

Sport Council of Northern Ireland

National Lottery Evaluation report

October 2005

Section 1

Provide a brief overview, with examples, of what has been achieved with your share of Lottery funding. Within this you should give an assessment of the extent to which achievements have been additional to what would have been achieved without Lottery funding, either because they would not have happened at all or because they would not have happened so quickly.

Achievements through Capital Awards

Up to 31 March 2005, Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund had made 1644 awards totalling £58,588,150 (672 capital awards totalling £48,933,175 and 972 revenue awards totalling £9,654,975).

An independently commissioned study evaluated the Lottery programmes that operated between 1995 and 1999. This is known as the KKP Report.¹ Through the course of these programmes 1,031 applications were received and 483 awards totalling £36million were made.

The most deprived areas of NI have benefited significantly from Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund support with almost half of total funding allocated to support projects in the top 40% of deprived wards. The average value of award in the most deprived areas was £94,230 (compared to NI-wide average of £74,600).

The positive effects of the funding can be seen in membership figures. 91% of clubs increased membership since receiving Lottery funding, with an average rise of 78 members. The biggest increases in membership were seen in tennis, Gaelic football, rugby & soccer. Approximately two-thirds of clubs in receipt of funding reported an increase in female membership.

Increases were also seen in membership of clubs in socially disadvantaged areas.

Case Study – Social Impact

Monkstown Amateur Boxing Club was awarded £97,795 for an extension to their facilities to provide fitness training and also for the purchase of fitness equipment. This enabled the club to open their facilities to a variety of new users in the community, including increased usage by women and school groups.

Upon studying the membership of non-Lottery funded clubs over the same period, it was found that their membership remained static or reduced, indicating a positive effect of Lottery funding in terms of sports club membership.

¹ Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) Report, SCNI Lottery Fund Evaluation of Awards, March 2002.

Membership was not the only area that showed improvement following Lottery funding. The quality and quantity of coaching has also been seen to have improved. 87% of clubs also reported an improvement in performance and new jobs were also created as a result of Lottery awards.

Case Study - Coaching

Dromara Village FC received a £100,000 Lottery award. Receipt of this award allowed the club to develop a training programme for coaches to cater for extra junior demand. The programme covers 24 officers attending a Junior Leaders course. Of these 24, 14 are attending a Junior Team Management course and five coaches are undertaking their UEFA 'B' License.

Lottery awards have also paved the way for better partnership development. 33% of grant recipients have made contact with their local authority Sports Development Officers. Prior to grant funding, there was no evidence of any contact between these clubs and Sports Development Officer's. Lottery funding has also helped develop links with Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund staff, whose capacity building input has proved beneficial to both applicant organisations and Sports Development Officers both pre and post-award.

Case Study – Partnerships

Rainey Old Boys RFC (Magherafelt) found Lottery awards helped develop their partnerships. The club's Youth Development Officer, supported by the Irish Rugby Football Union, now works in local schools, providing coaching opportunities to U14 & U16 pupils. This has helped create a pathway for children to move from school sport to long term physical activity at a sports club. The club provides age group teams at U14 & U16. As a result of this development work, junior club membership has increased by nearly a third.

It is apparent that the vast majority of these projects are additional and entirely due to Lottery funding. It is more than likely that without Lottery funding, no community or voluntary projects would go ahead.

Case Study – Projects that would not have happened

The multi-use games area funded by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund with the Hazelbank Residents Action Association (HRAA) is an example of a project that would not have come into existence without Sports Council Lottery money. HRAA has a proven record of positive community action but lacked the funds and/or fundraising ability to provide the games area. Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund awarded a grant of £32,693 and the Association is taking positive steps to form a number of new sports clubs in the area and to develop opportunities to train new coaches in a variety of sports.

Lottery funding has also provided a welcome boost to projects that, while they may have happened eventually, would certainly not have progressed as quickly without our funding and guidance.

Case Study – Projects boosted by Lottery funding

The Dungannon Rifle and Pistol Club will be used as a centre of excellence for shooting in Northern Ireland and should hopefully build upon the country's already outstanding performances in international competition, including the Commonwealth Games. An award of £117,065 was awarded to fund the purchase of land and construction of modern smallbore rifle and pistol ranges and club accommodation. This venue will be capable of hosting major international events and will also provide the host club and another 3 local clubs with a quality shooting venue.

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland's Strategic Plan 2002-2007 includes aims to promote access to sport for people from all sections of society and also to reduce economic and social deprivation, while creating benefits for sport.

Case Study – Promoting sport for all sections of the community

Woodvale Cricket Club received an award of £89,543 towards refurbishment of their clubhouse. The club has around 400 members and is in an area of great recreational and social need. The club has also done some work with the schools in the local area, organising a Primary Schools Cup. They have also been approached by local community partnerships, who have recognised the strong community work undertaken. The clubhouse is used as a venue for indoor bowls in the winter months.

Achievements through Revenue Awards

Following revisions to the Lottery Act in 1996 the Sports Council for Northern Ireland launched two new revenue programmes. The first focused on the development of Northern Ireland's talented sportsmen and women and the other targeted the hosting of major international events.

Further Government directions in 1998 resulted in new strategic revenue programmes with varied objectives including the continuous professional development of Northern Ireland's coaches, assisting with the development of Northern Ireland's junior sporting talent and developing the infrastructure within Northern Ireland to increase opportunities for lifelong involvement in sport.

At 31 March 2005 the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund had made a total of 972 revenue awards equating to a total investment of just over £9.65m. A total of 181 organisations have benefited from

Lottery funding ranging from governing bodies of sport to voluntary sports clubs. (This represents an average award of £9,933).

In addition to this the Sports Council Lottery Fund is also involved in a joint-distributor small grants initiative, the Awards for All programme, and have contributed just under £1.2m representing 422 awards.

In early 2002 an independent study² was undertaken to evaluate the impact of Lottery funding on those Governing Bodies whose talented sports men and women were in receipt of financial assistance.

The study examined, in particular, the Lottery Fund's Talented Athlete programme and how funding from this programme would make an impact on the performance of individuals in Northern Ireland.

It was found that Lottery funding, through the Talented Athlete programme, has had a significant impact on individuals. In summary:

- Performance standards were raised in a number of sports
- Athletes were able to access a greater range and quality of competition
- Athletes were able to devote more time to training
- Athletes could access a range of support services that had Lottery funding not been available they would not be in a position to.

Lottery funding has helped develop sporting excellence in Northern Ireland, enhance the image of Northern Ireland and facilitate an increase in participation.

Case Study - Madeline Perry (Squash)

Madeline Perry first received Lottery funding in October 1997. At that time Madeline was the No1 female in both Ulster and Ireland.

Since that date a total of just under £75,000 has been invested in Madeline's training and competition programme. In June 1999 Madeline was ranked 96th in the World, however in March 2005 Madeline's World ranking is now ranked 12th. In February 2005 Madeline also won the Hong Kong Buler Challenge Cup.

Madeline is currently preparing to compete at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Case Study - David Calvert and Martin Millar (Shooting – Full Bore)

² Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) Report, SCNI Lottery Fund Evaluation of Awards, March 2002.

David Calvert has been a gold medallist at the last three Commonwealth Games (singles and pairs). He is widely acknowledged as one of Northern Ireland's leading sportsmen, having represented his country and Great Britain with distinction on numerous occasions.

To date the Ulster Rifle Association has received £32,360 in respect of David's preparation for numerous major competitions, including the 1998 and 2002 Commonwealth Games. He is currently preparing for the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Like David Calvert, Martin Millar has enjoyed significant success at previous Commonwealth Games (gold medallist at both the 1998 and 2002 Games). To date the URA has received £50,509 towards Martin's preparation for major international competitions.

David and Martin are two of only 27 shooters in the world to have achieved, for the last 3 years running the highest possible 'X' Class classification. They have once again been selected this year to represent Great Britain on a tour to Canada and the United States of America.

Case Study - Willi Brinkmann Cup, April 2001 (Wheelchair Basketball)

In September 2000 the Knights Wheelchair Basketball Club were successful with its bid to host the finals round of the Willi Brinkmann Cup in Northern Ireland – the first time such an event would be hosted in Northern Ireland.

As a result of this, the Knights Wheelchair Basketball Club successfully submitted an application to the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund's Major International Events programme, receiving an award of £6,200 towards the hosting of the event in Antrim from 27-29 April 2001.

The event attracted more than 140 participants from 8 countries, including Northern Ireland and Spain. The event offered top wheelchair sportspeople from Europe the opportunity to compete in Northern Ireland and also offered the Knights Wheelchair Basketball Club the opportunity to showcase their skills in organising a major sporting event.

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland's strategy aims to promote access to sport for people from all sections of society and to promote knowledge of and interest in sport by children and young people. One post funded by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund particularly illustrates these aims.

Case Study – Phab Parball Development Officer

Through Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Funding, a Sports Development Officer was appointed within Phab (NI) Inclusion Matters to develop inclusive sports. One of these sports is Parball, a game intended to be played jointly by physically handicapped and able-bodied people. The game is played in wheelchairs by two teams in what is a cross between soccer and netball. It is hoped in the next few years of the programme that a Parball league will be developed in Northern Ireland, as well as recognised coaching qualifications.

The Sports Development Officer is working closely with education boards in a effort to get a league up and running and several taster sessions have been held to raise interest. The game has already had coverage in the local media.

In conclusion, SCLF funding has helped to increase overall membership, junior membership, female membership, coaching provision & competitive performance. Lottery-funded clubs are strong in their view that these changes would not have occurred without the Lottery funding and development support they received from the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund Development Officers.

Section 2

Provide an assessment, with examples if appropriate, of the degree to which all parts of the United Kingdom have had access to the Lottery funding you have provided. This can include equity of distribution across social and ethnic groups in addition to geographical distribution.

The National Lottery Act (Etc) 1993 established the National Lottery and nominated a number of distribution bodies to disperse 'good cause' funding across the United Kingdom.

Sport does not have a single United Kingdom-wide distributor but rather is dispersed on a 'home country' basis. The Sports Council for Northern Ireland is the body responsible for the development of sport in Northern Ireland and is the appointed distributor for Lottery sports funding within Northern Ireland.

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland therefore does not have a United Kingdom-wide remit. The other home countries distribute Lottery sports funding in Wales, England and Scotland via their respective sports councils.

Since the inception of the National Lottery in 1994 the Sports Council for Northern Ireland has managed to ensure an equitable geographical

distribution of funding, an equitable distribution across all social groups and an equitable distribution across a wide range of sporting activities.

Northern Ireland has a small but growing ethnic population. At this time it is too early to assess the impact on ethnic groups, but the Sports Council for Northern Ireland has identified these groups as a priority in its' new capital programme.

Impact Across Social Groups

The 2002 KKP study³ into the distribution of Lottery capital funding highlighted that the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland had benefited significantly from Sports Council for Northern Ireland support with almost half of the total funding allocated to support projects in the top 40% of deprived electoral wards in Northern Ireland. The average value of awards in the most deprived areas was £94,230 compared to the Northern Ireland wide average of £74,600.

Impact Across Rural Areas

Northern Ireland is a largely rural country with the five key cities/large towns of Belfast, Lisburn, Derry, Armagh and Newry making up the bulk of the urban population.

Over the ten years of Lottery funding, the sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund has allocated 58% of its' funding towards rural projects, a total of 530 awards totalling £33,978,939.

Impact Across a Range of Sporting Activities

To date, forty different sporting activities have been funded by Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery funding.

A diverse range of sporting activities have been funded from bowls, rugby, swimming and tennis to less high profile sports such as angling, orienteering and sailing.

The greatest number of awards have been made to gaelic football, soccer, cricket and boxing.

In the context of addressing social agendas, the funding given to sports such as boxing and soccer have had a demonstrable impact in increasing participation in sport by under-represented and disadvantaged groups.

³ Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) Report, SCNI Lottery Fund Evaluation of Awards, March 2002.

Summary of Awards by Sport

Sport	No of Awards	Amount (£)
Angling	13	352,112
<i>Archery</i>	5	16,567
Association Football	139	7,188,014
<i>Athletics</i>	113	2,073,299
Badminton	30	990,483
<i>Basketball</i>	8	307,200
Billiards & Snooker	7	85,535
<i>Blind Sports</i>	1	5,000
Bowls	79	2,362,488
<i>Boxing</i>	70	1,392,013
Camogie	15	430,470
<i>Canoeing</i>	5	28,875
Cricket	58	1,833,627
<i>Cycling</i>	75	709,028
Disability Sport	12	247,011
<i>Equestrian</i>	31	635,454
Fencing	22	165,690
Gaelic Sports	250	13,654,962
<i>General</i>	1	35,000
<i>Gliding</i>	4	43,320
Golf	33	1,266,766
<i>Gymnastics</i>	19	623,301
Handball	6	161,895
<i>Hang/Paragliding</i>	1	5,750
Hockey	58	1,882,822
Ice Skating	8	79,420
Hurling	1	1,500
<i>Judo</i>	28	210,659
<i>Karate</i>	6	13,827
Karting	2	12,440
Keep Fit	2	25,811
Motor Cycling	46	518,142
<i>Motor Sports</i>	3	54,180
<i>Mountaineering</i>	5	267,040
Multi Sports	99	11,514,904
<i>Netball</i>	6	152,094
<i>Orienteering</i>	3	116,307
Rambling	2	217,942
<i>Rowing</i>	25	310,240
Rugby Union	29	1,699,442
<i>Sailing/Yachting</i>	39	1,118,574
Shooting	64	738,720
<i>Skiing</i>	3	22,488
<i>Squash</i>	23	170,652
Sub Aqua	16	224,338
<i>Surfing</i>	3	14,250
<i>Swimming</i>	71	2,335,562

Table Tennis	16	187,082
<i>Taekwondo</i>	1	600
<i>Tennis</i>	29	1,438,684
Tenpin Bowling	7	37,954
<i>Trampolining</i>	1	13,000
<i>Triathlon</i>	24	184,589
Tug of War	4	28,500
Volleyball	3	28,033
Water Polo	1	204,050
Water-Skiing	11	113,443
Weightlifting	7	33,832
Yoga	1	3,170
TOTALS:	1644	58,588,151

Impact Across All Geographical Areas

All Local Authority areas in Northern Ireland have benefited from Lottery sports funding. As expected, Belfast has the highest number and value of awards and applications. Some areas of Northern Ireland have performed less well than others.

The Sports Council of Northern Ireland is focusing increased development work in low Lottery uptake regions under its new capital programme.

Summary of Awards by Local Authority

Local Authority	No of Awards	Amount (£)
Antrim	26	2,189,741
<i>Ards</i>	5	517,817
Armagh	33	2,795,807
<i>Ballymena</i>	18	1,575,157
Ballymoney	12	802,924
<i>Banbridge</i>	14	1,448,508
Belfast	85	5,397,464
<i>Carrickfergus</i>	8	521,411
Castlereagh	6	369,818
<i>Coleraine</i>	13	647,072
Cookstown	21	1,984,851
<i>Craigavon</i>	23	1,370,500
Derry	36	1,847,412
<i>Down</i>	48	2,731,799
Dungannon	29	1,465,182
<i>Fermanagh</i>	49	2,536,514
Larne	10	473,060
<i>Limavady</i>	13	1,064,310
Lisburn	25	2,239,041

<i>Magherafelt</i>	24	1,430,089
Moyle	4	271,987
<i>NI Wide</i>	994	13,799,031
Newry & Mourne	43	3,215,427
<i>Newtownabbey</i>	12	1,125,245
North Down	24	2,072,384
<i>Omagh</i>	41	3,259,370
Strabane	28	1,436,230
TOTALS:	1644	58,588,151

Impact Across Northern Ireland's Religious Divide

Northern Ireland has unique historical religious divisions which have resulted in two distinct communities – Catholic and Protestant.

The 2002 KKP report⁴ identified that although groups based in predominantly Catholic areas have submitted more applications and received more awards (554 awards to 455), there is virtually no difference in success rates and the average value of awards. This would suggest that there is no bias on the basis of religion to be addressed by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland in its assessment process.

Case Study – Promoting Community Relations

Midland Amateur Boxing Club (Shore Road, Belfast) received £20,000 to upgrade its facilities and this resulted in a small membership increase since Lottery funding. However the social impact is highly significant. Lottery support has helped provide a much needed facility in an area where there is little sporting provision. With this new facility, the club provides an alternative to sectarian-motivated anti-social behaviour and crime.

Section 3

Indicate the level of levered-in funding that has been possible as a result of your Lottery fund.

Up to 31 March 2005 the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund made awards totalling £58,588,150 towards 1644 projects costing £207,525,223. This provides a leverage ratio of £3.54 for every £1 of funding.

⁴ Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) Report, SCNI Lottery Fund Evaluation of Awards, March 2002.

Therefore Lottery funding has levered £148,937,073 of partnership funding from other sources.

The Construction Industry Training Board indicate that a project spend of approximately £207 million equates to 4554 construction jobs created for the duration of the contract period. The contract period on average tends to be around one year. Therefore it can be concluded that the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery capital investments have resulted in approximately 4554 person years in the construction industry.

Section 4

Provide, with relevant supporting examples, evidence of the major social and economic impacts of your Lottery Funding.

Sport greatly benefits the Northern Ireland economy. The sports sector employs around 12,500 people and it is estimated that approximately £800,000 is spent every day⁵ on sporting activities in Northern Ireland. The potential savings in health expenditure through sport is also enormous. The savings that could be made from the sedentary sector of the population taking up more healthy lifestyles could be as much as £13 million per annum.

In figures obtained from the Value of Sport document⁶, published to provide evidence of the value of sport in improving peoples' lives in Northern Ireland a recent study showed that Northern Ireland's rate of participation in sport (59%) compares favourably with Australia (also 59%) and participations levels are steadily increasing. Also, women's participation has doubled over the past 20 years. People with disabilities are also increasingly becoming involved in sport. This is also linked to the potential health benefits mentioned previously, as, due to a complex range of physical, economic and social barriers, the majority of people with disabilities tend to lead a more sedentary lifestyle.

In an independent survey undertaken for the Value of sport document⁷, public support for funding in sport was overwhelming, with the majority of those polled feeling funding levels should be increased. 96% of those polled were in support of Lottery funding for sport.

It can also be shown that the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland have also benefited significantly from Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund support. Almost half of total funding was allocated to support projects in the top 40% of deprived electoral wards in NI. The average value of award in the most deprived areas was £94,230 (compared to NI-

⁵ The Value of Sport to the Quality of life in Northern Ireland, Sports Council for Northern Ireland, October 2001

⁶ The Value of Sport to the Quality of life in Northern Ireland, Sports Council for Northern Ireland, October 2001

⁷ The Value of Sport to the Quality of life in Northern Ireland, Sports Council for Northern Ireland, October 2001

wide average of £74,600). Recommendations that those deprived areas, which were low in uptake of Lottery funding, should be targeted for outreach, have been addressed by outreach work associated with the delivery of the new Building Sport programme.

The KKP Report⁸ has also shown that there is virtually no difference in success rate and the average value of awards between the two main religious groups in Northern Ireland. Both groups had a success rate of 47% and the average awards made were approximately £74,500.

Case Study – Crime Prevention

The Waterworks Multi-Sport Facility is owned by Belfast City council who supported the application and provided construction management, maintenance and insurance costs. This project replaced an outdated Waterworks tennis court facility.

The facility, which was awarded £100,000, is providing sport at foundation level in an area of high disadvantage and youth population. The project compliments the Lottery Sports Fund Outdoor Floodlit Playground Initiative in an area with a recognised lack of recreation space.

The project provides an outdoor multi-sports floodlit facility to meet the sporting needs of 6,600 teenagers in North Belfast, but in particular for the 2,000 12-18 yr olds in the neighbouring disadvantaged areas.

In recent years, the area has been the victim of social and economic decline. North Belfast is acknowledged to be specifically disadvantaged and eight out of 15 listed peace lines are in North Belfast. The project provides a safe and positive sports and recreational facility for the local young people as well as structured coaching/training opportunities.

Under the new Building Sport capital programme, the assessment process is clearly communicated to applicants. It is a strong priority of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund to promote projects which improve community relations. As a result, there has been a shift away from projects focused on one community to those which improve relations between communities. An example of this is highlighted below.

Case Study – Community Relations

The Ballymena North Partnership is a prime example of a Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund supported project with both social and economic impacts on the surrounding area. The project is situated in an area surrounded by several high Targeting Social Need areas.

⁸ Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) Report, SCNI Lottery Fund Evaluation of Awards, March 2002.

The Ballymena North Partnership secured funding of £500,000 from Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund, towards a total project cost of £2.4million. The project involves the construction of a four-court sports hall with links to health, education and community services. This award highlights the importance Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund places on supporting new Targeting Social Need.

The Partnership is located within the electoral wards of Fairgreen and Dunclug and includes the housing estates of Doury Road, Dunclug, Adair and the Rectory. Access to this type of sports facility is limited in these areas and a large number of potential new users has already been identified. The Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund will ensure that a sports development strategy is in place to maximise the social outcomes. The project, by its nature, allows for full and active involvement for all under-represented groups.

This sports hall is part of the overall social and economic regeneration of this area which also includes business units and child care facilities. The facility will tackle the issues of crime, drug abuse, unemployment, poor health and inactivity which are widespread in the surrounding areas.

Case Study – Health

The proposal for the Old Library Trust development in the Creggan estate in Derry came from detailed community research, which found that local people were concerned about the lack of services and suitable facilities within the area to address their social, health and recreational needs. The Healthy Living Centre was one of the key recommendations from the report and the facility is now managed in close partnership with community groups, educational establishments and the City Council.

The Trust has managed to secure a funding package totalling £1.7 million. The Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund has approved capital funding of £100,000 towards the construction of a two changing room facility incorporating showers, toilets, stores, reception, a referee's room and a meeting room. These facilities will assist in the development of physical activity at the centre.

This new centre is designed to facilitate the introduction of 'recreational based programmes' stimulating participation in physical activity with the aim of creating a local culture of physical fitness and involvement in sports activities. This programme complements the activity of existing sports clubs and organisations that currently have to travel out of the area to access indoor facilities and health-based programmes including cardiovascular rehabilitation. The facilities will provide wide ranging coach led programmes. They will also include a doctors' surgery, which will be the first surgery in the Creggan area.

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund is keen to promote equality of usage and membership between the genders. Several clubs have been advised, as a condition of award, to amend membership rules which make differentiations between the genders. An example is as follows.

Case Study - Gender

Omagh Golf Club is a long established club that had leased its land for over fifty years. However, upon the death of the landowner and the end of the lease, they wished to purchase the land.

The club has a successful history and a thriving membership. However, their constitution showed that women did not have equal rights to access of the club's facilities, membership and positions of responsibility. The constitution has now been amended to remove these inequalities.

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund also operates an Events Programme. While this programme aims to assist organisations with the bidding for and running of sports events in Northern Ireland, applicants are required to demonstrate within their application how the hosting of the proposed events will enrich the quality of life for people in Northern Ireland, improve the international image of Northern Ireland and how the proposed event will create economic benefit for Northern Ireland.

The economic benefit enjoyed by Northern Ireland may be via direct or indirect spend by competitors and/or visitors, increased visitor numbers or the provision of employment opportunities in the lead up to and during a major international sports event.

The geography of Northern Ireland lends itself well towards the hosting of many outdoor events. An example of which follows:

Case Study – Economic Benefit

In May 2004 the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund made an award of £9,204 to Hi Elbow Triathlon Club towards the hosting of the Lough Neagh Triathlon, which took place in August 2004. The event was also an ITU European International Cup Race.

The event attracted a total of 320 competitors, 142 of which came from seven other countries, namely: Republic of Ireland (108), England (15), Scotland (6), Wales (1), Germany (1), Holland (9) and Australia (2). A total of 1,000 spectators enjoyed the event, with an estimated 200 of these being from outside of Northern Ireland. In terms of bed nights, over 400 were generated from those taking part in the event. Reports submitted by the applicant organisation also confirmed that competitors/spectators stayed outside the local area.

The event was also heavily marketed and received much newspaper and print press coverage in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. In addition to this the event enjoyed broadcasts on BBC NI, ITV and GMTV.

The Lough Neagh Triathlon was deemed to have been very successful in terms of increasing participation numbers at the event, the level of the competition, increasing the profile of the event by successfully securing a major sponsor and generating approximately 400 bed nights and £20,000 of expenditure in the local economy.

In summary the hosting of such an event is an example of how the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery funding provides a positive economic impact on rural areas within Northern Ireland.

Section 5

Provide, with relevant supporting information, details of the most important lessons you have learnt during your time as a Lottery distributor.

Through recent applicant based consultation and research with previous funded groups in relation to the development of the new Building Sport capital programme, several issues have been addressed in the hope of improving the funding process in the future.

Ease of application

One of the main issues which came through in consultation was the need to make it easier to apply for awards. This was particularly apparent for smaller groups who were less likely to be experienced in making funding applications.

The new Building Sport capital programme application process has been split into two stages, with a simple eligibility advice form prior to stage one. Organisations are discouraged from incurring any significant costs during stage one, therefore limiting any financial consequences of not gaining an award.

Stage one of the application process has been designed to be more discerning. This will maximise the success of full applications, whilst minimising the resource implication for unsuccessful applicants.

Outreach

It has been established that there is a clear need for less able communities to have direction and guidance through the concept, planning, application and implementation phases of their projects.

Case Study – Outreach

An example of the positive effects of outreach work are evident in a funded project at the Greysteel Community Enterprise. The project is an extension to the existing building to incorporate a gym and changing facilities. The project had been having difficulties securing funding for the proposed facility and had considered completing the plans over several phases. Through extensive outreach investment by Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund, the project progressed by a sufficient extent to enter the new Building Sport programme. Working closely with the applicant resulted in a quality application being received.

Improving Capacity

The consultation and review process has also led to the development of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland's Priorities Initiative which aims to assist the most needy communities and groups to develop through sport. This initiative will see particular focus placed upon the top 25% of TSN areas. A key aspect of this initiative is capacity building by assisting communities to establish and sustain community sports projects and develop the capacity of voluntary and community organisations.

Case Study – Capacity Building

It is in community areas such as Ligoniel, in Belfast, where applications are unlikely to be generated independently and so assistance and outreach work can benefit these areas immensely.

Ligoniel Amateur Boxing Club received an award of £138,969 for the refurbishment of the ground floor of the boxing gymnasium. Thirty years of social and economic decline had resulted in Ligoniel becoming one of the most deprived wards within Northern Ireland. Ligoniel Village Regeneration Partnership was formed in 1999 to devise an action plan to revitalise and regenerate the area for the benefit of all its' inhabitants. The Partnership comprised representatives from the community, local developers, employers, local authorities etc. The main areas and issues of concern were to address the lack of social and recreational facilities, poverty and ill-health.

As the club experienced difficulties synchronising the timescales of a number of potential funders, the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund made a provisional offer and afforded the club an extended period to secure the funding package. We also offered the assistance of a development officer in securing additional funding and addressing the project weaknesses, as the club lacked capacity in this area.

These measures clearly illustrate how needy communities need the opportunities for funding to be available for a considerable period and that pressures to reduce the NDLF balance may have a negative impact on these important projects.

Strategic Focus

One of the strategic priorities that successful applicants to the new Building Sport programme must demonstrate is that their proposed facility will “provide structures for long term athlete development”. Long term athlete development refers to the path an athlete takes to progress to the top of their sporting aspiration or ability.

Case Study – Strategic Focus

An example of a facility which is intended to facilitate this development is the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland at Jordanstown. This investment has a strategic link to UK Government policy, DCAL Corporate Strategy, Sports Council for Northern Ireland Corporate Plan and the Athlete Support Programme within Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund.

The proposals for a United Kingdom Sports Institute (UKSI) were set out by the Government in “Raising the Game”, 1995. In December 1999 it was announced that the UKSI would have central headquarters with links to a series of network centres throughout the home countries, one of which would be in Northern Ireland.

The long-term goal of the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland is to assist Northern Ireland high performers to achieve consistent winning performances.

There is a proven need to invest in high performance sport and to ensure that talented athletes have the opportunity to progress to the top of the performance pathway. The Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund Awards to Sports Institute for Northern Ireland clearly target this strategic need.

Additionality

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund goes to great lengths to ensure that all investments are in addition to any other funding that may be put in place by statutory bodies. For example, before awarding any funding to an education and library board facility, we refer to the Department of Education’s Capital Build Programmes to ensure that other public funds are not already identified for the project.

Case Study – Additionality

Castlereagh Borough Council is currently in the process of providing a floodlit, water-based synthetic hockey pitch to be used by several different groups in the area. However, as part of the funding package, the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund have awarded £200,000 out of a total project cost of £720,000. This funding recognises the additional costs relating to the promotion of elite hockey at the facility, in addition to the Council’s community provision at the site, for which it has a statutory

responsibility. In this way, Lottery investment strategically fits with other public investment but is also additional to it.

Section 6

What More Could be Achieved With Further Future Lottery Funding? What are the Most Significant Gaps or Priorities for Funding in Your Good Cause Area?

The distribution of Sports Lottery Funding across the four home countries is based on population and takes no account of social deprivation or economies of scale. The Sports Council for Northern Ireland could achieve significant additional benefits for Northern Ireland if more Lottery funding was available.

The policy directions to the Sports Council for Northern Ireland specifically require us to take account of 'the scope for reducing economic and social deprivation'. The shift towards revenue funding has led to greater emphasis on community based projects. This in turn means that the role of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Lottery Fund in tackling deprivation and promoting social inclusion is far greater now than was originally envisaged when the Lottery was launched in 1994. With increased funding the Sports Council for Northern Ireland could greatly increase its impact on economic deprivation and promoting social inclusion. This need is identified through the allocation of funds through the previously named New Opportunities and Community Funds, now rebranded as The Big Lottery Fund. The funding allocated by these organisations did take into account the levels of deprivation and resulted in more funds being awarded to Northern Ireland than would have been its' entitlement via a percentage share allocation related to population, as is the mechanism used to apportion funds to both sport and the arts.

A number of UK Government reports highlight the increasing role that sports can play in tackling deprivation and promoting inclusion. These include, Pat 10, the DSCM Green Paper Culture and Creativity, and Game Plan.

These UK Government reports highlight how sport can play an important part in:

- Tackling deprivation
- Promoting social inclusion
- Regeneration projects
- Health improvements
- Crime reduction
- Educational attainment
- Creating employment opportunities
- Reducing inactivity which is most prevalent in deprived communities

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland's project assessment and grant making procedures, mean that the poorest communities in Northern Ireland have most access to the Lottery funds and small community groups stand a better chance than ever of receiving Lottery funding for sports projects.

Game Plan, the Government's sweeping strategy for sport and physical activity agrees that investment in sport and physical activity can make the biggest difference to bringing health benefits to deprived communities. Game Plan also identifies the overarching objective of sustainable improvement of success in elite sport in international competition. In order to create the most basic facilities for a sports institute in Northern Ireland, the Sports Council for Northern Ireland has had to make a case that promotes the UK significance of the project, in order to secure contributions from Sport England and Sport Scotland. No matter how small the population, a facility in Northern Ireland still costs much the same as a facility in England. With such a limited lottery income, Sports Council for Northern Ireland lacks the resources to make a significant contribution to creating facilities that other parts of the UK would view as basic requirements. We, along with other interests, would aspire to have the resources to address the significant lack of sporting infrastructure in Northern Ireland, these gaps include:

- A 50m pool
- Indoor athletics training facilities
- Indoor cycling facilities
- Major sports grounds that meet the safety standards enforced by law in England
- Community sports facilities

The poor economies of scale which exist in Northern Ireland, and the current Sports Council Lottery Fund income streams (linked to population) limit the ability of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland to make significant inroads into improving life in deprived communities and increasing Northern Ireland's success in international competition. With increased funding, the Sports Council could make inroads into these challenging areas.

<http://www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk>