



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Support for Sport Interim Review
Date:	14 February 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that a range of changes to the Support for Sport Grant Scheme were approved following Committee on 12 April 2012.
1.2	As part of the review process it was agreed that an early report on the effect of the changes would be brought before Committee following implementation of the new scheme.

2	Key Issues														
2.1	<p>Status of proposed changes Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Change</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>More clearly defined aims and objectives</td> <td>Complete Available to all applicants hard copy and online</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance payment of 50% total funding</td> <td>Complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The development of an on-line application form</td> <td>On hold due to centralised grants review</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospitality grant re-focused and reduced to £25,000</td> <td>Complete 25 events with guests from Europe, Asia and North America</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The development of an Individual Grant for high level performers</td> <td>Complete. 27 awards made November 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The establishment of a reward scheme for accredited Clubmark sports clubs.</td> <td>Complete. 25 clubs rewarded</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Change	Status	More clearly defined aims and objectives	Complete Available to all applicants hard copy and online	Advance payment of 50% total funding	Complete	The development of an on-line application form	On hold due to centralised grants review	Hospitality grant re-focused and reduced to £25,000	Complete 25 events with guests from Europe, Asia and North America	The development of an Individual Grant for high level performers	Complete. 27 awards made November 2013	The establishment of a reward scheme for accredited Clubmark sports clubs.	Complete. 25 clubs rewarded
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2.2 Opportunities for Participation

During the review priorities for funding were identified as;

- The education of coaches and volunteers
- Increased opportunities for women and girls, disabled and older people
- Promoting sport and physical activity as a social integration and health improvement tool
- The need to address any imbalances in applications across the City.

2.3 It is estimated that there are over 16,000 club members from the 133 applications made to the small grant scheme. From this 11,671 are male and 5010 are female. Table 2 below shows the breakdown of awards made in 2012/13.

Table 2 Breakdown of awards per category and priority group

Category	No. of Awards	Total Amount
Total No. Applications	133 (of 153)	£124,506
New Clubs/sections	30	£29,094
Governing Body Coaching Qualifications	123 (individuals)	£24,112
Club Development (Child protection, 1 st Aid)	108	£5,352
Try-it/Development events	63	£52,376
Women/Girls Groups	13	£11,685
Older People	8	£4,780
Disability Groups	5	£4,675
Other section 75	6	£5,918
Clubmark	25	£16,250
No. of Sports supported	28	124,305
Individual grants	27 (7 sports)	£15,000
Hospitality	25	£24,845.00

2.4 At party group meetings members stressed the need to ensure that imbalances in funding across the city were addressed. The trend in funding by area over the last three years is identified in Appendix 1. The data shows that in the current financial year (2012/13) there is a similar spread in small development awards in the South, East and West of the city with a slightly higher proportion going to North Belfast. The spread in awards across the city is illustrated in Appendix 2.

2.5 The Sport Development Officers focus has been on the promotion of the small grants and the development of the clubs in these areas. However in the large grants (£5,000) both South and East gain a lower portion of funds. These larger grants are more competitive and the spread reflects the number of applications received from each area. It is anticipated that with time clubs in South and East Belfast will be in a stronger position to be successful in the process.

2.6	<p>Club feedback on the scheme changes indicate that it has been well received and could be a reason for the marked increase in applications in the first five months of the 2012/13 financial year. While we can see an increase in uptake by underrepresented groups it is their anecdotal feedback that gives a better picture of Support for Sport benefits.</p> <p>“Support for Sport has allowed us to deliver an excellent programme and increase participation among females particularly” “we have seen a 10% increase in membership” “we are a special Olympic club and without Belfast City Council’s help we could not have established this club which is now at maximum capacity.....with your help we hope to grow as a club and cater for more” “through funding we provide more than a soccer experience, we promote tolerance and inclusivity and now have 20+ players from African nations” “To us Support for Sport is new possibilities”</p>
2.7	<p>Support for Sport moving forward</p> <p>Work continues with targeted workshops planned for the month of March across the city in-line with the scheme reopening in late February for the 2013/14 financial year.</p> <p>Investigations into the development of an online form and improved data capture are also being actioned.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Members should note that the budget has not increased for small development grants and £16,250 was awarded to sports clubs achieving varying levels of Clubmark.</p> <p>The budget in this current financial year was fully allocated within the first five months. This could be explained in part by the increased awareness of the scheme and also that 50% of funding is now paid up-front and therefore is easier for clubs to manage their finances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Development Grants £120k • Large Development Grants £60k • Hospitality Development Grants - £25k • Individuals Development Grants - £15k
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no human resource implications other than officer time to process the applications.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	All applications have been assessed in line with the current Support for Sport scheme.
4.2	Following the review of Support for Sport, the revised scheme has undergone equality screening in accordance with Council requirements. This process has 'screened out' the revised scheme, identifying only minor, positive equality impacts, and determining that there is no requirement to proceed to Equality Impact Assessment.

5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the content of this report.

6	Decision Tracking
	None

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: The trend in funding by area over the last three years 2010/11 to 2012/13. Appendix 2: The spread of small development awards made across Belfast in 2012/13.