



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Update on development of a boxing strategy for the city
Date:	14 June 2012
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, Parks and Leisure
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1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Members will be aware that we are currently developing a boxing strategy for the city in partnership with Co Antrim Boxing, Ulster Boxing Council (UBC), Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) and the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA).</p> <p>The Committee agreed the proposed approach at its meeting in March 2012 and since then the steering group has been established and has met twice.</p> <p>The first stage of the process was to undertake a baseline assessment to help us to get a clear picture of what boxing clubs are currently doing and how boxing as a sport is provided for in the city. To inform the baseline assessment it was agreed that a questionnaire be sent to all the boxing clubs in Belfast and those on the periphery. A questionnaire was designed by Belfast City Council officers with input from members of the steering group. Advice was sought from the Council's Equality Officer to ensure that correct questions were asked to assist in the equality screening of the draft strategy.</p> <p>The findings of the survey are outlined in the next section.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	A mailing list of 27 clubs in Belfast and 4 on the periphery (2 in Newtownabbey and 2 in Lisburn council areas) was drawn up by Co

Antrim Boxing and the questionnaire was sent out on 12 March 2012. The closing date for the return of the completed questionnaire was Friday 6 April 2012.

Belfast City Council officers offered assistance to complete the questionnaire and this was taken up by several clubs. As not all clubs had responded by the closing date, further contact was made with these clubs to encourage them to respond.

Response rate

Twenty seven of the thirty one clubs completed the questionnaire which equates to an overall response rate of 87.1%. Twenty five of the Belfast based clubs returned the questionnaire, with one non response and one club declining to complete the form. At the steering group meeting to discuss the survey findings it was confirmed that neither of these clubs are currently affiliated to the IABA. This equates to a 92.6% response rate from Belfast based clubs. Two of the four clubs from outside the Belfast City Council area returned a completed questionnaire.

Key findings

The detailed findings from the analysis of the returned questionnaires include the following:

Membership

- Total membership across the clubs that responded is 1,954
- 79.5% are males
- 10 clubs have members from an 'Irish Traveller' background
- 9 clubs have at least one member who is Polish
- Two thirds of clubs think their membership will increase over the next 2 years
- Reasons include a growing interest in boxing and the impact of London 2012
- 30% of clubs think their membership will stay the same
- Main reasons are not having sufficient facilities or equipment to expand
- A third of clubs attract their members from the local area
- 19% attract their members from across Belfast and from areas outside it

Coaching and volunteering

- All clubs offer local and national competitive opportunities
- Less than half the clubs offer specific sessions for U11 girls or female only sessions
- The clubs have a total of 195 coaches
- 63% of them have Level 1 coaching qualification
- 22% are awaiting formal training
- 8 coaches are not Access NI vetted
- 77.8% of clubs have volunteers
- Limited training is offered to volunteers
- 29% of volunteers are not Access NI vetted

	<p>Governance and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 20% of clubs do not have a management committee • Every club has a secretary but several do not have more than one or two officers • Two clubs do not have a constitution • While the majority of clubs have policies in place several clubs do not have all the necessary policies in place <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main sources of funding for clubs in members' subs or fundraising • 48% of clubs have an annual income of under £5,000 • 13 clubs have received grants from BCC • 7 clubs have received grants from Sport NI • Two thirds of clubs have received grants that are under £1,000 only 4 clubs have received a grant over £10,000 <p>Facilities and equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 3 clubs own their own building • The majority of clubs (56%) have a long term lease on a building • The majority of clubs don't have facilities for females • The condition of facilities tends to be poor and there is limited access for people with a disability • Over 20% of clubs don't have a fixed ring • One club doesn't have either a fixed or portable ring • All clubs have punch bags • Only one club doesn't have gloves, sparing gloves or head guards • The majority of clubs said their equipment was in average or poor condition <p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>The next stage of the process will be the drafting of the strategy which will be undertaken over the summer. The steering group will meet over this period to share information and provide comment on the initial drafts.</p> <p>We will also develop action plans under 3 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management/governance • Sports development • Capital investment <p>The draft strategy will be brought to the September 2012 committee meeting for approval. Following Council approval a 12 week period of public consultation will take place on the draft strategy.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>At this stage no financial resources attached to the development of the</p>

	<p>strategy and resources to cover meetings etc are included within the department's development budget.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Officer time on an ongoing basis</p> <p><u>Asset and other Implications</u> None at this stage.</p>
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4.	Equality and good relations implications
	The development of the strategy will be subject to ongoing equality screening.

5.	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to note the findings from the survey of boxing clubs.

6.	Decision Tracking
	The draft strategy will be brought to Committee in September 2012 – Policy and Business Development Officer.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>IABA – Irish Amateur Boxing Association</p> <p>SNI – Sport Northern Ireland</p> <p>UBC – Ulster Boxing Council</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	None.