

NORTH WEST SPORTS BOARD



**To be held on Wednesday 10 March 2004
at Charles Halle Room, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester**

FOR RECORD

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE NORTH WEST
SPORTS BOARD, HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2004**

(04) 2.2

PRESENT

Members: Andy Worthington, David Newton, Anil Ruia, John Ashton, Ann Hoskins, Carol Hassan, John Bell, Colin Chaytors, Phil Clark, Chris Carr, John Townsend,

Officers: Stewart Kellett, Karen Keohane, Dave Hewson

Apologies: Pam Jervis, Carol Gustafson

1.0

DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL PLAN FOR SPORT

Officers presented an outline of the context, objectives, structure principles and proposed themes of the Regional Plan. The report also introduced the new National Framework for Sport. A lively debate highlighted considerations relating to the principles pervading the whole document, recognition that sport is fun and celebratory, not purely about satisfying the more serious matters relating to social and economic development. Linking the plan into sub regional mechanisms and the establishment of priorities that support other key developments such as health inequalities was also highlighted. The relatively weak baseline position for participation and evidence to support decision making was recognised in the debate. The more intelligent use of demographics and social change was highlighted as part of the framework discussion to help plot interventions that will affect sport and activity long term

MEMBERS AGREED TO

- 1.1 Approve the outline report structure and contents for the Regional Plan for Sport.
- 1.2 Identify appropriate board members to act as Theme Champions to further develop the stakeholder engagement and buy in into the objectives and targets of the themed outcomes.

2.0

NORTH WEST REGIONAL SEMINAR

Members were informed of the second Regional Seminar at Ewood Park as the next stage to engage key stakeholders in the process to shape the Regional Plan for Sport and to demonstrate how their input was being absorbed and shared with others. The seminar would put the Board in a good position to build a first draft for the Plan for debate at the next Board meeting.

MEMBERS AGREED TO

- 2.1 debate the National Framework for Sport.
- 2.2 attend the Regional Seminar if available.
- 2.3 use the seminar was to be used to maximum effect to engage and inspire partners, building feedback into the next draft of the Regional Plan.

3.0

ACTIVE ENGLAND FUNDING

Officers presented members with their first national lottery funding decisions for Active England. The process for the 'one off' joint fund between sport England and the New Opportunities Fund was highlighted along with the tight government deadlines for application, award and delivery. Four projects were agreed by the Board as fast track under the 'solicited bid guidance' and presented to the National Project Board administering this fund for final approval. John Bell left the meeting during the assessment of the project in Knowsley due to a declaration of interest. Guidance to assist applicants scale their projects and applications were put to the Board for consideration.

Issues relating to the overall assessment process, ease of application process for voluntary organisations, scrutiny of business risk, support to applicants preparing bids and how we attract leverage to our investment were raised. Members were keen to establish an appropriate level/quality of information needed to make informed decisions about future applications. Officers would respond to this for

the April 2004 Board meeting when the balance of Active England decisions are to be taken.

3.1 **MEMBERS AGREED TO** the following policy framework to be applied to the consideration of Active England open applications :

3.1.1. A notional percentage fund allocation target of one-third revenue and two-thirds capital.

3.1.2 Individual schemes to be set with a maximum cap of £1 million except for exceptional circumstances.

3.1.3 **revoke** the recommendation to have geographical spread of investment based on 50 % of the fund to be allocated on an equitable basis and the balance to be weighted based on deprivation and population statistics.

3.1.4 The criteria outlined in appendix 1 to be used as a basis for scheme assessment.

MEMBERS ALSO AGREED TO APPROVE

3.1.5 The solicited bids as attached in case summary format at appendices 2,3,4 and 5 to be recommended to proceed to Active England Project Board for ratification.

4.0

SPORTS LOTTERY FUND

This report highlighted the need to agree a fair process to consider a range of projects deferred to the Region Sports Board in May 2003 at the earliest opportunity. Three options were highlighted to give applicants choice about maximising their chances of receiving fair consideration against a complex and changing background of new funding streams and changing priorities emerging from the Regional Plan. Members recognised that this would result in further delays on final assessment, but on balance it was preferable to outright rejection because of the funding and modernisation changes at this stage, of which the Board has no control over.

MEMBERS AGREED TO

4.1 Inform the deferred applicants of the opportunity to consider the two funding streams and either reposition their

bids to address the funding criteria better, or allow the Regional Sports Board to consider their applications in the current form against the priorities in the emerging Regional Plan and the related Sports Lottery Fund.

5.0

SUMMARY OF WORK AND INVESTMENT IN PROGRESS

Board members considered the information in relation to current work and investment in progress with the intention of debating and assessing the appropriateness of continuing / integrating these initiatives in the future Regional Plan for Sport

MEMBERS AGREED TO

- 5.1 Have a further debate on the work in progress at the next meeting on the 10th March 2004.