



Belfast City Council

Report to: Parks and Leisure Committee

Subject: **Amateur Boxing Strategy (Start-up Club Funding)**

Date: 11 September 2014

Reporting Officer: Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

Contact Officer: Ryan Haire, Sports Development Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At Parks and Leisure Committee in October 2012 Members approved the draft budget and workplan for the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022.
1.2	Members will be aware that within the Strategy, under the theme of Club support and development, an action of providing start-up funding to allow for the development of new clubs across the city was included.
1.3	At its meeting in June 2014 Committee agreed to revisions to the budget area with £10,000 per annum allocated to support and develop new clubs. It was agreed that a further report would be brought to Committee to agree the mechanism and guidelines in providing this support.

2	Key Issues and Update
2.1	The support and development of new clubs complementing existing clubs especially in under-represented areas such as East and South Belfast will be an essential element in the successful legacy of the Amateur Boxing Strategy and key to providing a citywide service to all who may wish to enter the sport.
2.2	The programmes being delivered by our Boxing coaches and clubs citywide are increasing the demand for coaching provision and in-turn this will raise the demand for new clubs especially in areas of under-representation such as East and South Belfast. It is anticipated that a number of new club start-up requests for support will be received annually. The programme is actively promoting the sport through after schools activities across the city in liaison with existing clubs in each area.
2.3	Recently we have received enquiries for new club start-up support from potential clubs in Oldpark and on the Upper Ormeau Rd. A further enquiry has been received from a Castlereagh Boxing club interested in relocating to the Braniel area. More enquiries are anticipated to be received as

amateur boxing develops as a mainstream sport citywide and as such an adopted start-up club fund and criteria for funding is required. A fund of £2500 per applicant has been allocated with £10,000 for new start-up grants in the current financial year.

2.4 The application form for funding has been developed by the Steering Group and has been attached as Appendix 1 for new club support funding. Funding will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. The Steering Group following the support of the Sports Development Officer will assess the applications received within the specified guidelines for funding. The Director of Parks and Leisure will approve the proposed grants to new clubs under delegated authority as is currently the process for Support for Sport grants.

2.5 The table below indicates the proposed breakdown of new club funding with some examples of anticipated application requests ;

Item detail	Available funding	Notes
Coach Education	£500	Coaching courses associated to delivery of Boxing in club. Eg Level 1 / 2 / 1 star courses
Equipment	£1000	Equipment deemed suitable by IABA for the delivery of Boxing in a club environment.
Facility Development	£500	Support for other club goods or equipment necessary for delivery.
Other misc	£500	Other items or services required for clubs set-up.
Total available	£2500 (max)	

2.6 The following criteria have been recommended by the Steering Group in order to ensure best practice adherence :

1. Applicants must submit a letter/email of support from County Board or higher within boxing along with this application.

2. Provide evidence of governance documents (constitution and assorted policies) plus sign-up to Clubmark via IABA and / or BCC prior to acceptance of application.

	<p>3. Identify their catchment area for club and prove that other clubs are not necessarily affected by the new clubs establishment.</p> <p>4. Not be established more than 6 months.</p> <p>5. Not be a commercial venture of any nature.</p> <p>6. Be established as a Boxing club (not MMA or other activities) and be affiliated to IABA or a recognised Nation GB).</p>
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3	Programme Plan and Resource Implications
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3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The budget for the Amateur Boxing Strategy has been agreed.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no Human Resources implications at this stage.</p> <p><u>Assets and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
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4.1	There are no equality and good relations impacts from this grant scheme.
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5	Recommendations
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5.1	That Members note the content of this report with regard to the current implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022.
5.2	The Committee is asked to agree the proposed mechanism and guidelines for allocation of grants up to £2500 towards the support of new clubs.

6	Decision Tracking
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	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure.
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7	Key to Abbreviations
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8	Documents Attached
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	<p>Table of Recommendations</p> <p>Appendix 1: Club Support Application and Guidelines..</p>
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