



Research and Information Service Briefing Note

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Dr Dan Hull

Background briefing: Sport Northern Ireland

1 Sport Northern Ireland

Sport Northern Ireland (Sport NI) is one of DCAL's nine arms-length bodies. The body was formerly known as the Sports Council Northern Ireland. Sport NI is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body, established under the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Its stated purpose is to be the lead agency for developing sport in Northern Ireland, and with a corporate vision 'to promote a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport which contributes to a peaceful, fair and prosperous society'¹.

2 Budget

The following is a summary of the funding provided to Sport NI. This information was provided by DCAL².

¹ Sport NI website. 'About us': <http://www.sportni.net/about> Accessed 13.9.10.

² Information provided by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, 10.9.10, and included in NI Assembly Research Paper NIAR 384-10 DCAL's Arms-Length Bodies: Accountability, Governance and Resources, 13.9.10.

Income

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
DCAL budget	£12,792,528	24,184,000	25,377,000	13,283,000
Sport NI Lottery (grant-making & recharges income)	7,727,623	6,576,405	6,468,223	-
Other sources	2,103,172	1,160,007	1,025,280	-

Expenditure

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Grant spend	£15,968,477	29,518,171	27,736,311	-
Capital spend	462,799	1,373,154	4,253,556	-
Fixed asset/ collections additions	-	-	-	-
Overhead/admin costs	5,662,679	6,750,123	7,448,214	-
	22,093,955	37,641,448	35,184,525	-
Admin as proportion of overall expenditure	25.63%	17.93%	21.17%	-

In its submission to the CAL Committee on 2 June 2011, DCAL outlined its final allocations for each of its arms-length bodies³. For Sport NI, the allocation for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15 is as follows:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Sport (current)	£11,490,000	10,270,000	10,100,000	10,540,000
Sport (capital)	10,750,000	6,750,000	5,070,000	790,000
Major regional sport stadiums	1.00	20,000,000	20,000,000	69,000,000

In a written submission to the CAL Committee on 13 January 2011, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure stated the following with regard to sport⁴:

Proposed increases in Lottery Funding are likely to cushion the effects of reductions in Executive Funding over the budget period, so minimising any effects on sports participation. The draft allocation now contains a specific budget of £6m for WPFG (the World Police and Fire Games) to enable DCAL to lead on the event on behalf of the NI Executive. In respect of Special Olympics Ulster, talks with other departments to resolve funding

³ Written submission from DCAL, *Final Budget Allocations and Consultation Responses*, 25.5.11.

⁴ Written submission to the CAL Committee from Sport NI, *Draft Budget 2010 – preliminary views on the draft budget allocation*, 10.1.11.

issues are ongoing. Finally, the Department's capital allocation contains a total budget of £100m from 2012/13 onwards in respect of regional stadium development.

Describing some of the specific impacts on the organisation of the proposed budget reduction, Sport NI state in its submission to the CAL Committee in January 2011 that they are 'committed to working alongside DCAL in demonstrating real savings and greater efficiencies in administration in order to maximise, as far as possible, front-line service delivery in sport in Northern Ireland'⁵.

However, referring specifically to the investment required to deliver the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation (or *Sport Matters*), Sport NI state that they will have just 28% of the resource requirement for the next four years, and 62% of the capital budget. In particular, they draw attention to the Elite Facilities Programme, stating that 'it now seems very unlikely that the projects...will be realised' since 'most of the capital funding will be invested in the 50m pool and other inescapable commitments'. The figures proposed for Sport NI's capital programme do not include the investment of £110m in the three regional stadia, which is presented separately.

3 Sport Matters

*Sport Matters*⁶ (the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019) was developed by DCAL, in partnership with Sport NI. The strategy was approved by the Northern Ireland Executive in December 2009.

The department states that through *Sport Matters*, it aspires to achieve⁷:

- a world class start and lifelong involvement in sport and physical recreation for all people
- world class performances by teams and individuals
- a sustainable sporting and physical recreation culture that contributes to broader Government objectives

A set of 26 targets are included in the strategy, structured around the themes of participation, performance and places (these targets are listed in Annex 1).

As part of the implementation of *Sport Matters*, a Sport Matters Monitoring Group was established which is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the delivery of *Sport Matters*. This monitoring group last met on 31 March 2011.

⁵ Sport Northern Ireland. Submission to the CAL Committee, 10.1.11. *Draft Budget 2010 – preliminary views on the draft budget allocation*.

⁶ DCAL & Sport NI. 2009. *Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland strategy for sport and physical recreation 2009–2019*.

⁷ DCAL website. 'Sport matters': http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/sport/sport_matters.htm Accessed 2.6.11.

Annexe 1: List of targets outlined in *Sport Matters*¹

Target	Description
PARTICIPATION	
PA1	By 2009, to have agreed and commenced implementation of a revised research framework for participation rates that is cognisant of the recommendations of the Chief Medical officers in the UK.
PA2	By 2010 to have reviewed the economic impact of sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland.
PA3	By 2011, to have established a baseline for the number of children of compulsory school age participating in a minimum of two hours quality physical education per week.
PA4	By 2013, to have stopped the decline in adult participation in sport and physical recreation.
PA5	By 2014 to have increased the number of people in Northern Ireland in membership of at least one sports club.
PA6	By 2014 to provide every child in Northern Ireland over the age of 8 years with the opportunity to participate in at least two hours per week of extra-curricular sport and physical recreation.
PA7	By 2019 to deliver at least a 3 percentage points increase in adult participation rates in sport and physical recreation (from the 2011 baseline).
PA8	By 2019 to deliver at least a 6 percentage points increase in women's participation rates in sport and physical recreation (from the 2011 baseline).
PA9	By 2019 to deliver at least a 6 percentage points increase in participation rates in sport and physical recreation among socio-economically disadvantaged groups (from the 2011 baseline).
PA10	By 2019 to deliver at least a 6 percentage points increase in participation rates in sport and physical recreation among people with a disability (from the 2011 baseline).
PA11	By 2019 to deliver at least a 6 percentage points increase in participation in sport and physical recreation among older people (from the 2011 baseline).
PERFORMANCE	
PE12	By 2010 to have a fully operational Sports Institute that supports 100 athletes per annum to achieve 70% of their agreed annual performance targets.
PE13	By 2010 to win at least five medals at the Delhi Commonwealth Games.
PE14	By 2011 to ensure that all Sport Northern Ireland funded governing bodies and sporting organisations are 'fit for purpose' organisations.
PE15	By 2014 to win at least five medals at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.
PE16	By 2019 to have implemented nationally recognised coach accreditation systems for all Sport Northern Ireland funded governing bodies.
PE17	By 2019 at least 100 Northern Ireland athletes to have attained medal success at the highest level in their sport including European, World and Olympic/Paralympic level.
PE18	By 2019 to have accredited at least 700 appropriately qualified, full-time coaches available to meet demand across all aspects of sport and physical recreation.
PE19	By 2019 to have 45,000 appropriately qualified, part-time and volunteer coaches available to meet demand across all aspects of sport and physical recreation.
PE20	By 2019 to have secured a world class system for athlete development consisting of services, facilities and competition following the hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London 2012.
PLACES	
PL21	By 2010 to initiate a Northern Ireland certification process that will improve safety management and the fabric of the major stadiums in Northern Ireland, to comply with the Safety of Sports Grounds (Northern Ireland) Order (2006) and associated technical guidance.
PL22	By 2014, and subject to Executive approval, to have developed major sports stadiums to meet the strategic needs of Football, GAA and Rugby on an operationally viable and commercially sustainable basis in Northern Ireland.
PL23	By 2014 to have a minimum of 10 new or upgraded facilities that will support Northern Ireland player/athlete development in Olympic and Paralympic sports.
PL24	By 2015 to have amended public policy frameworks to protect and promote access to and sustainable use of publicly-owned land in Northern Ireland for sport and physical recreation.
PL25	By 2019 to ensure that 90% of the population have quality accredited, multi-sports facilities, that have the capacity to meet demand, within 20 minutes travel time.
PL26	By 2019 to ensure that all planning decisions follow Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in relation to the provision of spaces for sport and physical recreation.

¹ DCAL & Sport NI. 2009. *Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland strategy for sport and physical recreation 2009–2019*.