI/10/258 and noted the update on the key findings and recommendations from the CAL Committee's Inquiry into participation in sport and physical activity in Northern Ireland.

10.7 Delegated Decisions – Corporate Services

Members received Paper SNI/10/251 and noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy.

10.8 Marketing

Members received the Press and Media Report (Paper SNI/10/252) which provided an update of recent and upcoming activities in the Marketing and Communications Department.

Members noted that various functions such as design, photographic and DVD production would be brought in house where this was practical. They asked that information be included in the report showing questions being asked by Northern Ireland Assembly and the CAL Committee.

10.9 Council and Committee Dates in 2011

Members considered and approved the dates of meetings in 2011 (Paper SNI/10/253).

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR ADOPTION**

11.1 Places Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2010.

11.2 Participation Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 September 2010.

11.3 Performance Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting held on 23 September 2010.

11.4 Audit Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Sixty-Second Meeting held on 13 October 2010.

11.5 Northern Ireland Mountain & Cave Rescue Co-Ordinating Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-Sixth Meeting held on 19 August 2010

12 **COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR INFORMATION**

There were no reports.

13 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 1 February 2011.

15 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

15.1 The Director of the Corporate Services Unit reminded Members to submit their travel claim forms as soon as possible.

15.2 The Chief Executive informed Members that the BBC letter and SNI/DCAL press statement was available if required. Members agreed that they should be put on the website.



15.3

The Chairman informed Members that he had now he had come to the end of his third year as Acting Chair and Chair of Sport Northern Ireland and he thanked the Chief Executive and the executive team for yet another year of excellent work. He then wished everyone a safe, enjoyable and Happy Christmas.

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

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

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