

Performance Facility Fund / Sport NI	14th June 2016
To: Leisure & Development Committee For Information	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities
Lead Officer	Wendy McCullough – Head of Sport & Wellbeing
Cost: (If applicable)	Officer time

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information relating to SNI Performance Facility Fund and the potential for a rowing facility within the Borough.

Background

Rowing has a long history of high achievement in the Coleraine area. Founded in 1842, Bann Rowing Club is one of the oldest rowing clubs in all of Ireland. The Club is also known for its success at producing Olympic oarsmen including Alan Campbell and Richard and Peter Chambers. In the London Olympics in 2012 Alan won a Bronze Medal in the Men's Single Scull, Richard and Peter both won a Silver Medal in the Lightweight Men's Four. It is also hoped that a fourth Coleraine oarsman, Joel Cassells, will be successful in representing Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council at the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

The Club currently occupies the ground floor of a building owned by Council at Hanover Place on the banks of the River Bann. The building itself is in a basic state of repair but is acknowledged as below standard for a modern day facility with little scope for extension or improvement.

To date, other than £40k from London 2012 Olympics Legacy, Council has been unable to source significant capital funding which could realise the opportunity to improve facility provision for rowing in Coleraine and the wider area.

Current position

Sport Northern Ireland has developed a Capital Investment Programme 2016-2022. The purpose of the Facility Fund is to provide sports facilities to support the development of performance in sport in Northern Ireland, and also provide quality facilities to deliver opportunities to develop club and community participation.

The programme will be funded via a Lottery budget and it is envisaged that up to £17.5m of Lottery funds will be available over the period 2016-22.

The Facility Fund will invest in facilities through the following three strands:

1. Single Facility: single-sport facilities which seek to increase participation within the club structure.

2. Multi Facility: multi-sport facilities which seek to increase participation across local communities.
3. Performance Facility: the Performance Facility Fund seeks to partially address the high performance training needs of Northern Ireland athletes, whilst also increasing community participation in sport and physical recreation.

Performance Facility Fund (PFF). This strand has been developed to specifically address the under-provision in high performance facilities, particularly for those sports that have appropriate systems and processes in place to deliver at the highest level, whilst also increasing community participation in sport and physical recreation.

The governing bodies of sport that have been initially prioritised for this investment are:

- Irish Amateur Boxing Association
- Rowing Ireland
- Athletics NI

The budget available for the Performance Facility Fund is £8.75m for expenditure over the period 2016-2022.

Sport NI is seeking delivery partners to fulfil each of the above governing body's individual facility needs. The delivery partner will be required to work with Sport Northern Ireland and the governing body of sport to develop an outline business case, work with the appointed design team and governing body to develop detailed drawings and relevant statutory approvals, procure a contractor, deliver the construction phase, and/or operate the facility.

The delivery partner must be able to demonstrate facility sustainability whilst integrating high performance athlete access with community/club access.

Officers are currently considering the submission of an Expression of Interest Bid for the delivery of a High Performance Facility for Rowing which, if successful, may result in the construction of a new facility on the banks of the River Bann at Christie Park. Preliminary discussions have been undertaken with representatives of Bann Rowing Club and they have indicated their willingness to be included in the project as the anchor club for the facility.

In considering the suitability of the project in terms of the needs of Rowing Ireland, Officers will also pay due attention to the needs of the wider sporting community in the greater Coleraine area and the Council's own Strategy for Sport & Leisure Facility provision.

Expression of Interest Bids must be submitted to Sport NI by 19th August 2016.