



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPORT NI BOARD HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST 2020 @ 11.30AM (VIA ZOOM MEETING)**

Present: Board members George Lucas Jay Colville Jackie Bryson Richard Bullick Wilma Erskine Kyle Ferguson Catherine O'Mullan Darryl Petticrew	In attendance: Sport NI Officials Antoinette McKeown, CEO John News, Interim Director or Participation and Facilities Peter McCabe, Interim Director of Performance Adrian Doherty, Director of Finance & Governance Colm Jennings, Information Management & Reporting Officer
---	--

Agenda Item	Record of main discussion
1. Apologies	Apologies were noted from Kieran Harding.
2. Register of Member's Declaration of Interest	J Bryson declared interest in GB Fencing.
3. Chair's remarks	<p>The Chair reported on how SNI has been transformed over the past three years and although many challenges remain, the organisation would continue to build a strong platform for future development to enable objectives to be achieved.</p> <p>The NIAO report highlighted that Sport NI's Accounts were in backlog position. Members noted this has now been regularised and this progress has been acknowledged in a recent letter to the Chair from Tracy Meharg Permanent Secretary. The Chair thanked colleagues in DFC, NIAO, Board members, Executive and Staff for their diligence, commitment and expertise in resolving this issue. The Chair stated this was a significant indicator of progress on Sport NI's journey of continuous improvement.</p> <p>The Chair noted the letter from the Minister giving formal approval to take the Corporate Plan to consultation.</p> <p>The Chair noted the final version of the Sport NI external Board Effectiveness Review, which reflects the updated recommendations and action plan, was circulated to members on 6th August 2020. This is a positive review and also reflects significant progress for Sport NI. The Chair thanked everyone involved for their contribution.</p>

	<p>The Chair advised the CEO's report is comprehensive and provides an update on the issues which the Executive and staff are progressing; this will inform today's discussions and enable everyone to fully engage and contribute.</p>
<p>Vice- Chair Update on McBride Judgement</p>	<p>The Vice Chair provided an update on the McBride judgement regarding delegation of decisions. The Board have received a comprehensive list of Board functions. It has been possible to demonstrate many of these functions but not the delegation of decisions for Executive funding, which must be made by the Board.</p> <p>The Vice Chair proposed establishing a rotational sub-committee of three members to meet every two weeks to approve funding awards. This would demonstrate delegation of power.</p> <p>A Board member asked if the Board has the power to delegate to a sub-committee. Once approved by committee does this then return to Board? The Vice Chair noted this would be similar to ARAC and Remuneration Committee.</p> <p>The Chair proposed the Board meet every fortnight and ensure a quorum of five members. A Board member asked that the Vice Chair's proposed rota be used to ensure shared responsibility across the full Board.</p> <p>A Board member asked for clarity that this ruling means that all delegated authority for approvals of spend has been removed. The Vice Chair confirmed this was the case. A Board member asked what other organisations are doing. The Vice Chair noted there are several other bodies such as the arts that are having the same issue; however, these bodies do not have the same volume of expenditure or approvals as Sport NI. A Board member asked if there was any other way around this. The Vice Chair stated that advice received was that it has to be carried out by the Board.</p> <p>Members discussed ramifications of this for Sport NI, particularly increasing the Board role within operational decisions.</p> <p>The Chair recommended trialling this system for 2-3 meetings and discussing again at the next Board meeting in September. Members asked what level of scrutiny would be required. The Director of Finance & Governance advised Sport NI are looking into how to best present the information to the Board.</p> <p>The Chair asked the Vice Chair to seek further clarification from Ainslie McMullan and for the Director of Finance & Governance to prepare a trial run of decisions over the next few weeks ahead of the September meeting.</p> <p>The Vice Chair also asked if this can be flagged with DfC, stressing the urgency of the issue.</p> <p>Members agreed to carry on at risk until the September meeting and a further update from Vice Chair.</p>
<p>4. CEO Report SNI 20 39</p>	<p>Members received paper SNI 20 39 for noting.</p>

	<p>The CEO asked if there were any queries. A Board member highlighted the importance of safeguarding in sport and asked if there is anything Sport NI should or could be doing to highlight the duty of care required by NGBs.</p> <p>The CEO advised the Board of the Safeguarding process Sport NI has in place where parents can come to Sport NI if they do not wish to go to the club or NGB and of Sport NI's partnership with NSPCC. The CEO added that staff are preparing a paper for the Board in September.</p> <p>Paper to be presented at the 16th September Board meeting.</p> <p>Members noted receipt of the CEO's email regarding Restructure and job descriptions.</p> <p>A Board member queried the number of SHF applications differing across Council areas. The Interim Director of Participation advised this was reflective of the number of clubs who applied and was also impacted by those who owned or leased/rented their facilities and their geographic location.</p> <p>A Board member queried the extension to Sporting Clubs/Winners and £9m figure referenced in the paper. The Interim Director of Performance addressed the Sporting Clubs/Winners query and the Interim Director of Participation addressed the £9m query.</p> <p>A Board member noted the <i>Annex: BLM and Equality in Sport</i> issued by the CEO was very useful and queried if, when addressing inequalities in sport, this could be used regarding allocation of funding. The CEO advised that there are requirements within current funding criteria that require mainstreaming of equality.</p> <p>The Chair of the Remuneration committee referenced an exchange of emails last week in relation to a review of the CEO's job duties aligned to the restructuring process; i.e. the Remuneration Committee is still considering this request.</p>
<p>5. Multi Facility Fund – Newforge Community Development Trust SNI 20 40</p>	<p>Members received paper SNI 20 40 for approval.</p> <p>Members discussed and noted the recommendations. Governance measures were discussed and a Board member asked for a full read out of value and types of projects being considered for multi fund stage going forward.</p> <p>Members were advised of a timing issue with SEUPB proceeding to tender and funding needed to be in place prior to beginning the procurement process.</p> <p>Members noted the project assessment report and approved investment of the indicative award.</p> <p>Members approved the CEO authorisation to sign off the final business case and Investment Approval Form up to a maximum of £1m, subject to submission of tendered prices with final project costs and updated partnership funding profile.</p>

	Members noted MFF is Lottery funded and the McBride judgement would not apply.
6. AOB	There was no further business to discuss.
7. Date of next meetings	Wednesday 16 September @ 9.15am. The meeting closed at 12:57pm.

George Lucas.

Approved by:
Sport NI Chair

Date: 16 September 2020