



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Sport NI's Consultation on the Boxing Investment Programme
Date:	10 January 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer

1.0 Relevant Background Information

In November 2012 Sport NI (SNI) commenced a public consultation on its Boxing Investment Programme.

The Boxing Investment Programme is a lottery funded programme supporting the purchase of boxing equipment and upgrading of facilities for boxing clubs in Northern Ireland.

SNI, through the Boxing Investment Programme, will award approximately £3.27 million for the purchase of boxing equipment and a range of building works based on the needs of individual boxing clubs. SNI will seek to allocate funding for equipment in the financial year (2012/13) with funding for building works being made available in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

To augment a survey carried out by the Ulster Provisional Boxing Council as part of the development of their Implementation Plan and to gather intelligence to assist with further programme development, SNI carried out an expression of interest exercise. An expression of interest form was sent to all clubs that had been, or are presently affiliated to the Irish Amateur Boxing Association in the following years:

- 2009/10
- 2010/11
- 2011/12
- 2012/13

	<p>99 expressions of interest have been received (from across NI) to date with the following summary outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All clubs have identified a need for equipment based on a closed list of equipment provided by the IABA. • In total 58 clubs have identified a need for a capital project (either repairs or major capital works). <p>Expressions of interest have identified a clear need for funding equipment and capital works.</p> <p>The funding will be available in three tranches:</p> <p>Tranche 1 - Boxing Equipment SNI will make up to £232,000 available for the supply of boxing equipment to individual clubs. The IABA will be asked to submit an application based on the information gathered through the expression of interest exercise. The Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) will assist the IABA and SNI with the procurement of this sporting equipment.</p> <p>Tranche 2 - Minor Repairs SNI will seek applications from individual clubs to assist with premises repairs to their club facilities. These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toilets; • showers; • changing Rooms; • roofing; • heating systems; and • other identified repair works. <p>Tranche 3 – Major Works SNI will seek applications from individual clubs to assist with major refurbishment projects or new capital build projects.</p> <p>As Members will be aware the Council recently agreed a Draft Amateur Boxing Strategy for Belfast and we are currently undertaking public consultation on it. A representative from Sport NI is on the steering group which oversaw the development of this strategy.</p>
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2.0	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>The SNI consultation document is provided at Appendix 1.</p> <p>In summary, the consultation asks for responses to six questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you agree with the proposal to invest in boxing? • Do you agree there should be a focus on deprived communities in terms of boxing investment? • Do you agree that the results of the Expression of Interest exercise identify a clear need for funding both equipment and capital works with boxing? • Do you agree with SNI's proposal to fund a range of initiatives as follows: boxing equipment, minor repairs and major works?
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- Do you agree with SNI's proposal to only support boxing clubs currently affiliated to an AIBA (International Boxing Association) recognised boxing governing body?
- Do you agree that capital projects should be 100% funded?

With all questions respondents were asked to give alternative proposals if they did not agree. Respondents were also asked to provide any other comments they would like SNI to consider.

Following consideration by relevant officers across the Council, a response has been completed in draft form for approval by Members. This is provided as Annex 1 (p15) to the consultation document which is attached as appendix 1 to this report.

In summary the draft response welcomes the investment in amateur boxing. Based on the work officers undertook as part of the development of the Council's draft Amateur Boxing Strategy for Belfast we agree that there should be a focus on deprived communities in terms of boxing investment. The baseline assessment also showed that there is a clear need for funding both equipment and capital works within boxing but that there is also a need for resources to be directed to support clubs in improving their governance and management structures and providing further training for coaches and volunteers.

We agree in principle that the allocation of public money for equipment and capital grants should be to clubs that are affiliated to a recognised governing body as this gives assurance that a club is operating to a high standard, has the correct policies and procedures in place and offers progression pathways for its members. However it is recognised that in some cases it may be possible to support new clubs and established clubs working towards affiliation with 'in-kind' funding to allow them to develop. Within our draft response we ask that SNI consider issues around tenure and that they take cognisance of the draft Amateur Boxing Strategy for Belfast in the delivery of their boxing investment programme.

Subject to approval by Council, it is proposed that the final response is submitted to SNI by 8 February 2013.

SNI has also equality screened the Boxing Investment Programme and a copy of this form is attached as appendix 2. SNI have asked for comments on their screening by 19 February 2013.

SNI has not provided a template for responses so it is proposed that an email outlining the following comments is sent to SNI:

- Belfast City Council (BCC) believes that the Sport NI Equality Screening document adequately picks up the main issue regarding affiliation with the IABA and the impact on this for people from the PUL community regarding their participation in the sport and possible national representation.
- BCC has collated information on the involvement of people from

	<p>the various Section 75 groups in boxing as part of the baseline assessment undertaken as part of the development of its strategy and it believes that SNI would find this of use as a data source as a part of its EQIA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCC agrees that the investment in amateur boxing will have a positive impact on the number of females getting involved in the sport. Women’s boxing is continuing to grow in popularity and its inclusion at the London 2012 Olympics and the success of Irish and British female boxers in winning medals has increased its profile. The main barrier identified in our baseline assessment to increasing female participation was a lack of suitable facilities and this investment will help to address this issue. • BCC agrees that the investment in amateur boxing will have a positive impact on the number of people from a minority ethnic background getting involved in the sport. The evidence from the baseline assessment undertaken showed that the majority of clubs in Belfast had members from a range of racial groups including Irish Travellers and Eastern European countries. • BCC agrees that the investment in amateur boxing will have a positive impact on the number of people with a disability getting involved in the sport. The evidence from the baseline assessment undertaken showed that very few clubs had accessible facilities and this investment will help to address this issue. <p>Subject to approval by Council, it is proposed that an email outlining the comments above is submitted to SNI by 19 February 2013.</p>
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3.0	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> None required at present</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None required at present</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage.</p>

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	Sport NI have equality screened the Boxing Investment Programme and this has shown that a full EQIA will be required.

5.0	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note the contents of this report; (ii) Approve submission of a final consultation response to SNI, subject to any comments or amendment provided, by the deadline of 8 February 2013; and (iii) Approve the comments relating to the equality screening of the Boxing Investment Programme, subject to any comments or amendment provided, which will be emailed to SNI by the deadline of 19 February 2013.

6.0	Decision Tracking
	N/A

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
	SNI – Sport Northern Ireland AIBA - International Boxing Association BCC – Belfast City Council EQIA – Equality Impact Assessment PUL – Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist

8.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Consultation Document including draft response Appendix 2 – Section 75 Screening Form