



<b>Subject:</b>	Update on the Amateur Boxing Strategy
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Unit Manager

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b> The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress that has been made to date in the delivery of Phase 1 of the Amateur Boxing Strategy and to request permission for the use of City Hall for the finale event for the Boxing development squad on the evening of Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2015.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b> Members are asked to: (i) Note the progress made to date; and (ii) Recommend to SP&R the use of City Hall for the finale event for the boxing development squad on 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 and that the BBC is permitted to film the event as part of the he preview programme for Sports Personality of the Year.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b> Members are reminded that the Council developed a 10 year amateur boxing strategy for the city in partnership with County Antrim Boxing, Ulster Boxing Council (UBC), Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) and the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA). The final strategy including an action plan was agreed by the former Parks and Leisure Committee in March 2013. It was also agreed that £200,000 per annum would be allocated for 3 years for the implementation of Phase 1 of the strategy and this would include funding to put in place a Sports Development Officer (appointed in December 2013) and two community based coaches (appointed in April 2014).

As the implementation of Phase 1 will end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 the following is an update to Members of the progress to date and the steps that are being put in place to evaluate the impact of the support that has been provided to boxing across the city.

The Strategy has four strategic challenges under which actions have been developed. A table outlining these actions and what has been achieved under each is attached as

**Appendix 1.** Some highlights of what we have achieved to date are:

- Two Belfast days of boxing have been held – one in March 2014 which involved 18 boxing clubs delivering coaching in the community and 1,000 participants and one in January 2015 which involved 20 clubs and 3,000 participants
- Our 2 Community Based Boxing Coaches to date have run a range of programmes targeting 16,000 participants.
- To date we have run a total of 7 courses supporting 100 coaches
- We have supported the development of 3 new clubs in the Belfast area (Ledley Hall ABC, Upper Ormeau Road ABC and St Michael's ABC)

A steering group comprising representatives from the various boxing bodies was set up to develop the Strategy and it continues to meet to ensure that the implementation of the Strategy meets the needs of boxing in the city. As part of the development of the Strategy, meetings were also held with representatives of all the boxing clubs in the city and these continue to be held on a regular basis. These meetings allow Officers to update the boxing clubs on what is happening and to get their views. At one of these meetings it was identified that a development squad was required in Belfast. The community based coaches have worked with clubs across the city to set up a programme which includes 10 training sessions and has an element to provide mentoring for less experienced coaches. Of the 27 clubs across the city invited to participate in the programme 21 are involved. The programme is aimed at 11, 12 and 13 year olds and 50 young boxers (both male and female) were nominated to participate.

As part of the programme a finale event will be held to allow the boxers involved to showcase their skills. It is proposed that this event will be held in City Hall on the evening of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and the Lord Mayor will attend. We have also been informed by the BBC that they would like to film the finale event as part of the BBC Get Inspired Active Academy and the footage will be included in the preview programme of Sports Personality of the Year.

Officers also met with representatives from the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure and Sport NI to discuss the support they are providing to boxing and to ensure that resources are maximised.

Members may also be aware that work is in progress to establish a governing body for boxing in Northern Ireland. Boxing is currently governed on an all island basis and the recognised governing body is the Irish Amateur Boxing association (IABA) based in Dublin. The Northern Ireland Boxing Association (NIBA) has been created as a separate entity and whilst it is not yet a recognised governing body, several Belfast clubs have affiliated with it. Whilst officers will continue to work with all clubs across the city, in relation to some activities, such as using clubs for 'Try it' days, the Council can only work with clubs that are affiliated to a recognised governing body. There are also criteria around some of the Council's funding streams that require the club to be affiliated to a recognised governing body.

Affiliation to a recognised governing body gives Council assurance that a club is operating to a high standard and that they have the correct policies and procedures in place around areas such as:

- Health and safety
- Child protection
- Governance and management
- Coach education and vetting
- Training and vetting of volunteers

This is particularly important in a high impact sport such as boxing to ensure that any risk of injury is mitigated. Affiliation to a recognised governing body also gives Council assurance that the correct insurance is in place which is important if we are to use a club and/or its coaches for an event that is open to the public. Affiliation to a recognised governing body is also essential for progression pathways for competitors, coaches and ring side officials. If a club is not affiliated to a recognised governing body they will not be able to offer their boxers development opportunities and the opportunity to compete at the highest levels such as at European, World, Olympic or Commonwealth level.

Members are asked to note that progress of the new Northern Ireland Government Body will be monitored with a view to including clubs affiliated to it once the body is recognised. It is unclear at this stage what the timescale is for recognising NIBA as a governing body.

	<p>As we are entering the final months of Phase 1 of the implementation of the Strategy officers are in the process of commencing a review of the impact of the support that has been provided on boxing in the city. This will include updating the baseline assessment of all boxing clubs that was undertaken during the development of the Strategy. The findings of the review will be brought to Members in early 2016 with recommendations on how boxing is supported in the future.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications.</u></p> <p>£200,000 per year for a period of 3 years was agreed for the implementation of the strategy.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The Strategy has been equality screened in line with the Council's equality process. The screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the Strategy.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p><b>Appendix 1 – Summary of action plans</b></p>