



Subject:	Notice of Motion: Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme
Date:	24 th November, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Education, to the Council's motion relating to the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council, at its meeting on 2nd October, passed the following motion on the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme which had been proposed by Councillor Mullan and seconded by Councillor Boyle:

“This Council opposes the proposed ending of the Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme by the Department of Education, from 31st October 2017, and expresses deep concern at the impact which the potential loss of this award winning cross community programme will have for primary school pupils, primary schools and the sporting coaches involved. The Council notes with great concern the cut made to the extended schools budget of 14% and the further cut of £56 for each child attending primary or nursery school.

The Council agrees to write to and seek an urgent meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education to highlight this concern.”

3.2 A response has now been received from Mr. Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education, a copy of which is attached.

3.3 The Permanent Secretary confirms that, in July, the Department of Education had informed the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Irish Football Association that funding for the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme would cease on 31st October. He points out that the Department has since secured an additional £10 million in the latest Monitoring Round, which will allow the programme to be delivered until the end of the 2017/2018 financial year. However, he stresses that, due to budgetary pressures, it might not be in a position to fund the initiative in future years.

3.4 He highlights the fact that a key objective of the Curriculum Sports Programme is to provide support to primary school teachers in delivering Physical Education. Those schools which had participated in the initiative had been allocated coaches, on the understanding that the class teacher would be present, primarily to assist in delivering the sessions and to support their own knowledge and development. Overall, teachers have benefitted from their involvement in the programme over ten years and their skills and confidence should have improved significantly.

3.5 The Permanent Secretary concludes by suggesting that, since the funding for the Curriculum Sports Programme has been restored for the current financial year, the rationale for holding the meeting, as requested within the motion, no longer exists and he seeks the Council’s view in that regard.

3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Response from Mr. D. Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education