
Minutes of the 2nd Meeting: 12 February 2001

Strategic Direction – Core Purpose, Long-Term Goal and Values

- N= The Council received a paper on the proposed strategic direction of UK Sport. Discussions encompassed the idea that any assessment of the UK's international sporting performance should extend beyond the Olympic and Paralympic Games – ie. it should embrace home country performances in, say, the football and rugby World Cups. Members also considered that the concept of success should refer to more than medal-winning alone, significant though this was. Part of the job of UK Sport, Members felt, was to promote and represent the “ethos of British sport”. In this regard, the Ethics & Anti-Doping Committee had already made considerable progress in defining an “ethical framework” for sport in the UK.

Government Strategy Implementation Group: Draft Action Plan – Response of UK Sport

The Government has been developing a strategy for sport via a number of subject-specific expert groups. An umbrella “Implementation Group” was established to take an overview of this work and to make recommendations to Government on the key issues identified in the course of the review. Key agencies, including UK Sport, had been asked for their views on the draft Action Plan which had emerged as a result

- O= Members approved a draft response to the Department for Culture, Media & Sport on the Government's Strategy Implementation Group Action Plan, albeit on the basis that, in the view of the majority of Members, the Plan was primarily a plan for sport in England only.

World Class Performance Programme: Latest Developments

At its meeting in November 2000 the Council acknowledged that a key issue emerging from the post-Sydney reviews in progress at the time was that athletes of equal talent should receive comparable support across the UK – an objective which, to be achieved, was likely to require some revisions to the different funding programmes of the individual Sports Councils. Members agreed a set of principles designed to bring about greater coherence and consistency in the support of UK/GB-level teams and squads, subject to further detail being determined by the Chief Officers of the Sports Councils.

- P= Members received an information report setting out the further progress being made at officer-level in taking forward a number of the in-principle agreements mentioned above. There was particular interest in the reported agreement of UK Sport and Home Country Sports Council officers that “UK/GB-level teams and squads should be funded by UK Sport” – an agreement which would, among other things, mean UK Sport taking on responsibility for

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PKN- some younger age-group teams and squads at the level currently funded by the home countries

PKO- the GB operation of sports such as hockey, badminton and curling which are normally structured on a home country basis.

Q- Members noted that there would be a financial implication for the Council in taking on either of these new responsibilities – a situation which, all things being equal, would require either an increase in the funds made available to UK Sport or a substantial reduction in existing commitments within the UK World Class Performance Programme.

UK Awards Panel: Report of the Meeting held on 22 January 2001

The UK Awards Panel has responsibility for considering and making recommendations to full Council on governing body funding policy and related applications for both Exchequer and Lottery grants. Over recent months the Panel has been undertaking a comprehensive review of the way in which it invests its funds in support of sports governing bodies and athletes.

R- The Council considered the UK Award Panel's recommendations on four-year WCPP awards for the Council's four Priority 1 sports – athletics, cycling, sailing and rowing. In explaining the rationale for the Panel's proposals, Gavin Stewart, the Panel Chair, emphasised that these sports accounted for two-thirds of the medals won by the British team at the Sydney Olympics

S- Subject to a number of conditions particular to each award, Members endorsed the specific Lottery funding recommendations of the Panel as follows:

UK Athletics

- four year award to 31 March 2005, including a set Athlete Personal Awards budget for the first year of the period, and an additional sum, in principle, for sports science support

British Cycling Federation

- four year award to 31 March 2005, including a set Athlete Personal Awards budget for the first year of the period, and a specific annual investment in "special projects"

Royal Yachting Association

- four year award to 31 March 2005, including a set Athlete Personal Awards budget for the first year of the period, an additional annual sum specifically for the purchase of Rigid Inflatable Boats/Engines, plus an award from the Special Projects fund for equipment and technical development;

Amateur Rowing Association

- four year award to 31 March 2005, including a set Athlete Personal Awards budget for the first year of the period

T- Members also endorsed the specific Exchequer funding recommendations of the Panel as follows:

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- Amateur Rowing Association (for the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002 for financial administration and to support the High Performance in Clubs programme)
- Sport on the Highways Project (for the period 1 January to 31 December 2001)
- Surf Life Saving Association (for the period 1 January to 31 December 2001)

Achieving Compliance with the Statement of Anti-Doping Policy

UK Sport has developed a policy on anti-doping which requires governing bodies to adhere to certain internationally-recognised standards in terms of anti-doping policy, testing programmes, disciplinary processes and accountability.

- U= Members considered a paper seeking their approval for proposed sanctions for non-compliance with the anti-doping policy as had been considered and supported at a recent meeting by the UK Awards Panel. Noting that a number of governing body chief executives had met recently to examine a number of “parallel issues” concerned with anti-doping, Members agreed to defer a decision on the introduction of possible sanctions until further discussions had taken place with governing bodies and their views clarified.

Ethics Programme: Transfer of Responsibility

One of UK Sport’s responsibilities, spelled out in its Royal Charter, is “to encourage and support the adoption of the highest ethical standards” among the UK’s sportsmen and women. Internal responsibility for the management of the Ethics Programme has recently been transferred from the (former) Ethics & Anti-Doping Directorate to the (new) Strategy, Ethics & Research team (SEARCH).

- V= The Council endorsed a set of principles for the future management of the Ethics Programme which place an emphasis on positive values and a preparedness to challenge governing bodies and other sports organisations to demonstrate the measures they are taking to deliver “ethical sport”. A new policy development and reporting structure will facilitate effective engagement with the wider sporting community and the UK-wide implementation of ethics-related policies.