



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Review of Support for Sport
Date:	12 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer Ian Nuttall, Funding and Monitoring Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At the Parks and Leisure Committee meeting on 10 September 2009, Members granted officers authority to undertake a review of the Support for Sport scheme with a view to maximising the impact of this funding.
1.2	At a further meeting of the Committee on 15 April 2010, Members approved draft terms of reference for the review, to be undertaken internally, with the following aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to determine the scheme's effectiveness as a means of promoting participation in physical activity and providing support to sports clubs and relevant community organisations, and• to ensure the scheme aligns with current and future council and departmental strategies, aims and objectives.
1.3	The following is a summary of the key elements of the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• review of similar funding to establish best practice;• review of the scheme's 'fit' with existing and emerging strategies and plans;• assessment of the impact of support for sport to date;• review of the current governance and administration of the scheme;• assessment of the level of complementarity/conflict with other relevant funding streams; and• engagement with user groups, elected representatives and other relevant stakeholders on the review.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The review of Support for Sport commenced in June 2010. As part of the

process, stakeholders were consulted at a series of workshops and also via a questionnaire in October and November 2010. Members' views were sought in early February 2011 following a presentation on the consultation outcomes. A copy of the presentation is included in Appendix 3.

The results of the review are contained in the draft report 'Review of Support for Sport, February 2011' which is provided at Appendix 1.

2.2 The principal outcomes of the review are a number of recommendations for changes to the scheme. These are summarised in the following table, along with an indication of progress:

Summary of Recommendations	Progress
Establishment of aims and required outcomes relating to participation of target groups and the overarching departmental and corporate themes.	Complete Provided in Appendix 2
Review of all application material including development of on-line facility	Partially complete, provided in Appendix 2 See proposals below, para 2.5
Revision of the application and award process with the development of a framework to allow regular evaluation of the scheme	Partially complete, see proposals below, para 2.5
Appropriate to address imbalances in funding allocation	Complete
Reinforcement of guidance to prevent double funding	Complete
Further consultation will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders at an interim period (6 months) following the rollout of the proposed changes	Planned – October 2012
An element of funding should be directed to individuals competing at the highest level	See proposals below, para 2.7
The aims and objectives of hospitality grants should be reviewed	See proposals below, para 2.8
The system of retrospective payments should be review and full or part payments investigated	See proposals below, para 2.6
Consideration of the possibility of working with appropriate governing bodies on reduced rate coaching award courses	Agreed by DMT as not viable
Encourage the achievement of ClubMark	See proposals below, para 2.9

2.3 Recommendations made by Audit Governance and Risk Services in their review of governance, as detailed in Appendix 1, apply to aspects of the

internal administration of the scheme, and are being followed up by officers and will be implemented accordingly.

2.4 In order to implement those recommendations from the report relating to on-line application, evaluation, advanced payment, funding of individuals, hospitality grants and ClubMark, a number of changes to the scheme are proposed, as set out below.

Current Support for Sport Scheme		Revised Support for Sport Scheme	
Large Grants	£60,000	Large Grants	£60,000
Small Grants	£120,000	Small Grants	£120,000
Individual Grants	£0	Individual Grants	£15,000
Hospitality	£31,000	Hospitality	£20,000
Contingency	£14,000	Contingency	£10,000
Total	£225,000	Total	£225,000

2.6 *On-line application/evaluation* – it is proposed that an evaluation framework supported by an on-line application form and post-activity report is developed which allows ‘automatic’ capture and analysis of data to assist with ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the scheme.

2.7 *Advanced payment* – it is proposed that the small development grants programme makes advanced payments of 50% to grant recipients, to a maximum of £500, and makes 100% advance payments of £250 equipment grants. This reflects current practice with grants in other departments, and will help to alleviate cash flow problems within clubs – one of the main issues raised during consultation.

2.8 *Hospitality* – the desk-top research conducted as part of the review highlighted that no other council provides a hospitality funding stream. The analysis further shows that the fund does not meet our health and wellbeing outcomes nor it does not deliver on our aspirations for support for sport and also has a significant administrative burden.

2.9 An analysis of past allocation of the hospitality fund suggests that a substantial amount goes to local clubs hosting friendly events rather than International events. It is therefore proposed to return to the original aims of the fund and focus on bringing high profile events and large numbers of visitors to Belfast. In addition it is proposed to reduce the hospitality fund to £20,000 from the current £31,000 and reallocate the £11,000 to a fund for individual athletes (as discussed in para 2.9).

2.10 The following criteria would be applied to prospective events (seeking hospitality fund support):

- Bringing <50 visitors to the city – not eligible for a grant
- >50 visitors but <100 – £1,000 maximum allowable grant
- >100 visitors but <200 – £2,000 maximum allowable grant

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >200 visitors – £3,000 maximum allowable grant. • Club Centenary Celebrations – £1,000 maximum allowable grant
2.11	Where practicable, all events should be held at the City Hall. Events for special achievements/successes would be invited to use the Lord Mayor’s Parlour. If Members are not supportive of a fund for individuals it is proposed that the £11,000 be reallocated to the Large Development Grants.
2.12	<i>Individuals</i> - it is proposed that an award scheme be developed for individuals who fall into a funding gap between the SportNI or Mary Peters Trust funds by allocating 15 athletes (Belfast residents) with awards of £1,000. Some athletes just miss out on the performance standards set by SportNI but are still competing on the world or Commonwealth stage and also are not eligible to apply for Mary Peters Trust.
2.13	Athletes would be nominated by national governing bodies as among the top performers in their sport, those already receiving funding from SportNI or Mary Peters would not be eligible to apply. The athletes would be role models for young aspiring performers and would carry certain commitments such as appearances, workshops, blogs etc. This would be funded by re-directing part of both the current Hospitality Grant and Contingency budgets (£11,000 and £4,000 respectively). A draft copy of the Individual application form is included in Appendix 4
2.14	<p><i>Clubmark</i> - it is proposed that the following annual payments are made to successful clubs achieving and maintaining the ClubMark quality standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bronze Award - £500; - Silver- £750; and - Gold - £1,000. <p>It is anticipated that up to 20 clubs will potentially achieve ClubMark in 2012/13 and this would be funded through the small development grants.</p>
2.15	It is proposed that a management plan will be implemented by the Leisure Development Unit to ensure effective implementation of all changes to the scheme. It is also proposed that further consultation will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders at six months after implementation of the above changes.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>It is expected that the development of a web-based application/reporting facility will be developed internally by ISB.</p> <p>The overall scheme budget for awards will remain the same at £225,000, but there will be a re-allocation of £15,000 from the hospitality grant and contingency budgets to grants for individuals.</p>

3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> There will be no additional human resources required at this stage.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no implications at this stage. However, equality screening of the recommended changes will be undertaken, internally, in line with the council's processes.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	Committee is asked to approve the proposed changes to the support for sport scheme for subsequent implementation by 1 April 2012 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advance payment of 50% of total funding; • an on-line application form is developed; • hospitality grant is re-focused and reduced to £20,000; • an individual grant of £15,000 is developed with relocated funds from hospitality (£11,000) and contingency (£1k); and • an award system is investigated for accredited ClubMark.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Report to Committee in November 2012 providing the results of further consultation undertaken at six months after implementation of the proposed changes to the scheme.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Review of Support for Sport, February 2011 Appendix 2 – Copy of Support for Sport aims and guidance notes Appendix 3 – Copy of presentation to Members, February 2011 Appendix 4 – Copy of draft application for individual grants.