



**Boxing Investment
Programme Consultation
Document**

**Boxing Investment
Programme**

BOXING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

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Sport Northern Ireland: Background

Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) is a non-departmental public body accountable to the Northern Ireland Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL).

SNI's Vision is:

“a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport which contributes to a peaceful, fair and prosperous society”.

SNI will work with partners to:

- Increase and sustain committed participation, especially amongst young people and underrepresented groups;
- Raise the standards of sporting excellence and promote the good reputation and efficient administration of sport; and
- Achieve SNI's aims by developing the competencies of its staff who are dedicated to optimising the use of its resources.

SNI operates a range of programmes and initiatives that may offer support to your organisation.

These funding programmes and initiatives are periodically reviewed. Please refer to the SNI website at www.sportni.net for the most up to date information.

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.

What funding is available?

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.

What is the strategic focus?

The Boxing Investment Programme has the ability to contribute to a number of key strategic documents, such as:

- Programme for Government 2011-15, Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister;
- Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy For Northern Ireland, 2006;
- Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998;
- Sport Matters: Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019, Sport Northern Ireland and Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure;
- Corporate Plan and Balanced Scorecard 2011 – 2015, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure;
- Corporate Plan 2012-2015, Sport Northern Ireland;

Specifically, with regards to boxing, the Boxing Investment Programme will seek to meet the equipment and facility needs of individual clubs as identified in the following documents:

- Strategic Plan 2011-2016, Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA);
- Implementation Plan for the IABA National Strategy 2011-2016, Ulster Provisional Boxing Council (UPBC); and
- SNI Investment in Amateur Boxing Business Case 2012 - 2015.

What are the Programme Aims and Objectives?

Programme Aim

SNI aims to develop a funding programme specifically targeted at addressing the strategic equipment and facility needs of boxing clubs that operate at the core of deprived communities across Northern Ireland.

Programme Objectives

The measurable objectives of the Programme are:

1. To develop and implement a capital funding Programme to ensure there is adequate equipment and ancillary facilities in up to 70 boxing clubs over the period 2012-2015. The following equipment/capital splits are indicative of possible support:
 - **Up to 70 clubs to receive funding for new equipment;**
 - **Up to 50 clubs to receive funding for premises repairs; and**
 - **Up to 6 clubs to receive funding for major capital works.**
2. To increase member participation by 10% from 1,995 boxers to 2,195 boxers by 2015;
3. To increase female participation by 20% from approximately 219 boxers to approximately 263 boxers by 2015;
4. To contribute to improved longer term outcomes of social regeneration of deprived communities and improvements in the health and mental well-being of local communities by 2020.

What are the equipment and facility needs of the clubs?

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

99 expressions of interest have been received to date with the following summary outcomes:

- 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).

Expressions of interest have identified a clear need for funding equipment and capital works.

What are the programme elements?

Based on the assessment of need, funding will be available in three tranches.

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.

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Tranche 2 - Minor Repairs

SNI will seek applications from individual clubs to assist with premises repairs to their club facilities. These will include:

- Toilets;
- Showers;
- Changing Rooms;
- Roofing;
- Heating systems;
- Other identified repair works.

Tranche 3 – Major Works

SNI will seek applications from individual clubs to assist with major refurbishment projects or new capital build projects.

A timeline for the delivery of tranches 1, 2 and 3 is shown below.

Boxing Investment Programme – Delivery Timescales

| DELIVERY TIMESCALE | Activity | Delivery Partners | Q3 2012 | Q4 2012 | Q1 2013 | Q2 2013 | Q3 2013 | Q4 2013 | Q1 2014 | Q2 2014 | Q3 2014 | Q4 2014 | Q1 2015 | Q2 2015 | Q3 2015 | Q4 2015 |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| BIP Tranche 1 - Equipment | Expression of Interest Exercise | SNI/IABA | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Collation of returns and Procurement Exercise | SNI/IABA/CPD | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Letter of Offer and distribution of equipment | SNI/IABA/CPD | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | |
| BIP Tranche 2 - Minor Works | Procurement of technical consultant | SNI/IABA/CPD | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Technical Scoping Exercise / Programme Development | SNI/IABA/CPD | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Call for applications / assessment of applications | SNI/IABA/CPD | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| | Awards made and procurement of technical consultants and contractors | SNI/IABA/CPD /APPLICANT | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | |
| | Construction period and completion | SNI/IABA/CPD /APPLICANT | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | |
| BIP Tranche 3 - Major Works | Technical Scoping Exercise / Programme Development | SNI/IABA/CPD | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Call for applications / assessment of applications | SNI/IABA/CPD | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | |
| | Awards made and procurement of technical consultants and contractors | SNI/IABA/CPD /APPLICANT | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | |
| | Completion of Project Management Requirements | SNI/IABA/CPD /APPLICANT | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | |
| | Construction period and completion | SNI/IABA/CPD /APPLICANT | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | |

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Funding Allocations

The funding allocation between Tranche 2 and Tranche 3 will be finalised after a scoping visit to interested clubs by a technical consultant. This technical consultant will identify the priority capital requirements of each club and provide an approximate costing.

Funding Guidelines

SNI will develop guidelines for Tranche 2 and Tranche 3 including:

- Maximum award available;
- Range of eligible works;
- Statutory and legal requirements.

Based on previous experience of SNI capital funding schemes, it is likely that the Boxing Investment Programme will be oversubscribed for the funds available. In response to this demand against limited funds available it will be necessary to set indicative upper limits for awards.

SNI can fund up to 100% of the total project costs, however applicants will have to demonstrate partnership funding where total project costs exceed the maximum award available.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

Tranche 1

The boxing equipment award will be the subject of a single application from the IABA. It will not be open to individual clubs. Based on the equipment needs identified through the expression of interest exercise the IABA will submit an application directly to SNI.

If successful an award will be made and the IABA and SNI will work directly with CPD to procure the required equipment which will be delivered directly to the clubs. Consistent with all SNI club based investment programmes, clubs must be located in Northern Ireland and be affiliated to an internationally recognised governing body for boxing¹ at the time of the award to avail of the equipment.

As part of this process the application from the IABA will undergo eligibility and criteria assessment as per standard SNI applications.

These include:

- Properly constituted organisation, which does not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race and ethnicity, religious belief, political opinion, marital status, having or not having dependants or sexual orientation, and is not for profit;
- Good governance structures with evidence of equality and child protection policies;
- Financial position;
- Financial need demonstrated for the award;
- Demonstration of need for equipment based on club membership numbers.

Tranche 2 and Tranche 3

¹ An internationally recognised governing body is a governing body that is recognised by and affiliated to the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA).

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Tranches 2 and 3 will call for individual applications from clubs which will be assessed under a 'challenge fund' principle. The guidelines and procedures for these tranches are still at a developmental stage with information on facility requirements currently being gathered from boxing clubs.

When applications are called for it is anticipated that the following eligibility and assessment criteria will be used:

Eligibility Criteria

- Located in Northern Ireland;
- Properly constituted organisation, which does not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race and ethnicity, religious belief, political opinion, marital status, having or not having dependants or sexual orientation, and is not for profit;
- Good governance structures with evidence of equality and child protection policies;
- Financial position;
- Financial need demonstrated for the award;
- Evidence of appropriate security of tenure;
- Affiliated to an AIBA (International Amateur Boxing Association) recognised governing body for boxing.

Assessment Criteria

- Strategic fit – the project should complement the strategic plans of the club's governing body.
- Sport development – the applicant should have a sport development structure in place that meets the performance and participation needs of its members.
- Facility need – the applicant has to demonstrate a need for capital works based on health and safety and/or sporting requirements.

How will the Boxing Investment Programme be managed?

The programme will be delivered within the remit of SNI. SNI and the IABA have developed a project steering group to oversee the delivery of the Boxing Investment Programme and investment decisions will be taken by the SNI Council. On-going procurement advice will be sought from CPD.

Monitoring

Monitoring will observe the extent to which resources are being used as planned, and benefits being delivered as projected. Monitoring of the programme will be undertaken in line with the SNI Monitoring Policy. The Monitoring of this programme will consist of two phases, namely 'During Implementation' and 'After Completion'. It will be the responsibility of the boxing clubs and the IABA to provide monitoring returns to the SNI Monitoring Officer.

Equality of Opportunity (Section 75)

SNI as a public body are required to screen all new or revised policy programmes in terms of their impact on Section 75 legislation.

Screening is applied to programmes in line with the Guide to the Statutory Duties - A guide to the implementation of the statutory duties on public authorities arising from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 - Revised February 2005.

The Boxing Investment Programme was screened by SNI and a decision was taken that an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is required. SNI will be responsible for carrying out this EQIA.

Customer Service Standards

If you contact us for any reason you become one of our customers. This Customer Charter is a guide to the level of service you can expect.

We have agreed this charter to ensure the best possible service and high standards of customer care.

1. We seek the views of our customers and partners and take account of them in our work.
2. We take account of the needs of our customers and respond to their diverse interests.
3. We ensure that we are easily contactable and answer telephone, e-mail and letter communications promptly and efficiently, taking account of differing communication needs.
4. We aim to achieve high standards of professional conduct.
5. We aim to be open, accountable, and transparent reflecting the highest standards of public accountability.
6. We aim to provide clear and relevant information, guidance and feedback.
7. For each of our award funding programmes we aim to provide clear, concise information throughout the process.
8. We aim to process award applications effectively and efficiently.
9. We operate both a complaints and review process.
10. We monitor our customer service performance level.

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with the service you have received from Sport NI you may make a complaint. Complaint procedures will be issued with Tranche 2 and Tranche 3 guidelines.

Reviews

SNI's review procedures will be detailed within Tranche 2 and Tranche 3 guidelines.

Further Redress

If you feel that we have not dealt with your complaint in a satisfactory manner, you can contact the Commissioner for Complaints (Ombudsman). The Ombudsman is totally independent of Sport NI and can be contacted at the following address:

The Ombudsman
Freepost
Belfast
BT1 6RR

Tel: 0800 343 424 (freephone)
028 9023 4912

The Ombudsman will normally expect you to have raised the complaint with us before referring to him.

Freedom of Information

Any data gathered by SNI in relation to this programme will be held in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Applicants should note that in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information regarding both successful and unsuccessful applications may be made available to the public via the world wide web and a variety of publications.

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Contact details for SNI

Boxing Investment Programme

T: 028 9038 3834

Sport Northern Ireland

F: 028 9038 3822

Mailing address:

Boxing Investment Programme
Sport Northern Ireland
House of Sport
2a Upper Malone Road
Belfast
BT9 5LA

E: williamdevlin@sportni.net

Web: www.sportni.net

**This document is available in other
accessible formats on request.**

Annex 1

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Do you agree with the proposal to invest in boxing? If you do not agree, do you have any alternative proposals?

Answer - Belfast City Council is in agreement with the proposal to invest in boxing. Belfast has a proud tradition of boxing and our boxing clubs across the city continue to produce talented boxers. The success of Belfast boxers in winning two bronze medals at London 2012 has further raised the profile of boxing. Boxing also plays an important role in the life of communities across the city, many of them in socially deprived areas. We have recognised the important role that boxing plays in the life of the city and have with key partners including the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA), the Ulster Boxing Council (UBC), Co Antrim Boxing and Sport NI (SNI) developed a draft 10 year strategy for the development of amateur boxing in Belfast which is currently out for consultation.

• Do
you

agree there should be a focus on deprived communities in terms of boxing investment? If you do not agree, do you have any alternative proposals?

Answer – As part of our analysis in the development of the amateur boxing strategy we mapped the location of boxing clubs in Belfast against the 2010 Multiple Deprivation and Health Deprivation Measures. This work showed that the majority of clubs in Belfast (90%) are ranked within the 20% most deprived in Northern Ireland. Research by the IABA also shows that boxing has a significant reach into disadvantaged areas. Therefore we agree that 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? If you do not agree, do you have any alternative proposals?

Answer – Sufficient detail is not provided on the findings from the Expression of Interest exercise to allow us to express an opinion on whether the results identify a clear need for funding both equipment and capital works within boxing. However evidence from elsewhere, including work that was undertaken by the Ulster Boxing Council and the baseline assessment that we undertook as part of the development of a strategy for Belfast, identify a clear need for funding both equipment and capital works within boxing.

• Do
you

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agree with SNI's proposal to fund a range of initiatives as follows: boxing equipment, minor repairs and major works? If you do not agree, do you have any alternative proposals?

Answer – We agree with SNI's proposal to fund a range of initiatives as follows: boxing equipment, minor repairs and major works. The evidence we gathered from the baseline assessment undertaken as part of the development of a strategy for Belfast showed that clubs in Belfast and on the periphery, have varying requirements for funding. Some clubs have already sourced funding and occupy buildings that are fit for purpose while others train in buildings that require minor works and some are in a dangerous condition with a lack of basic facilities such as toilets or running water. The evidence also showed that the majority of clubs do not have buildings with disability access or facilities for females. In addition to a need for funding for equipment and capital works the Council's baseline assessment found 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. Belfast City Council has committed £200k per annum over the next 3 years to implement its strategy. This funding would be complementary to the SNI boxing investment programme and would be used to support club development in areas such as coach, volunteer and ring official training and development and club governance and management. It would also be used to promote boxing across the city, in particular among underrepresented groups such as females.

• Do
you

agree with SNI's proposal to only support boxing clubs currently affiliated to an AIBA recognised boxing governing body? If you do not agree, do you have any alternative proposals?

Answer – We agree that the allocation of public money for the development of clubs through grants for equipment and capital works should be to clubs that are affiliated to a recognised governing body. Affiliation to a recognised governing body gives assurance that a club is operating to a high standard and that they have the correct policies and procedures in place around areas such as:

- Health and safety
- Child protection
- Governance and management
- Coach education and vetting
- Training and vetting of volunteers

This is particularly important in a high impact sport such as boxing to ensure that any risk of injury is mitigated.

Affiliation to a recognised governing body is also essential for

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progression pathways for competitors, coaches and ring side officials. If a club is not affiliated to a recognised governing body they will not be able to offer their boxers development opportunities and the opportunity to compete at the highest levels such as at European, World, Olympic or Commonwealth level.

We agree in principle that the allocation of this fund should only go to affiliated clubs, however it is recognised that in some cases it may be possible to support new clubs with 'in-kind' funding such as places on training courses or officer time to allow them to put in place policies and procedures to allow them to become constituted and obtain affiliation. Belfast City Council is currently investigating potential funding to further assist us in carrying out this type of work with clubs and we believe this is complementary to SNI's boxing investment programme.

• Do you

agree that capital projects should be 100% funded? If you do not agree, do you have any alternative proposals?

Answer – While we believe that clubs will welcome 100% funding for capital projects we require further information on what the maximum level of funding will be. In some cases the overall cost of the capital works required by a club may exceed what is available from this fund and they will be required to source additional funds from elsewhere. In the current economic climate clubs may have difficulty in sourcing additional funds and at this time Belfast City Council do not have the resources to establish a fund for match funding for capital works in boxing clubs. However a number of individual capital projects are currently being considered under the Council's Local Investment Fund.

While 100% funding will assist those clubs that receive it, this should be balanced against insuring that a reasonable maximum limit is set to ensure that the greatest number of clubs can benefit from this funding.

• Are

there any other comments you would like SNI to consider?

Answer – Belfast City Council welcomes this investment in amateur boxing in Northern Ireland. As SNI are aware Belfast City Council has worked with them and a number of other partners (IABA, UBC and Co Antrim Boxing) on the development of an amateur boxing strategy for Belfast. We would ask that SNI take cognisance of this strategy in the delivery of their boxing investment programme to ensure synergy and complementarity and an overall holistic approach to the development of the sport and associated infrastructure.

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Our research has shown that only a minority of boxing clubs in Belfast own their own premises. The majority have long term leases on buildings while some rent premises as required or have another type of arrangement. This will raise an issue around security of tenure for some clubs if they wish to apply for funding for capital works and is something that SNI need to consider in the development of its criteria. We would also ask that SNI consider the appropriateness of investing public money into a building that a club has a short or medium term lease on, to ensure that any improvements made to a building benefit boxing clubs and not landlords.

SNI should also consider that where a physical building is to be upgraded or to be built and then becomes a capital asset for another public body such as the Council then that body is likely to want to deliver it or oversee the delivery of it to ensure that it meets with public procurement rules, is built to their standards and is easy to maintain and operate if required.

How to respond

The consultation process starts on Friday 9 November 2012 and continues until Friday 8 February 2013.

Written comments on the document should be sent to:

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Boxing Investment Programme
Sport Northern Ireland
2a Upper Malone Road
Belfast
BT9 5LA
Tel: 02890 383834

E-mail: williamdevlin@sportni.net