



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPORT NI BOARD HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2020 @ 9.45AM (VIA ZOOM MEETING)**

Present: Board members: George Lucas Jay Colville Jackie Bryson Wilma Erskine Kyle Ferguson (for part) Kieran Harding Darryl Petticrew	In attendance: Sport NI Officials Antoinette McKeown, CEO Adrian Doherty, Director of Finance & Governance Peter McCabe, Interim Director of Performance John News, Interim Director of Participation Ali Campbell, Executive Unit Manager Gillian Gilliland, Board Secretary
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Agenda Item	Record of main discussion
1. Apologies	Apologies were received from Richard Bullick and Catherine O'Mullan.
2. Register of Member's Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest to note.
3. Minutes of Previous Meetings	Members approved the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2020.
4. Chair's Remarks	<p>The Chair advised a closed session of the Board had taken place prior to the Board meeting with the CEO to update the Board on restructuring and confidential matters.</p> <p>The Chair stated the last six months had been a challenging period for SNI and the sporting community through the impact of Covid-19. On behalf of the Board the Chair expressed thanks to all staff for their commitment, resilience and hard work throughout this period in developing and implementing coping strategies to support the sports sector and the community.</p> <p>The Chair will attend the CEO briefing tomorrow to thank staff directly on behalf of the Board.</p>
5. CEO Report SNI 20 56	<p>Members received paper number SNI 20 56 for noting.</p> <p>The CEO advised the Executive Team were heavily involved this week working with the department on a bid for additional funding for the sports sector and</p>

	<p>confirmed a meeting had taken place with the Minister and the sports sector on Monday morning.</p> <p>A member referred to the Public Health Notices which were issued by Dr Michael McBride following NI Executive announcements in terms of Public Health Order and queried whether SNI receive these and interpret them for GBs. Members noted SNI receive the regulations, the Interim Director of Performance is the Vice Chair of this group. Members noted there had been a mixed experience of how much work we can do on the regulations and interpreting them. During the earlier part of Return to Sport there had been more opportunity to input before details were released but more recently this has not been the case; SNI did not have sight of the finished regulations until late Friday and there had been changes between the draft and final version. Members were advised since Friday the amount of queries and questions from sports had been considerable, we need to ensure the responses are aligned with the department and it is very challenging ongoing work.</p> <p>A member stated SNI had the opportunity to demonstrate the support we can offer and the messages we are delivering to sport to ensure we get clear instructions out to GBs. Board members recognised that the work SNI are doing and working with the department demonstrates to the sports sector the role of SNI.</p> <p>A member stated that a bid for additional funding for the sports sector is excellent but highlighted the issue of capacity to promote this funding and fulfil the obligation to distribute it. It was further highlighted this is on the Risk Register and has been escalated therefore there is the need to ensure the sports sector is supported and our capacity is not holding this back. Members were advised discussions have been taking place with the department to bring in additional staff to assist with this; this will be discussed with ET this afternoon at a planning session and the Board will be updated.</p> <p>Members agreed this was a very comprehensive report and noted its contents.</p> <p><i>K Ferguson left the meeting at 10am.</i></p>
<p>6. Update on Public Consultation Dates for the Draft Corporate Plan SNI 20 57</p>	<p>Members received paper number SNI 20 57 for noting.</p> <p>Members heard there will be an introduction from the CEO and Chair at each session as well as a video and Powtoon. Contingencies for connection issues have been built in. Members are being asked to attend sessions and break out rooms which will be managed by a staff member. It was confirmed there is no need for members to speak, just observing.</p> <p>A members queried whether the consultation was geographically limiting sign up and what about members of the public without digital access. It was advised this was included in the responses on citizen space and feedback can be provided that way. Members noted there is a whole range of other consultation meetings, including clubs, health, education and section 75 groups. In terms of digital access issues this would be managed. SNI would be relying heavily on stakeholders to promote the consultation and the Panels will provide additional information.</p>

	<p>The Chair requested Board members to confirm their availability on the scheduled dates as soon as possible.</p> <p>Members noted the paper.</p>
7. Celebrating Diversity Panel SNI 20 58	<p>Members received paper SNI 20 58 for noting.</p> <p>Members noted the paper was transparent in terms of the work being done on this panel. SNI have contacts with all representative bodies and good relationships have been built up. SNI will work with these bodies to get representation via targeted marketing and consultation.</p> <p>Members noted the paper.</p> <p><i>The Chair lost connection at 10.04am and the Vice Chair took over the Chair.</i></p>
8. Young Person's Panel SNI 20 59	<p>Members received paper SNI 20 59 for noting.</p> <p>Members heard the work involved was similar to the previous panel. The NI Assembly are developing a Youth Assembly and we are working together for support. There will be specific marketing to get a whole range of young people on the panel from the sporting system inside and out.</p> <p>Members queried how this would be communicated to those young people who had literacy issues. It was advised the material was very youth friendly and we are working with schools and community groups; there will also be zoom meetings to provide a personal approach. The application process is not difficult and assistance will be provided.</p> <p>A member stated this was great and a good way to engage with this demographic and age group; very exciting especially in these times and offered assistance if necessary.</p> <p>Members noted the paper.</p>
9. Supporting Sport to Build Back Better – Sporting Clubs 2021-22 Extension SNI 20 60	<p>Members received paper SNI 20 60 for approval.</p> <p>Members heard this was a single year investment and Board approval was being sought for £1.8m lottery investment. Sporting Clubs ran from 2017 to March 2021 to support clubs. The club environment is under pressure and it was hoped this programme would provide stability in the system and help clubs deal with the pandemic and beyond.</p> <p><i>The Chair returned to the meeting at 10.08am and resumed the Chair.</i></p> <p>A member highlighted the issue of the level of volunteers within clubs. It was confirmed volunteering within the sports sector is at risk and work with clubs will be around that whole experience to help people volunteer. So much of sport relies on volunteers and we need to get that base built back up.</p>

	<p>The reality of where we are currently was discussed in terms of volunteer burn out and accessing sports clubs. In terms of sports membership numbers because of current uncertainty there is no doubt that to restore to the previous levels is the big challenge. Some sports seem to have their membership less affected than others. A member suggested we are looking for growth but maybe the focus for clubs should be more on retention and how this is nuanced to retain existing members.</p> <p>The recommendations within the paper were highlighted as approval of the programme and lottery investment and also delegate authority to the Executive Team to issue indicative letters of offer for the amounts contained within the paper.</p> <p>Members approved the recommendations within the paper.</p>
10. Sporting Winners 2020-21 Extension SNI 20 61	<p>Members received paper SNI 20 61 for approval.</p> <p>Members heard this was a single year lottery investment of £2.5m to provide continued support to performance programmes: Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games. There is a lot of uncertainty around events and their timings. It has been suggested the Olympics will go ahead in some form. This paper puts a preferred option on how we invest to keep these programmes going until we can re-engage with athletes.</p> <p>The recommendations within the paper were requesting Board members to consider the preferred option and approval for delegated authority to issue indicative letters of offer for the amounts contained within the paper.</p> <p>Members approved the recommendations within the paper.</p> <p>The Chair requested updates be provided to Board meetings on both of the approved papers.</p>
11. Delegated Decisions SNI 20 62	<p>Members received paper SNI 20 62 for approval.</p> <p>Members noted this is linked to the McBride judgement and the purpose is to seek Board approval of decisions taken since the last Board meeting.</p> <p>Members approved the decisions taken by Executive Team as outlined in the paper.</p>
12. AOB	<p>The Chair stated the quality of papers coming to the Board was excellent.</p> <p>The Chair queried whether finance, budgets and accounts were on track and this was confirmed, with no issues to report.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the question and answer process which was introduced six months ago and is working well. There were around 28 questions asked by Board members and ET put a lot of work into the questions in advance of today's meeting; these will be recorded on SharePoint. This enables Board meetings to be more focused and effective.</p>

	<p>The Chair stated the Young People's Sport and Celebrating Diversity Panels are very innovative and a key part of our corporate plan; the Chair thanked everyone involved in this work.</p> <p>The Chair asked everyone did they feel this had been a good meeting and everyone agreed.</p>
13. Date of next meeting	Thursday 17 th December, 9.30-11.30am. There will be a closed session at 8.30am to provide members with an update on restructuring.
	<p>Please see attached Schedule of 2021 Dates of Board Meetings, ARAC Meetings & Remuneration Committee Meetings</p> <p>The Vice Chair queried had room been factored into the schedule to ensure ARAC minutes were available for the next Board meeting and this was confirmed. It was also advised a number of factors including the production of Management Accounts had been taken into consideration when developing the 2021 schedule. Members approved the dates of meetings for 2021.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 10.21am.</p>

George Lucas.

Approved by: _____
Sport NI Chair

Date: 17 December 2020