



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Information Service Briefing Note

Paper 54/12

27 February 2012

NIAR 440-11

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Sport Matters strategy: Capital requirements

Summary

*Sport Matters*¹ (the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019) was developed by DCAL in partnership with Sport NI, and was approved by the Northern Ireland Executive in December 2009. A set of 26 targets are included in the strategy, structured around the themes of participation, performance and places.

The estimated capital budget required to deliver the *Sport Matters* strategy over the next four years is £214m, while the capital investment made by DCAL for the same period is £133m (including £110m for the three stadiums). Sport NI has stated previously that there is a capital funding shortfall for sport of £81m for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15.

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

1 The Sport Matters strategy

1.1 Overview

*Sport Matters*² (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 achieve³:

- 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.

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*.

1.2 Statements regarding capital infrastructure

The *Sports Matters* strategy states that it seeks to ‘provide a lasting and sustainable legacy for future generations’.

The strategy states that in delivering against each of the 26 high level targets, it will:

- *Increase the number of children and adults experiencing, enjoying and participating in high quality sporting opportunities;*
- *Enable an increasing number of our most talented athletes to achieve at the highest level in their sport, including European, world, Commonwealth and Olympic/Paralympic competition;*
- *Ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities.*

Furthermore, the strategy states that the role of Government includes (but is not restricted to) the following:

- *Establish world class sports services that enable world class performances by Northern Ireland athletes.*
- *Establish Northern Ireland as a world class venue for sporting events*

² DCAL & Sport NI. 2009. *Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland strategy for sport and physical recreation 2009–2019*.

³ DCAL website. ‘Sport matters’: http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/sport/sport_matters.htm Accessed 2.6.11.

- *Develop and protect world class facilities and places for playing and watching sport that are accessible to all.*

A Northern Ireland Sports Facilities Strategy has indicated that 'Northern Ireland is under-provided for in comparison with other regions in the UK and Europe', and that, at the time of writing⁴,

...approximately 65% of the population in Northern Ireland live within a 20 minute travel time of an accredited, high quality multi-sport facility. The purpose of the Sports Facilities Strategy will be to ensure that future provision meets regional needs more effectively.

2 Projected capital requirements

Sport Matters sets out the resource and capital funding required to fund the strategy from 2009 to 2019. It also sets out the amount of existing investment, and the degree of shortfall that exists between requirements and current funding. These figures are as follows:

	Participation	Performance	Places	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cost of implementation	252.37	112.23	415.86	780.46
Existing investment	170.3	91.65	384.84	646.79
Net 10 year resource shortfall	82.07	20.58	31.02	133.67

Table 1: Estimated net shortfall in delivering *Sport Matters*, 2009–2019

It should be noted that these figures for the ten year period of 2009 to 2019 include an estimate of the likely investment by government and other sources. They therefore did not necessarily foresee the pressures on government spending imposed by the economic downturn.

With regard to the split between capital and resource funding, *Sport Matters* states the following⁵:

Investments under 'Participation' and 'Performance' are largely revenue, while investments required under 'Places for sport' are largely capital. On this basis, the total additional revenue expenditure required over the next ten years is approximately £103m, with a further £31m required for capital improvements.

⁴ *Sport Matters*: p44.

⁵ DCAL & Sport NI. 2009. 'The cost of delivery', *Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland strategy for sport and physical recreation 2009–2019*.

In terms of the nature of the work required under 'Places for sport', *Sport Matters* sets out a list of tasks required in order to deliver the strategy:

- The development of major sports stadiums to meet the strategic needs of Football, GAA and Rugby;
- The construction of a range of training and competition facilities for Olympic and Paralympic sports including a 50m swimming pool;
- The completion of a High Performance Centre that supports the work of the Sports Institute;
- A network of 30 accredited inclusive fitness facilities, provided by public and private operators, throughout Northern Ireland;
- Public access to, and sustainable use of, publicly-owned lands across Northern Ireland for sport, physical recreation and activity tourism;
- The mapping of all Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths throughout Northern Ireland;
- The redevelopment of Tollymore Mountain Centre as a National Centre of Excellence for adventurous outdoor activities;
- Collaborative and more effective deployment of existing resources for sports facility development within and between education, district councils and local communities to close the 'facilities gap' between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK;
- A planning system that facilitates and protects the provision of spaces for sport and physical recreation.

A full list of the targets set out in the *Sport Matters* strategy is included in Annex 2. A number of 'key steps' to achieving these targets are also set out in the strategy which, with regard to the 'places' group of targets, includes the following:

- *Provide quality assured multi-sports facilities that deliver programmes for under-represented groups;*
- *Deliver a NI-wide network of accredited inclusive fitness facilities;*
- *Develop world class facilities for Olympic and Paralympic sports;*
- *Improve safety at sports grounds and fully implement the Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006.*

In its financial planning for the Sport Matters strategy, Sport NI has set out the following plans for the period 2011/12 to 2014/15. Capital plans for the full period of the *Sport Matters* strategy (2008/09 to 2017/18) is contained in Annex 1.

KEY STEP	KEY TARGETS; COST ASSUMPTIONS	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	TOTAL for 10 year period (£/M)
Implement a Facilities Strategy that delivers the following:	Based on comparison with GB, excludes money already in the system eg District council spend on leisure centres etc	16.39	16.88	17.39	17.91	171.96
Improve sustainable access and usage of NI's natural environment for sport and physical recreation	Appoint SCNI Countryside Access Development Officer & re-develop Tollymore Mountain Centre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.10
National Park		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Develop world class facilities for Olympic and Paralympic sports		38.40	23.93	13.56	0.00	89.09
Complete the development of a High Performance Centre to support the Sports Institute		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Improve safety at sports grounds and implement Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006	Safety at Sports Grounds Monitoring Body & district council costs	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.20	1.73
	Capital works	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	22.33
Build a Multi Sports Stadium to host major sporting events		21.50	21.50	13.40	0.00	125.66
TOTAL		79.53	65.56	47.60	21.17	415.86

Table 2: Estimated investment for the 'Places for Sport' aspects of Sport Matters

However, in correspondence Sport NI has indicated that it is aware that these figures may now be out-of-date since they include, for example, estimates for a multi-sports stadium⁶.

The Sport Matters strategy also makes it clear that it is not the sole responsibility of DCAL to invest in capital infrastructure for sport and physical activity. It describes district councils, as well as the 'private, community and voluntary sectors', as significant investors also⁷. The strategy describes it as 'essential' that district councils retain existing, and develop new, income streams, in support of sport. The presentation of existing income streams presents (at the time of writing) a breakdown of relative investment, with district councils indicated as providing around 18 per cent of overall funding for places for sport.

⁶ Sport NI. Response to Assembly Research and Information Request 4.7.11. 'Strategy resources 1.5.08'.

⁷ *Sports Matters*: p7.

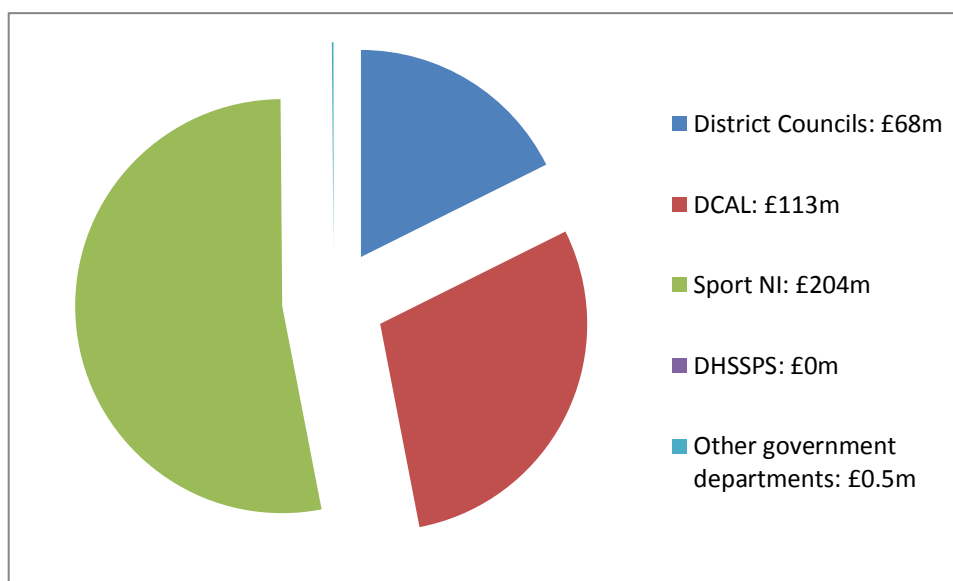


Figure 1: Proportion of funding for places for sport from different sources (figures in £m)⁸

3 Actual DCAL expenditure on sport infrastructure

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has provided the following information regarding its actual investment in capital infrastructure for sport in the years 2010/11 to 2014/15:

	2009/10 £k	2010/11 £k	2011/12 £k	2012/13 £k	2013/14 £k	2014/15 £k
50 Metre Pool	829	2,000	7,000	4,621		
Safe Sports Grounds	1,859	2,662				
Soccer Strategy	2,239	664	506			
Sport Strategy Implementation	12,774	8,656				
Sport NI Capital Assets	326	365		133	69	41
Tollymore National Outdoor Centre	3,927	340				
Sport Matters Community Sport Programme			2,500	2,000	5,000	750
Building Sport Programme			520			
Mourne Mountain Bike Track			150			
Sport Matters Capital & Equipment Programme			76			
Regional Stadium Development			1,000 ⁹ *	20,000	20,000	69,000
Total	21,954	14,687	11,752	26,754	25,069	69,791

Table 3: Breakdown of the Sport Capital Programme spend actual and projects 2009/10 to 2014/15¹⁰

⁸ Figures taken from *Sport Matters*: p49.

⁹ DCAL has indicated that Sport NI identified slippage of £567,000 of the £1,000,000 allocated to Regional Stadium Development in 2011/12.

4 Estimated funding shortfall

Sport NI has stated that during the Comprehensive Spending Review period 2011/12 to 2014/15, the capital investment required to deliver the 'Places for Sport' elements of the Sport Matters strategy would be £81m short of requirements. In a written submission to the CAL Committee on 10 January 2011, it was stated that¹¹:

*In total Sport Matters identified a resource requirement of £152m over the period 2011–15. The draft resource budget for SNI over these four years is £42m, which represents 28% of the resource requirement for implementing Sport Matters. **The draft SNI capital budget for the same period is £133m (including £110m for the three stadiums). When this is compared to the Sport Matters requirement of £214m, this suggests a shortfall of £81m (38%) before potential contributions of other stakeholders are quantified and confirmed.***

The final budget allocation presented by DCAL for the capital budget for sport for the next four years, in comparison to 2010/11, is as follows¹²:

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Sport NI	21.41	10.75	6.75	5.07	0.79
Major regional sports stadiums	10.37	1.00	20.00	20.00	69.00

Table 4: DCAL final budget allocation for Sport NI and the major regional sports stadiums

¹⁰ Information provided by DCAL following an information request (DCAL ref: GM/1206/2011).

¹¹ Written submission to the CAL Committee from Sport NI, *Draft Budget 2010 – preliminary views on the draft budget allocation*, 10.1.11.

¹² Written submission from DCAL, *Final Budget Allocations and Consultation Responses*, 25.5.11.

Annex 1: Sport NI estimates regarding Sport Matters capital investment, 2008/09 – 2017/18

£/m (per annum)												
KEY STEP	KEY TARGETS; COST ASSUMPTIONS	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	TOTAL (£/M)
Implement a Facilities Strategy that delivers the following:	Based on comparison with GB, excludes money already in the system eg District council spend on leisure centres etc	15.00	15.45	15.91	16.39	16.88	17.39	17.91	18.45	19.00	19.57	171.96
Improve sustainable access and usage of NI's natural environment for sport and physical recreation	Appoint SCNI Countryside Access Development Officer & re-develop Tollymore Mountain Centre	1.23	3.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.10
National Park		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Develop world class facilities for Olympic and Paralympic sports		1.44	3.63	8.13	38.40	23.93	13.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.09
Complete the development of a High Performance Centre to support the Sports Institute		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Improve safety at sports grounds and implement Safety of Sports Grounds (NI) Order 2006	Safety at Sports Grounds Monitoring Body & district council costs	0.00	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.21	0.22	1.73
	Capital works	4.62	5.08	0.40	3.06	3.06	3.06	3.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.33
Build a Multi Sports Stadium to host major sporting events		10.00	28.90	30.36	21.50	21.50	13.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.66
TOTAL		32.28	57.09	54.98	79.53	65.56	47.60	21.17	18.65	19.21	19.79	415.86

Annex 2: List of targets outlined in *Sport Matters*¹³

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.

¹³ DCAL & Sport NI. 2009. *Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009–2019*: <http://nia1.me/rb>

