

## S&E Regional OP 2007 – 2013

### Draft Implementation Plan 3.1/2.3.2

<b>Operational Programme</b>	S&E Regional Operational Programme 2007 - 2013
<b>Priority</b>	Sustainable Urban Dimension
<b>Theme</b>	Gateways & Hub Challenge Fund
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	Sports & Cultural Facilities; <b>Sports Capital Programme</b>
<b>ERDF Certifying Body</b>	Department of Finance
<b>Managing Authority</b>	S&E Regional Assembly
<b>Intermediate Body</b>	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism
<b>Level 1 Public Body</b>	Local Authorities
<b>Grant Rate</b>	Sports Capital Programme the maximum level of funding can be 90% for a project in an urban disadvantaged area. The avg. contribution is around 40%. In each case depend on individual applications
<b>EU Co-financing Rate</b>	40%

#### **Description**

Through the Sports Capital Programme the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism helps the development of the social infrastructure of communities and contributes towards making locations more attractive places to live and work. The national lottery-funded Sports Capital Programme allocates funding to projects that are directly related to the provision of sports facilities and are of a capital nature

#### **Objectives**

The Sports Capital Programme aims to foster an integrated and planned approach to developing sports and physical recreation facilities throughout the country. In particular, its objectives are to:

- assist voluntary and community organisations, national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport, VECs and local authorities to develop high quality, safe, well-designed and sustainable facilities in appropriate locations and to provide appropriate equipment to help maximise participation in sport and physical recreation
- prioritise the needs of disadvantaged areas in the provision of sports facilities
- encourage the multi-purpose use of local, regional and national sports facilities by clubs, community organisations and national governing bodies of sport

#### **Responsibilities of Intermediate Body**

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism is the designated Intermediate Body under this plan. The Department will ensure that terms and conditions of the Sports Capital Programme are implemented in keeping with broader Government policies in relation to the sports and by means of appropriate financial management.

The Department, with assistance from the OPW and CSSO, will have responsibility for ensuring that capital projects are planned, designed and constructed to high standard and that Government investments are legally protected.

## **Responsibilities of Level 1 Public Body**

The Local Authorities as Level 1 Public Body will have responsibility for all aspect of the delivery of individual projects and of management of facilities once completed.

## **Contribution to Horizontal Themes**

### *Social Inclusion*

One of the stated aims and objectives of the sports capital programme is to prioritise the needs of disadvantaged areas in the provision of facilities. Since 2002, areas that have been designated by Government for special support through the schemes administered by Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, i.e. RAPID, Local Drugs Task Force and Clár are treated as disadvantaged under the programme.

Projects identified as being located in areas designated as disadvantaged are targeted and prioritised in a number of ways during the assessment of applications. They are permitted to have a lower level of minimum own funding available (10% for projects in urban disadvantaged areas covered by the RAPID and local Drug Task Force areas, 20% for projects in Clár areas, as against the 30% for all non-designated areas) towards their project, and extra marks are also awarded to such projects during the assessment process under the level of socio-economic disadvantage criterion.

Successful projects under the Sports Capital Programme in Clár and RAPID areas may qualify to receive top-up funding, payable by the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, in addition to their sports capital allocation. In the case of projects located in Clár areas, this top-up funding can be up to 20% of the sports capital grant amount; in the case of projects located in RAPID areas which are also endorsed by their local Area Implementation Team, the top-up funding can be up to 30%.

### *Gender Equality*

In assessing applications under the Sports Capital Programme special priority is given to applications for facilities that will help promote and enhance female participation in sport.

## **Project Selection**

### Selection Process –

- Organisations are invited to apply for the Sports Capital Programme by way of advertisements in the national press.
- An application form and guidelines, terms and conditions are made available.
- After the application deadline all applications are assessed according to strict criteria
- Recommendations are presented to the Minister for final approval.

### Selection Board Membership

Officials assess applications and all decisions are made by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism.

### Selection Criteria

When assessing applications the Department uses a number of criteria, some of which are more important than others. Each application is scored according to how well it meets these criteria and then rank it in order of priority within its own county. The Minister makes the final decision in relation to each application. The selection criteria can vary from year to year.

Applications under the 2008 Sports Capital Programme will be assessed and scored on the following criteria:

- whether the project aims to increase active participation in sport and/or improve standards of sports performance in line with clearly stated targets. In particular, the Department will prioritise facilities in disadvantaged areas and those that will help promote and enhance female participation in sport. In the assessment process the guiding principle is that priority will be given to the facilities closest to actual participation in sport. In this regard bar facilities, landscaping and car parks will not be funded under the Programme.
- whether applicants have provided evidence that the project is located in a disadvantaged area and meets a need for sporting facilities in the area.
- whether applicants have provided the following: evidence of title to the project site; evidence of planning permission applied for or in place; drawings/specifications for the project; and accurate costings for each element of the project.
- whether the project is realistic in terms of scale, costs and grant assistance sought.
- whether applicants have shown that they have a proven history of fund-raising and have a good level of own funding which will allow the applicant to finish the project within a realistic timeframe.
- whether applicants have provided evidence of "own funding" towards the project
- whether applicant's application includes realistic projections of income from the proposed facility that will be used to maintain it when it is finished.
- whether the project has a high priority in relation to existing facilities.
- whether there is already a good level of similar sporting facilities in the area.
- whether the application includes details and evidence of consultation with other clubs, community groups, schools and the local authority, especially those that will use the facility.
- whether the application clearly explains how applicants will attract socially excluded people to use the facility.
- whether the project fits in with the priorities for the sport as identified by the relevant national governing body of sport (for regional or national-level projects only).
- Sports clubs that can prove that local schools have access to their facilities will also be looked upon more favourably.

In applying the assessment criteria, the Department aims for a good spread of funding between:

- different geographical areas of the country;
- a wide range of sports; and
- different community groups.

### Performance Indicators

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term Dec '09	Final
Output Municipal multi-sport facilities built	1 municipal multi - sports centre built	Centres currently in	Dependant on successful applications from other Hubs and Gateways	Dependant on successful applications from other Hubs and Gateways
Improved opportunities to participate in sport				

Impact Increased participation				
--------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

## **Financial Management**

### Document Retention

In accordance with Article 90 of the General Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, the Intermediate Body and Level 1 Public Bodies will ensure that all supporting documents regarding expenditure, verification checks, certification and audits on the interventions concerned are kept available for the EU Commission and Court of Auditors for a period of three years following the closure of the Operational Programme.

### **Monitoring and Reporting arrangements**

The reporting arrangements require that a progress report be submitted annually to the Monitoring Committee in a format to be specified by the Committee. In addition, Intermediate Bodies will be required to provide data on the IT system which will be used to transfer information to the Commission.

### **Information and Publicity**

The Department and Beneficiary Bodies will ensure compliance with the Information and Publicity requirements as set out under articles 5 to 9 of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006.

The contribution of the ERDF and Exchequer Funds will be acknowledged in all promotional material, annual reports, letters of offer etc, by use of appropriate logo and text references. The relevant Structural Funds regulations on Information and Publicity will be complied with in this regard. All Information and Publicity will be undertaken in accordance with the Communications Plan.

### **North/South Co-operation**

If suitable applications are received for projects in the hubs and gateways located in the border region there will be a positive impact on North – South Co-operation by way of enhanced opportunities for people from the North to use the facilities provided by this measure.