

Paper No.	SNI 21 07	Date	10 February 2021
From	Antoinette McKeown, CEO (SSF SRO) John News, Acting Director of Participation & Facilities (SSF Project Manager)		

Paper Title	Sport Sustainability Fund – Award Approval Framework	Security Categorisation	Official
--------------------	--	--------------------------------	----------

Status		Tick as appropriate
For Approval	<i>Approve the recommendation made in the paper</i>	
For Decision	<i>Conclusion or resolution reached after consideration of 'options' presented in the paper</i>	X
For information	<i>Facts conveyed about an area of work that will increase the Executive Team's understanding and knowledge</i>	

SUMMARY

Issue	To approve a decision-making framework that supports implementation of the Sport Sustainability Fund and enables Letters of Offer to issue to sports.
Business plan ref(s)	R1.5 - To co-design and deliver integrated investment programmes that meet the specific needs of the sporting sector in order to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic ... R1.6 - To implement the DfC Sports Hardship Fund
Financial implications	£25m (ring-fenced)
Funding source	DfC/Exchequer
Timescale	For immediate decision
Dependencies	n/a
Presentational Issues	Speed of response to support sports sector during Covid-19
Risk	Significant exchequer underspend at 31 March 2021 Failure to support sports' sector
Paper cleared by CEO	Yes
Section 75 completed	Yes (Business case & S75 screening completed by DfC; copy provided to SNI and retained for audit purposes)
Partners involved	DfC, governing bodies of sport, sports clubs
Recommendation	That Board members: a) Approve SSF awards decision-making in line with SNI Scheme of Delegation; b) Convene an Exceptional Board meeting no later than w/c 22 Feb 2021 to make decisions in respect of the Sport Sustainability Fund.

1.	BACKGROUND																
1.1	The Sports Sustainability Fund closed on 20 Jan 2021, with 42 applications brought forward for assessment and verification, requesting a total of (approx) £24.9m (within programme budget of £25m).																
1.2	Following an initial assessment last week, five applications have been deemed ineligible (requests submitted by clubs directly to SNI); where applicable, these applications have been brought forward as part of the overall governing body request.																
2.	ISSUE																
2.1	<p>A further analysis of the 38 remaining requests (governing body + club requests) indicates the following:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Request amount</th> <th>No. of requests</th> <th>SNI Scheme of Delegation</th> <th>Notes (requested amounts subject to verification)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>=>£500,000</td> <td>4</td> <td>SNI Board</td> <td>Four sports account for 86% of requested total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAA £7.4m Irish FA £6.6m Golf Ireland £5.1m UBIRFU £2.2m </td> </tr> <tr> <td>=>£100,000, <£500,000</td> <td>9</td> <td>Accounting Officer</td> <td>12% of requested total; includes athletics, cricket, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, ice hockey, motorsport, sailing, swimming</td> </tr> <tr> <td><£100,000</td> <td>25</td> <td>Grade 7</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Request amount	No. of requests	SNI Scheme of Delegation	Notes (requested amounts subject to verification)	=>£500,000	4	SNI Board	Four sports account for 86% of requested total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAA £7.4m Irish FA £6.6m Golf Ireland £5.1m UBIRFU £2.2m 	=>£100,000, <£500,000	9	Accounting Officer	12% of requested total; includes athletics, cricket, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, ice hockey, motorsport, sailing, swimming	<£100,000	25	Grade 7	
Request amount	No. of requests	SNI Scheme of Delegation	Notes (requested amounts subject to verification)														
=>£500,000	4	SNI Board	Four sports account for 86% of requested total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAA £7.4m Irish FA £6.6m Golf Ireland £5.1m UBIRFU £2.2m 														
=>£100,000, <£500,000	9	Accounting Officer	12% of requested total; includes athletics, cricket, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, ice hockey, motorsport, sailing, swimming														
<£100,000	25	Grade 7															
2.2	While the Requested Amounts remain subject to ongoing verification, 13 sports account for ~98% of total programme budget, with four sports >86%. The timelines for decision-making are therefore critical to maintain the trust and support of the sports sector.																
2.3	<p>The critical timeline for SSF during the rest of February is summarised below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Milestone</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>w/e 05 Feb</td> <td>First phase applications assessed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>w/e 12 Feb</td> <td>Deadline for receipt of clarifications</td> </tr> <tr> <td>w/e 19 Feb</td> <td>Award approvals commence in line with SNI Scheme of Delegation: <£100,000 – Director (JN, PMcC, AD) <£500,000 – CEO (AMK) =>£500,000 – SNI Board</td> </tr> <tr> <td>w/e 26</td> <td>LOOs issued to governing bodies Details of approved awards issued to SNI Finance</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Milestone	w/e 05 Feb	First phase applications assessed	w/e 12 Feb	Deadline for receipt of clarifications	w/e 19 Feb	Award approvals commence in line with SNI Scheme of Delegation: <£100,000 – Director (JN, PMcC, AD) <£500,000 – CEO (AMK) =>£500,000 – SNI Board	w/e 26	LOOs issued to governing bodies Details of approved awards issued to SNI Finance						
Date	Milestone																
w/e 05 Feb	First phase applications assessed																
w/e 12 Feb	Deadline for receipt of clarifications																
w/e 19 Feb	Award approvals commence in line with SNI Scheme of Delegation: <£100,000 – Director (JN, PMcC, AD) <£500,000 – CEO (AMK) =>£500,000 – SNI Board																
w/e 26	LOOs issued to governing bodies Details of approved awards issued to SNI Finance																
2.4	Given the critical timeline of 26 Feb (and our previous commitment to sports), the Board are asked to agree an approach for Board approvals.																
3.	OPTIONS																
3.1	<p>Following discussions with the Director of Finance & Governance, the Project Manager has identified the following options for a Board approval process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Board to delegate decision-making to Programme SRO (AMK) - given McBride Judgment, this is not recommended; Delay Board approvals until next scheduled Board meeting (14 April) – given need for rapid decision-making and commitment to sports sector to approve awards before 26 Feb, 																

	<p>this is neither feasible nor recommended as it is likely to delay a decision in respect of larger awards (>£500,000);</p> <p>3. Chairman to take the decision on behalf of the Board and report to Board at their next scheduled meeting – this is permitted within MSFM/Standing Orders;</p> <p>4. Convene a special single item agenda Board meeting (possibly w/c 22 Feb) to approve larger awards (>£500,000) – the Board did this previously (September 2020) to expedite a decision in respect of the business case for Covid Safe Sport Packs; given the constrained timelines, the Board paper may only issue 48-72 hours beforehand.</p>
3.2	<p>A decision in respect of the award approvals framework was postponed pending clarification of wider SSF governance queries between SNI & DfC; those issues have now been resolved and the Board is asked to:</p> <p>a) Approve SSF awards decision-making in line with SNI Scheme of Delegation;</p> <p>b) Agree a methodology to engage with SNI Board for decisions (86% of total requests)</p>
4.	RECOMMENDATIONS
4.1	<p>It is recommended that Board members:</p> <p>a) Approve SSF awards decision-making in line with SNI Scheme of Delegation;</p> <p>b) Convene an Exceptional Board meeting no later than w/c 22 Feb 2021 to take decisions in respect of the Sports Sustainability Fund (currently anticipated four awards and approx 86% of total Project funds).</p>