



Title of Report:	Elite Athlete Scheme
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 June 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	4.2 Citizens will have access to a range of leisure, recreational, green and play environments which support better physical and mental health and wellbeing
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: 26 April 2022
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 26 April 2022
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed: Privacy Notice Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the proposed Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Elite Athlete Scheme (application pack and guidance notes attached at Annex A). This proposed new scheme will support amateur athletes (involved in a sport recognised by Sport Northern Ireland) who are over the age of 16 and competing at Provincial, National, or International level, which may or may not include a top 10 ranking*.

*Where the previously mentioned competition levels are not selected in particular sports, applicants who currently compete at the highest standard of their sport may be considered.

2.0 Background

To date, Council has been scoring Elite Athlete applications against pre-existent legacy schemes prior to the Review of Public Administration (based on the applicants place of residence within the Borough). Although these schemes were quite similar, a preliminary review noted the potential for inconsistencies. Therefore, relevant Sport & Wellbeing Officers' were tasked with researching and developing a specific 'fit-for-purpose' Causeway Coast and Glens Elite Athlete Scheme. Development officers aimed to create a consistent approach which would support local athletes who would be competing at an elite level of excellence in their chosen sport. The officers reviewed and benchmarked against neighbouring Councils prior to developing a draft scheme. The draft scheme was then consulted on internally across all sport and wellbeing functions and amendments made as necessary.

Following this, it was deemed essential to determine if the draft supported equality and would meet the needs of future scheme recipients via an external consultation process. The external consultation asked respondents to review the scheme indicating their opinion on its impact, required amendments and to construct suggestions for improvement. In addition, respondents were asked to review the scheme under the Section 75 equality headings and to detail any inequalities or potential for discrimination the officers had not identified (in the initial equality screening). The subsequent consultation process began on 31 January 2022 and ran for 12 weeks until 26 April 2022.

3.0 Options

The options were:

- (1) No Scheme.
- (2) Maintain the Legacy Schemes currently in operation.
- (3) Create a single new Borough-wide Scheme.

Not having an Elite Athlete Scheme for local athletes was not feasible and as alluded to earlier in this report, maintaining Legacy Schemes has proven problematic and potentially open to discrimination. Therefore, the only realistic option was to devise a stand-alone Causeway wide Scheme.

Consequently, a Causeway Coast and Glens scheme was drafted following (i) a baseline review of the legacy schemes in operation and (ii) those currently in use within neighbouring council areas to create a consistent cross-Council approach.

Upon completion the draft Elite Athlete Scheme was Equality Screened and Rural Needs Assessed prior to consultation. As part of the consultation process Officers' ensured that leisure centre users and members of the public were informed about the consultation at various stages throughout the consultation process via Facebook, Twitter, Council's consultation page and other Council public relations formats. In addition, the officers targeted specific relevant groupings identified by all Sport and Wellbeing Officers, such as Leisure Centre members, Sports Centre clubs & associations, local Sports Advisory Committees, and Governing Bodies & associated clubs who work alongside Council's sports development

section. This was to ensure the consultation had the greatest reach and remained visible throughout the full consultation period.

There were 3 responses to the online survey (the age range of the individuals willing to share personal information was 35 - 54). All 3 respondents felt the draft policy was fair and equal to all Section 75 categories. There were no suggestions for improvement or amendment, regardless of the respondent's disability status, community background/religious belief, political opinion, race, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or caring status (analysis report attached)

4.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the above and recommend for approval the Causeway Coast and Glens Elite Athlete Scheme.

This scheme will be reviewed after the first year to ensure there have been no implementation issues and to support the inclusion of any additional sports categorised at the required level. Thereafter a review will occur every two years or earlier if new sport categorisations are received or equivalencies change.



Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme

Guidance Notes

Please read these Guidance Notes carefully before completing the application form

For further information or queries, please contact:

Subject to service review

Tel.

Email:

DRAFT

ANNEX A

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL ELITE ATHLETE / GOLD CARD SCHEME

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme is an incentive to help support local athletes who are competing at a high level of excellence in their chosen sport. The Council recognises the dedication and achievement of such sportspersons and want to convey their support with the gesture of Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme membership that will allow awarded sportspersons complimentary use of agreed Council leisure facilities.

AIM

The aim of this Scheme is to give recognition to all sports persons from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough area that have attained Provincial or International level or are National Champions in their chosen sport. Such sports persons will (subject to meeting minimum designated criteria), be admitted to the Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme and will be permitted to use on an **individual** basis identified facilities owned and managed by Council on a complimentary basis. This is in recognition of the sportspersons achievements and to support their high level of physical preparation in their chosen sport.

ELIGIBILITY

- a. Sports persons must reside in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.
- b. Sports persons **must** be involved at an **amateur** status only.
- c. Sports persons must be involved in a sport that is recognised by Sport Northern Ireland, see appendix 1 for a comprehensive list (which may be updated from time to time)
- d. Sports persons must be able to demonstrate that they:

Are currently at Provincial, National, or International level in any age category of their sport

Or

i. Are ranked within the top 10 (Senior Level) in Northern Ireland in the specified sport

Or

ii. Are competing at International Level in their sport.

- e. Membership will be reviewed by Council on an annual basis on receipt of an application for membership renewal. On application sports persons must have represented their country within the preceding 12 months.
- f. Proof of representation must be provided by a Governing Body representative confirming the eligibility of the said sports person.
- g. Applicants are permitted to use the leisure facilities at any of the following venues:
 - Coleraine Leisure Centre – Swimming Pool and Gym
 - Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre - Swimming Pool and Gym
 - Roe Valley Leisure Centre - Swimming Pool and Gym
 - Sheskburn Recreation Centre – Gym

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- Dungiven Sports Centre – Gym
- Jim Watt Sports Centre – Gym

Applicants must enrol (at their own cost) on an Induction Course and be 16+ years of age.

EQUALITY

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are dedicated to ensuring promotion of equality between,

- Persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- Men and women generally
- Persons with a disability and persons without
- Persons with dependents and persons without

In addition, due regard will be given to the promotion of good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

If you have any particular communication needs, please inform us and we will try to meet them e.g. large print, other languages.

EXCLUSIONS

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will not ordinarily fund the following under the Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme:

- Sportspersons living outside the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.
- Professional sportspersons.
- Sportspersons under the age of 16

RULES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

- a. Application forms are available from and should be returned to: subject to service review
- b. Applications will only be assessed if there is evidence that they fulfil a clearly defined need.
- c. Only complete and legible official application forms will be processed.
- d. Application forms should be completed by the sportsperson and returned with accompanying relevant documentation as soon as possible to the Sport & Wellbeing Development Unit; Sports Development.
- e. Membership of the scheme runs for a duration of 12 months before reapplication is necessary.
- f. All applications will be considered by Council who will be responsible for the assessing and administering of the scheme using the criteria provided thus deciding if an athlete is eligible for membership.

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- g. Upon acceptance to the Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme all members will receive a membership card. The membership card will entitle the holder to complimentary use of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council facilities as listed above until the end of the 12-month membership period.
- h. Memberships will be reviewed on an individual basis annually or where deemed appropriate upon reapplication by Council Sports Development Team.
- i. Elite Athlete / Gold Card cards are non-transferable and must be used exclusively by the individual to whom they were issued. (Any misuse of this card will result in immediate cancellation of usage).
- j. Elite Athlete / Gold Card cards must be shown on each occasion of use.
- k. The Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme member may only use the facilities as specified above.
- l. All cards must be returned to Council once they have expired, failure to do so may affect membership of the scheme.

HOW TO APPLY

- a. Before completing an application form please ensure that you are eligible to apply and have read this guide.
- b. Please read over the application form before commencing to fill it out.
- c. Please ensure that you have completed the application form in full and remember to enclose information as indicated in the checklist at the back of the application form.
- d. The application form should be returned to:

Subject to service review

Please note the following:

- *Council may defer applications if further information is required.*
- *Council will not consider a claim that your application was lost or delayed in the post, unless you have proof of posting.*
- *It may not be possible to support all applications even if they are eligible to apply.*

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APPENDIX 1

SPORT	GOVERNING BODY	AFFILIATION
Aikido	NI Aikido Association	(NI)
Angling (Coarse)	Ulster Coarse Fishing Federation	(I)
Angling (Game)	Ulster Angling Federation Ltd	(UK)
Angling (Sea)	Ulster Council Irish Federation of Sea Anglers	(I)
Archery	Northern Ireland Archery Society	(UK)
Association Football	Irish Football Association	(NI)
Athletics	Athletics Northern Ireland	(UK)
Badminton	Ulster Branch Badminton Union of Ireland	(I)
Basketball	Basketball NI	(I)
Billiards & Snooker	N Ireland Billiards and Snooker Association	(NI)
Bowling	Association of Irish Indoor Bowls	(I)
Bowling (Indoors - Women)	Irish Women's Indoor Bowling Association	(I)
Bowling (Outdoors - Men)	Irish Bowling Association	(I)
Bowling (Outdoors - Women)	Irish Women's Bowling Association	(I)
Bowling (Short mat)	Irish Indoor Bowling Association	(I)
Boxing	Ulster Boxing Council	(I)
Camogie	Ulster Camogie Council	(I)
Canoeing	Canoeing Association of Northern Ireland	(UK)
Caving	Speleological Union of Ireland	(I)
Chinese Martial Arts	Nat. Chinese and Associated Martial Arts	(UK)
Cricket	Northern Ireland Cricket Association	(I)
Cycling	Cycling Ulster	(I)
Dance	Dancesport NI	(NI)
Equestrian	Horse Sport Ireland	(I)
Fencing	Northern Ireland Fencing Union	(UK)
Fitness	Fitness Northern Ireland	(NI)
Flying (Aeromodel)	Northern Ireland Association of Aeromodellers	(UK)
Flying (Fixed Wing)	Ulster Flying Club	(UK)
Gaelic Games (Football, Handball and Hurling)	Ulster Council, Gaelic Athletic Association	(I)
Gliding	Ulster Gliding Club	(UK)
Golf	Northern District Irish Ladies Golf Union, NI Region Golfing Union of Ireland, Ulster Branch	(I) (I)
Gymnastics	Gymnastics Northern Ireland	(UK)
Hang/Para Gliding	Ulster Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club	(UK)
Hockey	Ulster Hockey	(I)
Ice Skating	Northern Ireland Ice Skating Association	(UK)
Irish American Football	Irish American Football Association	(I)
Ju Jitsu	Northern Ireland Ju Jitsu Association	(NI)
Judo	Northern Ireland Judo Federation	(UK)
Karate	Northern Ireland Karate Board	(NI)
Life Saving	Royal Life Saving Society, Ulster Branch	(UK)
Motor Sports	2+4 Wheel Motorsport Ltd which comprises: Northern Ireland Karting Association Motor Cycle Union of Ireland (UC) Ltd Motorcycle Racing Association Association of Northern Ireland Car Clubs	(UK) (I) (I) (UK)
Mountaineering	Mountaineering Council of Ireland	(I)
Netball	Netball Northern Ireland	(NI)
Orienteering	Northern Ireland Orienteering Association	(UK)
Pool	Northern Ireland Pool Association	(NI)
Racquetball	Ulster Council, Racquetball Association of Ireland	(I)
Rambling	Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs	(UK)
Rowing	Ulster Branch, Irish Amateur Rowing Union	(I)

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Rugby Union	Irish Rugby Football Union, Ulster Branch	(I)
Sailing /Yachting	Royal Yachting Association (NIC)	(UK)
Scottish Country Dancing	Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (NI Com)	(UK)
Shooting (Clay Pigeon)	Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association	(UK)
Shooting (Full Bore Air)	Ulster Rifle Association	(UK)
Shooting (Small Bore Air)	Northern Ireland Small Bore Shooting Union	(UK)
Squash	Ulster Squash	(I)
Sub Aqua	Northern Ireland Federation of Sub Aqua Clubs	(NI)
Surfing	Northern Ireland Surfing Association	(I)
Swimming	Swim Ulster	(I)
Table Tennis	Table Tennis Ulster	(I)
Taekwondo	Taekwondo Association of Northern Ireland	(UK)
Ten Pin Bowling	Northern Ireland Ten Pin Bowling Federation	(NI)
Tennis	Ulster Branch, Tennis Ireland	(I)
Triathlon	Triathlon Ulster	(I)
Tug of War	Northern Ireland Tug of War Association	(NI)
Volleyball	Northern Ireland Volleyball Association	(NI)
Water Polo	Swim Ulster Ltd	(I)
Water Skiing	Irish Water Ski Federation	(I)
Weightlifting	Northern Ireland Amateur Weightlifter's Association	(UK)
Wrestling	Northern Ireland Wrestling Association	(UK)
Yoga	Yoga Fellowship of Northern Ireland	(NI)

November 2020



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme

Application Form

It is important that you read the **Guidance Notes** attached before completing this form. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Sport & Wellbeing Development Unit; Sports Development, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Once completed, forms should be returned to:

Subject to Service Review

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Please complete the form using typescript or printing clearly in ink

For Office Use Only
Membership No:



Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council

APPLICATION FORM

Section 1

Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Home No:
Mobile:
Email:
Date of Birth:
Name of employer (if any):
Current school/University (if any):

Section 2

Sport:

Are you a member of any of the following squads in your sport?

Ulster / Northern Ireland / Ireland / Great Britain

(Delete as appropriate)

Age/Level (e.g., U-18, U-21, Senior and Veterans etc.):

Club Represented:
Club Contact (coach/manager):
Club Address:
Club Postcode:
Contact no:

Email address:

Name of National Governing Body:

NGB Contact Name:

NGB Address:
NGB Postcode:

Contact No:

Email Address:

Section 3

Are you receiving assistance from another source? Yes / No (Delete as appropriate)

If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Organisation/funding body providing assistance	Nature of assistance e.g., amount of funding	Duration of assistance e.g., one off payment, 1 year agreement etc. (Please provide dates)

Section 4

Do you currently represent Ulster / N. Ireland / Ireland / Great Britain in any age category of your sport?

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

If yes, please detail:

Are you currently ranked within top 10 (Senior Level) in N. Ireland in your sport?

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

If yes, please detail:

Are you currently competing at International Level in your sport?

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

If yes, please detail:

Please state within the last 12 months:

- Any international competitions you have participated in

Competition/Event	Venue	Date

- Any occasions you have represented Ulster / N. Ireland / Ireland / Great Britain

Country/Team Represented	Competition/Event	Date

Please state your future intentions (next 12 months) to compete at international level or next competition you have been selected to represent Ulster / N. Ireland / Ireland / Great Britain

Country/Team	Competition/Event	Venue	Date

Please details any personal achievements in your chosen sport:

Please enclose written confirmation from your governing body that you belong to one of the previous mentioned elite programmes/squads

Section 5

Declaration:

- I certify that the information provided is true, accurate and complete.
- I understand the terms and conditions of the Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme.
- I hereby agree to abide by the rules and administrative arrangements as laid down by the Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme Guidance Notes.
- If successful in receiving Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme membership, I hereby agree to participate free of charge in any promotional and marketing activities relating to Council Leisure / Recreation Facilities as requested.

Signed:

Date:

(To be signed by parent/guardian for applicant under the age of 18)

Checklist:	Tick
♦ Any additional information to support your application	
♦ Written confirmation from your Governing Body	
♦ A signed copy of the declaration	
♦ Does the application contain an original signature?	
♦ Have all relevant sections of the application form been completed?	

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Official Use Only

Agreed time period for membership of Elite Athlete / Gold Card Scheme:

From: _____

To: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Card Issued on: _____

