



Subject:	Update on the Amateur Boxing Strategy
Date:	7 June 2016
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
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Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the key findings and recommendations of the review of the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) note the update provided; and(ii) agree that officers develop an action plan, including costs, for phase 2 of strategy implementation (2017-2020) and that this is brought back to Committee in the autumn for consideration and approval.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members are reminded that the Council developed a 10 year amateur 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). The final strategy including an action plan was agreed by the former Parks and Leisure Committee in March 2013. It was also agreed that £200,000 per annum would be allocated for 3 years for the implementation of Phase 1 of the strategy and this would include funding to put in place a Sports Development Officer (appointed in December 2013) and two community based coaches (appointed in April 2014). Due to the delay in appointing staff there was a

	significant underspend in Year 1 and this has been used to finance the implementation of this current year (year 4).
3.2	As the implementation of Phase 1 ended on the 31 st March 2016, in late 2015 a review of progress was undertaken to evaluate the impact of the support that has been provided to boxing across the city. Following a procurement exercise Otium Leisure Consultancy were commissioned to undertake the review.
3.3	<p>As part of the review the following research was undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey was sent to 32 boxing clubs in Belfast and 29 responded. • A survey was sent to 50 schools and youth centres/leisure centres involved in the Non Contact Boxing Programme and 23 responded. • A Focus Group was held with clubs to assess their awareness of the strategy, its impact on boxing and how it might be improved in the next phase of implementation. • A Focus Group with held with schools who have taken part in the non-contact programme. • Consultation was undertaken with a range of key groups/organisations having an interest in the strategy.
3.4	<p>A copy of the executive summary of the report, which includes key findings and recommendations, is attached as appendix 1, but in summary the key findings included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2012, two clubs have folded but six new clubs have been established across the city, which have affiliated to the IABA. These are detailed in the executive summary - two are based in the East, one in South, one in the West and two in the City Centre. Two other clubs have been established; one in the East and one in the North, but neither of them participated in the review so we do not have confirmation of their affiliation status. There is also a fledging club in the East which has not yet constituted. • There has been a 20% increase in membership. • There has been a substantial increase in female membership but it is still well short of male membership. • There has been an increase in the number of volunteers. • There appears to be a fall in club income. • There has been an improvement in facilities at clubs but there is still some way to go to a point where all clubs offer modern fit for purpose boxing facilities. • The Non Contact Boxing Programme has been a success but we need to look at creating the pathways between schools and clubs to allow the children who participate to move into a club.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy has been well received by all stakeholders and the clubs who attended the focus group all said that the strategy was working for their club. <p>The overall view, based on survey and consultation work, is that the strategy is having a positive impact and influence on boxing clubs and boxing development throughout the City.</p>
3.5	<p>The report also made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the Non-Contact Boxing Programme, with a direct link between clubs and schools/youth centres. • Develop governance and management through volunteers. • Reach out to the community with boxing programmes linked to fitness, well-being and health. • Progress with the Strategy's Actions should be monitored and reported on a regular basis. • Provide mentoring support to clubs for selected Actions. • Liaise with schools in relation to staging boxing events in school premises. • Engage with the IABA Ulster Branch in complementary activities. • Look to qualify more coaches. • Assess the carrying capacity of each club in each membership category and plan for projected increases.
3.6	<p>The implementation of phase 1 of the strategy was funded through non-recurring capital funds. As there is currently no provision within the Department's estimates for the implementation of phase 2 of the strategy, and as the review has demonstrated the positive benefits of the support provided to date, it is proposed that officers work with the Strategy Steering Group to develop an action plan for the next 3 years based on the findings and recommendations of the review. The action plan will be linked to the Council's priorities within the Belfast Agenda and in particular demonstrate how it can help contribute to improving people's health and wellbeing. Costs for the delivery of the action plan will be determined and options for funding it will be brought back to the Committee in the autumn for consideration and approval.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications.</u></p> <p>£200,000 per year for a period of 3 years was agreed for the implementation of the strategy. Due to the associated staff not being in post until late in year 1 there was a substantial underspend in year 1 which has been reallocated to year 4 (16/17).</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The strategy has been equality screened in line with the Council's equality process. The</p>

	screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the strategy. Any new programme will be re-screened in line with the Council's equality process.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1: Executive summary – Review of Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022