

FROM THE MINISTER

5 December 2011

Our Ref. SUB 1016/2011

Mr Peter Mc Naney  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

*Andrew*

*① Can you draw to*

*the attention of your Committee*

*of central government*

*② Tell me on our*

*response / action in relation to the strategy*



Department of  
**Culture, Arts  
and Leisure**

[www.dcalni.gov.uk](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk)

MANYSTRIE O

**Fowkgates, Airts  
an Aisedom**

AN ROINN

**Cultúir, Ealaíon  
agus Fóillíochta**

Causeway Exchange

1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast BT2 7EG

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9051 5202

Text phone: +44 (0) 28 9052 7668

email: [private.office@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@dcalni.gov.uk)

Chief Executive's Office		
Date	7/12/11	
Seen by	CY	
Referred to		
ACX	Corp Comms	Dem Serv
GR	SPP	Bus Supp.
Dev	F&R	H&ES
P&L	P&P	Other
Ref	McN 25/12	

### SPORT MATTERS: STRATEGY FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION, 2009-2019

You may be aware that, in 2009, the Executive approved a new ten year strategy for sport and physical recreation in the north of Ireland entitled Sport Matters. This strategy was developed by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) in partnership with Sport NI.

District councils, as you know, have statutory responsibility for recreational and sporting provision within their local areas. Councils were therefore closely consulted on the development of Sport Matters prior to its approval by the Executive. Moreover, Sport Matters explicitly recognises the crucial role councils play, along with other stakeholders, in sport and recreational delivery. Indeed, you may be aware of the contributions that district councils - through a range of representative bodies such as NILGA, SOLACE and CLOA - are making already in terms of implementing this strategy.

At present, and following this year's council elections, I am writing to all Council Chief Executives to ask if they could arrange to draw the content of this letter to the attention of their next council standing committee meeting. I am also alerting Chief Executives that SportNI, which is facilitating Sport Matters' implementation on my behalf, will be running, over the next few months, a series of value of sport road shows across the north. At least one of these road shows is expected to take place either in, or close by, your council area. Up to date information on plans for road shows may be obtained from SportNI at the House of Sport, Upper Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5LA (Tel: 028 90 381 222; E-mail: [info@sportni.net](mailto:info@sportni.net))

You should note that I am writing, in similar terms to Council mayors, and have advised them that I have written to their Chief Executives to ask that they draw this issue to the attention of their respective standing committees.

In the meantime, I enclose a copy of Sport Matters. Sport Matters can, of course, be downloaded from DCAL's web site at [http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/sport/sport\\_matters.htm](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/sport/sport_matters.htm). Should you have any further queries with regard to this letter, your office can contact Ciarán Mee, Sports Branch in DCAL (Tel: 02890 515 086; E-mail: [ciaran.mee@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:ciaran.mee@dcalni.gov.uk)).

I trust you find this information helpful.

Is mise le meas

CARÁL NÍ CHUILÍN.

**CARÁL NÍ CHUILÍN MLA**  
**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure**