

Funding sport in the community



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1 Sport England's funding will help create a world-leading community sport system

1.1 Introduction

This document sets out Sport England's funding strategy from April 2009 until March 2011¹ informing potential applicants for funding of the purposes, scope and operation of Sport England's grant programmes. It reflects the priorities of our overall strategy² and the changes to National Lottery funding within this.³ Sport England has a maximum of £213 million per year to invest in community sport from April 2009. Of this total, a maximum of £158 million will be distributed to specific organisations with specific objectives related to community sport; a maximum of £55 million will be distributed through applications from all bona fide organisations which are judged on their merits against transparent criteria.

This document covers the following:

- Section 1: A summary of Sport England's new strategy and the principles on which our supporting funding will be based
- Section 2: A description of each of the funds that will be available from April 2009
- Section 3: A description of the application, award and reporting processes.

We will also produce detailed guidance for the new funds as required to ensure that potential applicants are given the best advice when actually applying for funding.

This document has been completed with the information available at the time. Importantly, the money we have available to invest in community sport may change, as it is based on our income both from the Government and from National Lottery funding. We will advise of any significant changes via our website at www.sportengland.org and look to publish an update on an annual basis.

1.2 Sport England is creating a world-leading community sport system

We want to create a world-leading community sport system. As our strategy sets out, this means investing our funds and working with partners to achieve three outcomes:

¹ Some funding commitments and plans are applicable over different time periods. See section 2 for details

² Launched on 6 June 2008, http://www.sportengland.org/index/news_and_media/news_pr/sport_england_strategy_2008-2011.htm

³ 'Funding Sport in your Community - Public Consultation Report on Findings' is available to download from the Sport England website - www.sportengland.org

Outcome 1 - Grow	Increasing regular ⁴ participation in sport by one million by 2012/13 and working with the Youth Sport Trust to enable young people to access at least five hours of sport a week.
Outcome 2 - Sustain	Sustaining current participation in sport by ensuring that participants have a high quality experience and working to reduce the “drop-off” in sports participation between the ages of 16 and 18.
Outcome 3 - Excel	Developing and accelerating talent by investing in individual sports, making sure that many more talented performers move on to elite programmes and sporting success.

The strategy commits us to deliver on a series of demanding targets by 2012/13:

- One million people doing more sport
- A 25% reduction in the number of 16- to 18-year-olds who drop out of five key sports
- Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports
- A measurable increase in people’s satisfaction with their experience of sport – the first time the organisation has set such a qualitative measure
- A major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.

Overall, our aim is to create a vibrant sporting culture in England. We are seeking a new partnership between government, its agencies and the national governing bodies of sport. We will also continue to work alongside local authorities, who drive local provision and are a key partner in delivering a world-leading community sport infrastructure. Our role will be to focus exclusively on sport rather than the broader physical activity agenda. Within this, our responsibility is for community sport; with the Youth Sport Trust focusing on school sport and UK Sport focusing on elite sport.

Earlier this year⁵ we consulted on how we could best use our National Lottery funding to support community sport. The findings from this consultation have been used to develop this funding strategy, along with other relevant considerations, such as the amount of funding available and Sport England's statutory duties.

1.3 The key principles of Sport England's new funding strategy

The new partnerships we are seeking - with national governing bodies and with local authorities - require new principles for the way we provide funding. These include:

- Supporting both our larger national partners and smaller community sports groups with:
 - Longer term commitment to partners (e.g. supporting county sports partnerships and other partner organisations over a funding cycle rather than on an annual basis)
 - Availability of small grants with simplified conditions
- The pursuit of excellence and better outcomes:

⁴ Regular is defined here as 3 sessions of moderate intensity sport each week.

⁵ The public consultation was open for 12 weeks from 25 June 2008 to 16 September 2008 and in total 536 responses were received.

- Providing a range of grants designed to support all the outcomes we seek, particularly through 'themed round' funding
- A competitive approach to selecting the best bids to receive funding
- Greater promotion of sport for sport's sake
- Supporting innovation, in order to make a step change
- Greater flexibility in the way that funding is distributed, to ensure it meets the needs of applicants:
 - Themed rounds to enable the funding focus to change over time
 - A move away from regional decision making to a national process
 - The integration of capital and revenue funding
- Minimising bureaucracy while ensuring accountability
 - Making application criteria more transparent
 - Streamlining our online and offline application processes
 - Providing an application process that focuses on the ability of applicants to deliver
 - Providing the highest quality guidance for funding applicants.

1.4 Sport England's funding and expertise supports the system as a whole

Building a world-leading system is not simple, it requires investment from us and our partners in a range of activities. Some of these activities will have an immediate impact - such as providing sporting equipment or floodlights for a hockey pitch. Other investment will show results in the medium term - such as providing coaches or building new sports facilities. Over the longer term we will provide investment in the people, organisations and networks that grow and sustain participation in sport and lead on to sporting excellence.

In making these investments we will work with and benefit from the skills, experience, enthusiasm and resources of the national governing bodies of sport, local authorities and national partners. Into this mix we bring not only funding, but expertise, maximising the chances of success of the projects that we support. We:

- Understand what works - e.g. what makes a sports facility sustainable
- Guide applicants through the processes of project development
- Know the sporting landscape - which could well influence the direction of a new project
- Use our brand to give a strong 'kite-mark' to improve the chances of success
- Promote innovation - vital if we are to make a step change in the numbers participating in sport.



2 Sport England has designed each of the funds carefully to support its strategy

2.1 Sport England will provide funding through solicited and open applications

We intend to distribute funding in two ways:

- Through 'solicited' applications - we will work with organisations which have specific objectives related to community sport (such as national governing bodies, county sports partnerships and local authorities) and agree funding for aspects of their work towards these objectives, setting them targets to secure an appropriate return on investment. The amount available for solicited funding is around £158 million a year, from 2009/10
- Through 'open' applications - a maximum of £45 million per year is available for open funding, from 2009/10. All bona fide organisations are able to apply for this funding, including applicants from sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, education establishments (such as schools, colleges and universities) which grow and sustain participation in community sport. These applications will be judged on their merits against transparent and relevant criteria which will be published when the funds are open for applications.

In addition we intend to make £10 million funding from 2009/10 available for investment in sustainable facilities which could be either on a solicited or open basis.

We distribute both National Lottery funding and Exchequer funding. Our National Lottery income comes from the receipts from the National Lottery; Exchequer income is delegated to us by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. There are two important differences between these two funding streams:

- Firstly, National Lottery funds should not be used to fund activities which should be funded by the taxpayer. Funds do not, generally, have to be spent in the year in which they are granted
- Secondly, Exchequer funds are provided from general taxation. They must, generally, be spent in the year in which they are granted.

The table below summarises the features of each of the proposed funds and our best available understanding of the maximum amount of funding available on an annual basis from the 2009/10 financial year. Funding is dependent on our income which can differ from year to year. If income falls, then the amount of funding we have to distribute also falls.

Solicited or open	Fund description	Indicative maximum funding for 2009/10
Solicited funding	National governing bodies - Funding will be provided for up to 46 national governing bodies based on their plans for the period 2009-2013.	£120 million of which £66m Exchequer £54m Lottery
	National partners - Funding will be linked to supporting the delivery of the agreed outcomes via their specialist skills, knowledge or services. National partners have been requested to submit a plan for 2009-13 which will then be assessed for value for money and ability to deliver.	£10 million (Exchequer)
	County sports partnerships - Funding will resource a national network of county sports partnerships which will support national governing bodies to deliver their outcomes and our programmes.	£10 million (Lottery)
	Children and young people - Funding will be provided to national governing bodies and county sports partnerships to help them achieve our contribution to the Government's five hour sports offer for 5- to 19-year-olds.	£18 million (Exchequer)
SUB-TOTAL SOLICITED FUNDING (MAXIMUM)		£158 million
Open funding	Themed rounds - Projects which meet the criteria within a given themed round will receive grants of over £10,000 to grow and sustain participation in community sport	£30 million (Lottery)
	Small Grants - Grants of between £300 and £10,000 will be provided to support sport in communities. The application and award processes will be as streamlined as possible.	£7 million (Lottery)
	Innovation Fund - Funding will be provided to a limited number of large projects to test out new ideas which could have wide application. This area of funding may pose greater risk but offers a larger potential reward.	£5 million (Lottery)
	Sportsmatch - Grants of between £500 and £100,000 will be provided to clubs and other bona fide organisations that need Sport England grants to bring in other funding.	£3 million (Exchequer)
SUB-TOTAL OPEN FUNDING (MAXIMUM)		£45 million
Mixed - solicited/open	Facilities Investment - Funding will be provided to support sustainable investment in major sports facilities. This funding is additional to the facilities funding that we will give to national governing bodies	£10 million of which £8m exchequer £2m lottery
TOTAL MAXIMUM FUNDING		£213 million
Of which	SUB-TOTAL EXCHEQUER FUNDING (MAXIMUM)	£105 million
	SUB-TOTAL LOTTERY FUNDING (MAXIMUM)	£108 million

2.2 Solicited funding

Below we set out details of each of the solicited funding programmes:

- National governing bodies
- County sports partnerships
- National partners
- Children and young people.

2.2.1 National governing bodies

We will provide the majority of our solicited funding to our partner national governing bodies of sport in order to deliver our joint outcomes.

Funding summary	We aim to: grow the number of people playing sport; sustain participation by encouraging more people to keep playing sport; and help talented sports people excel by improving talent development. We will achieve much of this through working with and providing funding for the national governing bodies of sport. We will fund 46 national governing bodies based on an assessment of the plans they submitted to us.
Funding available	£120 million per year from 2009/10. The fund will be a mixture of revenue and capital.
Timing	From April 2009.
Eligibility criteria	<p>This funding will be made available to 46 national governing bodies based on an assessment of their plans for developing their sport. These plans were invited from those national governing bodies which were deemed eligible against the criteria summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual activity should be recognised as a sport by the four Sports Councils in the UK and by UK Sport • The national governing body in receipt of funding should be the lead organisation for the sport • The national governing body should be able to demonstrate the level of governance required to receive public funds. • Existing 'priority sports' which include: athletics, badminton, canoeing, cricket, cycling, equestrianism, football, golf, gymnastics, hockey, judo, netball, rowing, rugby league, rugby union, sailing, squash, swimming, tennis and triathlon • Existing 'development sports' which include: basketball, bowls, boxing, baseball/softball, lacrosse, movement & dance, outdoor pursuits (mountaineering, orienteering & angling), rounders, table tennis, volleyball, modern pentathlon and water skiing. • The list should be extended to include all London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic sports. These sports include: archery, fencing, handball, shooting, taekwondo, weightlifting, wrestling, and the Paralympic sports - boccia, goalball, shooting, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair

	<p>fencing, wheelchair rugby, and wheelchair tennis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other sports with participation rates in excess of 75,000 (measured as once in the last four weeks, as identified by the Active People Survey) with a clear competition framework, which resulted in the inclusion of skiing and snowboarding.
Application process	<p>National governing bodies submitted four-year plans to Sport England, which set out the amount of funding they require to deliver the 'grow, sustain and excel' outcomes of the strategy.</p> <p>46 national governing bodies applied for funding from a single funding stream. Those sports that prove their ability to deliver and offer value for money will receive the funding.</p>
Monitoring and evaluation requirements	<p>All Sport England funded programmes will be subject to an appropriate level and type of monitoring and evaluation. This will be geared to ensure that the organisation both meets its statutory duties and manages risk regarding delivery of programme outcomes. The requirements will also be proportionate to past performance - good delivery will mean a lighter monitoring requirement, with poor performance calling for greater attention. Further details of monitoring and evaluation requirements and procedures will be available to potential applicants and recipients as new funds are formally launched.</p>
Partner contribution required	<p>Matched funding is required for some elements of the funding available.</p>
Relationship to other funding streams	<p>We are reducing bureaucracy by combining several previous funding streams such as the Community Club Development Programme and the National Sports Foundation into a single pot of funding for national governing bodies.</p> <p>Themed rounds will provide an opportunity to spot any gaps in provision, react to situations where markets might fail or expand successful themes which have been part of individual national governing bodies' plans.</p>

2.2.2 County sports partnerships

County sports partnerships are funded by Sport England to provide a network of organisations which will work with national governing bodies to expand capacity and increase chances of success.

Funding summary	<p>This fund will resource a national network of county sports partnerships which will support national governing bodies to deliver their outcomes and Sport England programmes.</p>
Funding available	<p>£10 million per year from 2009/10.</p>
Timing	<p>From April 2009.</p>
Eligibility criteria	<p>The fund is for the network of county sports partnerships only.</p>
Application process	<p>County sports partnerships will be invited to apply for funding of a maximum of £200k each per year to deliver a set of services set out in a clear specification.</p>
Monitoring and evaluation requirements	<p>All Sport England funded programmes will be subject to an appropriate level and type of monitoring and evaluation. This will be geared to ensure that the</p>

	organisation both meets its statutory duties and manages risk regarding delivery of programme outcomes. The requirements will also be proportionate to past performance - good delivery will mean a lighter monitoring requirement, with poor performance calling for greater attention.
Partner contribution required	An element of partnership funding will be required.
Relationship to other funding streams	In the previous Lottery strategy county sports partnerships received £150k per year, and hence this is an increase on core funding. They also received 'active sports' and other programme funding and some successfully applied to the Community Investment Fund. Going forward county sports partnerships will also deliver the exchequer funded Sport Unlimited and Step into Sport programmes for Sport England.

2.2.3 National partners

National partners are organisations which share Sport England's objectives and which we will fund to work with us and with national governing bodies to increase our strategy's chances of success.

Funding summary	We are reviewing the core contributions required from national partners such as Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation in parallel with the national governing body commissioning process. National partner funding will then be linked to supporting the delivery of the agreed outcomes via their specialist skills, knowledge or services. In particular, equality bodies will have a key role to play in helping improve diversity across community sport, and helping national governing bodies develop their capacity in this area.
Funding available	£10 million per year from 2009/10.
Timing	From April 2009.
Eligibility criteria	The funding is targeted at national partners - designated organisations which are helping Sport England deliver its objectives
Application process	National partners were requested to submit a plan for 2009-13 based on the assistance they can give to Sport England reaching its targets. These are being assessed against the criteria of value for money and ability to deliver and funding will be distributed accordingly.
Monitoring and evaluation requirements	All Sport England funded programmes will be subject to an appropriate level and type of monitoring and evaluation. This will be geared to ensure that the organisation both meets its statutory duties and manages risk regarding delivery of programme outcomes. The requirements will also be proportionate to past performance - good delivery will mean a lighter monitoring requirement, with poor performance calling for greater attention.
Partner contribution required	Matched funding is not required.
Relationship to other funding streams	Funding will be given on the basis that national partners can help the national governing bodies to deliver outcomes.

2.2.4 Children and young people

We will provide funding to national governing bodies and county sports partnerships to help us deliver the club and community elements of the Government's 'Five hour sports offer' to children and young people aged 5-19.

Funding summary	Our funding for children and young people is Sport England's contribution to the Government's five hour sports offer for 5- to 19-year-olds. It supports the delivery of four of the ten workstrands within the Government's 'PE and Sport Strategy for Young People'. The four workstrands are: Sport Unlimited, Recruiting to Coaching, School-Club links and Leadership and Volunteering. In addition this funding supports the Sporting Champions and Respect Athlete Mentoring programmes. The programmes are aimed both at outcomes which 'grow' participation and which 'sustain' participation, through reducing 'drop-off' at 16.
Funding available	Funding between 2008/09 and 2010/11 totals almost £70 million, with £21.8 million for 2009/10. Of this £4.2 million is provided in 2009/10 and 2010/11 as part of funding allocated to national governing bodies.
Timing	Funding will be provided between 2008/09 and 2010/11 as this money was identified as part of the 2007 Spending Review.
Eligibility criteria	We will provide funding to national governing bodies and county sports partnerships based on their plans to deliver relevant outcomes. Funds can then be accessed by clubs and other providers of sporting facilities locally.
Application process	Clubs and other providers of sporting facilities will be invited to bid for funding by county sports partnerships as part of the Sport Unlimited workstrand.
Monitoring and evaluation requirements	Take up of the five hour sports offer is measured through an independent government survey. Other indicators, such as participation in club sport or volunteering are measured through either the DCSF School Sports Survey (5- to 16-year-olds) or the Active People Survey (16- to 18-year-olds). The club and community workstrands that Sport England leads within the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People also have impact studies which seek to identify key success factors and share best practice.
Partner contribution required	Funding is not dependent on securing matched funding, but in some cases we would expect this funding to be part of a larger pot.
Relationship to other funding streams	Sport England leads and supports the delivery of the community and club element of the five hour sports offer working in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust who lead activity focused around schools.

2.3 Open funding

We want to put the majority of our open access investment into regular funding rounds for projects which relate to specific themes which are important to the development of community sport. In addition we want to create funds which address specific needs in the drive to increase and sustain participation in sport.

Together these funds are designed to:

- Be accessible to a wide range of applicants right across England
- Provide the right amount of money for the right purposes
- Provide funding for capital (such as investment in facilities) and revenue (such as support for coaching activity).⁶

In setting out the detail of our open funding programmes we are building on the response to the proposals set out in our recent consultation document on National Lottery funding.

2.3.1 Themed rounds

Themed rounds will be the primary means of distributing National Lottery funding to community sport and will be designed to be flexible, clear and responsive to future needs.

Funding summary	We propose a series of themed rounds of Lottery funding for projects which deliver positive outcomes for community sport. The themes would be chosen so as to ensure maximum benefits to sport and the communities participating in that sport. It would ensure that in making decisions on Lottery funding we would be comparing 'like with like', focusing on the best applications within particular themes. We envisage the funding would be used for a wide range of projects such as: supporting voluntary organisations to run sports programmes, coaching, significant investment in equipment or new facilities or extending existing facilities to community groups.
Funding available	Up to £30 million per year, revenue and capital funding, from 2009/10. The fund would be designed to support a large number of awards of all sizes over £10,000.
Timing	The first themed round will be announced in February 2009 in anticipation of applications in April 2009. The round will be open for 2-3 months. We anticipate 2-3 rounds per year and will look to give at least 3 months notice of forthcoming rounds.
Eligibility criteria	The funds will be open to bona fide organisations, including applicants from sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, education establishments (such as schools, colleges and universities) which grow and sustain participation in community sport. We will aim to apply criteria which target funds at certain types of projects designed to maximise the benefits for community sport in line with the objectives of the fund.
Application process	There will be a two-stage process: an initial short application to assess alignment with the fund's objectives, then a longer process designed to understand the project and decide on the appropriate funding.
Monitoring and evaluation requirements	All Sport England funded programmes will be subject to an appropriate level and type of monitoring and evaluation. This will be geared to ensure that the organisation both meets its statutory duties and manages risk regarding delivery of programme outcomes. The requirements will also be proportionate to past performance - good delivery will mean a lighter monitoring requirement, with poor

⁶ Sport England's commitment will be time-limited in both cases.

	performance calling for greater attention. Further details of monitoring and evaluation requirements and procedures will be available to potential applicants and recipients as new funds are formally launched.
Partner contribution required	We would encourage a partner contribution and this will be one of the criteria on which the application will be judged. However, there will be no single set contribution required.
Relationship to other funding streams	This funding stream will use funds which previously would have been part of the Community Investment Fund.

2.3.2 Small Grants

We recognise the great importance of small amounts of funding to assist sports clubs and other organisations with very local projects.

Funding summary	The small grants programme will provide funding for community-level activities that help people become involved in sport, keep people in sport or help people improve their performance at their chosen sport. We anticipate this fund will be used for example, for purchasing sports equipment for local clubs, running coaching activities for the community and getting more coaches qualified. The fund will be efficient at getting small amounts of funding to grassroots sport in England.
Funding available	£7 million per year for revenue and small capital projects, from 2009/10. The minimum award will be £300 and the maximum £10,000. The fund will make a large number of small awards every year.
Timing	We will accept applications for this fund from April 2009 until further notice.
Eligibility criteria	The programme will be open to bona fide not-for-profit organisations, including applicants from sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, education establishments (such as schools, colleges and universities). Projects will need to demonstrate how they contribute to growing and sustaining participation in community sport or helping improve performance in sport. Funding will not be available to individuals.
Application process	Application will be online, with web based and telephone help-line support. Alternative options will be available for those without internet access. The whole process, from receipt of application to decision, will take no longer than six weeks.
Monitoring and evaluation requirements	All Sport England funded programmes will be subject to an appropriate level and type of monitoring and evaluation. This will be geared to ensure that the organisation both meets its statutory duties and manages risk regarding delivery of programme outcomes. Where applicable, requirements will also be proportionate to past performance - good delivery will mean a lighter monitoring requirement, with poor performance calling for greater attention. Further details of monitoring and evaluation requirements and procedures will be available to potential applicants and recipients as new funds are formally launched.
Partner contribution required	A partner contribution will be encouraged, but not required.

Relationship to other funding streams

This programme will sit along side Sportsmatch as it offers similar amounts of money to similar organisations, but with different partner contribution criteria.

2.3.3 Innovation Fund

We will set up an Innovation Fund in order to fund and encourage new and innovative ways of promoting and supporting participation in sport.

Funding summary	<p>The Innovation Fund will provide medium to large awards to organisations that demonstrate they can address specific barriers to growing and sustaining participation in sport. This fund will be targeted at projects which offer potentially higher return for higher risk, as might be expected from an innovative approach. Successful projects will be seen as 'market leading'.</p> <p>The fund will be designed to promote effective take-up of the lessons learned during the process. This would be aimed at making the project into business as usual so that impact can be sustained. Evaluation will therefore be an important part of a successful project proposal.</p>
Funding available	<p>£5 million per year, revenue and capital funding, from 2009/10. The fund will be designed to make a small number of medium to large awards over £10,000.</p>
Timing	<p>We will accept applications for the first round of this fund from April 2009. There are likely to be two rounds per year.</p>
Eligibility criteria	<p>The fund will be open to bona fide organisations including applicants from sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, education establishments (such as schools, colleges and universities) or a collaborative or consortia approach which can demonstrate the potential to grow and sustain participation in community sport.</p> <p>We will set criteria which target funds at projects designed to maximise the benefits for community sport in line with the objectives of the fund.</p>
Application process	<p>There will be a two-stage process: an initial short application to assess alignment with the fund's objectives, and then a longer process designed to understand the project and decide on the appropriate funding level and monitoring and evaluation methodology.</p>
Monitoring and evaluation requirements	<p>All Sport England funded programmes will be subject to an appropriate level and type of monitoring and evaluation. This will be geared to ensure that the organisation both meets its statutory duties and manages risk regarding delivery of programme outcomes. Where applicable, requirements will also be proportionate to past performance - good delivery will mean a lighter monitoring requirement, with poor performance calling for greater attention. Further details of monitoring and evaluation requirements and procedures will be available to potential applicants and recipients as new funds are formally launched.</p>
Partner contribution required	<p>Partner commitment in practical terms will be essential, but partner financial contribution, whilst encouraged will not be required, given the experimental nature of some of the solutions which will be proposed. We would expect to see support from the national governing body of the relevant sport(s).</p>

Relationship to other funding streams

This funding stream will use funds which previously would have been part of the Community Investment Fund.

2.3.4 Sportsmatch

Sportsmatch will enable community clubs to make the most of the funding they receive from the private sector by matching the amounts available.

Funding summary	Sportsmatch is funded by Sport England to support the development of grassroots sport in England. It makes awards to organisations running projects aimed at increasing participation in sports at community level. We do this through matching eligible funding invested in community sport.
Funding available	£3 million Exchequer funding per year, made up of revenue and capital funding, from 2009/10. The fund will be designed to make a large number of awards starting at £500 (schools) or £1,000 (other eligible organisations). The maximum grant is £100,000, and the maximum capital grant is £25,000.
Timing	We will be accepting applications for financial year 2009/10 from 1 April 2009.
Eligibility criteria	The funds will be open to bona fide organisations, including applicants from sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, education establishments (such as schools, colleges and universities) or a collaborative or consortia approach which can demonstrate the potential to grow and sustain participation in community sport.
Application process	Application will be online, with web based and telephone help-line support. Alternative options will be available for those without internet access. We will aim for a quick decision, consistent with due process.
Monitoring and evaluation requirements	All Sport England funded programmes will be subject to an appropriate level and type of monitoring and evaluation. This will be geared to ensure that the organisation both meets its statutory duties and manages risk regarding delivery of programme outcomes. Where applicable, requirements will also be proportionate to past performance - good delivery will mean a lighter monitoring requirement, with poor performance calling for greater attention. Further details of monitoring and evaluation requirements and procedures will be available to potential applicants and recipients as new funds are formally launched.
Partner contribution required	A minimum of £1 partner contribution for £1 Sport England funding is required. Partner contributions can only come from private companies, trusts and individual donations (and from a maximum of three other partners for each project).
Relationship to other funding streams	The £7 million per year funding in 'Small Grants' provides some grants of similar amounts, but without the same requirement for partner contributions.

2.4 Mixed solicited/open funding

Sustainable investment in community facilities will be made both on a solicited and open basis.

2.4.1 Sustainable investment in community facilities

<p>Funding summary</p>	<p>The challenge with investment in facilities is to ensure that the facility keeps on growing and sustaining sports users year after year. This means bringing in enough revenue to maintain the high standards of facilities and a varied programme of sports opportunities and outreach work. There is otherwise a risk that a decline in standards will lead to a decline in use.</p> <p>This fund will aim to meet this challenge by supporting innovative projects which promote a sustainable approach to community facilities. This may mean supporting investment in projects that involve partnerships with public, private and commercial organisations - creating a range of facilities that are sustainable both in financial and sports development terms.</p> <p>The fund will focus on projects designed to stimulate the market to create innovative approaches for increasing sports participation with creative ideas for facility provision.</p>
<p>Funding available</p>	<p>£10 million per year, capital funding. The fund will be designed to make a small number of large awards.</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p>We will accept applications for this fund from April 2009.</p>
<p>Eligibility criteria</p>	<p>The fund will be open to bona fide organisations, including applicants from sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, education establishments (such as schools, colleges and universities) or a collaborative or consortia approach which can demonstrate the potential to grow and sustain participation in community sport.</p> <p>We will set criteria which target funding at projects designed to maximise the benefits for community sport in line with the objectives of the fund.</p>
<p>Application process</p>	<p>We will use this fund to support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the private, and public sectors and national governing bodies. The fund will be designed to encourage others to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. A guide has been produced which offers comprehensive advice on the development of sustainable facilities. We recommend that applicants take the guide into consideration before applying. The guide can be accessed at:</p> <p>http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/planning_for_sport_front_page/sustainable_community_sports_hubs.htm</p>
<p>Monitoring and evaluation requirements</p>	<p>All Sport England funded programmes will be subject to an appropriate level and type of monitoring and evaluation. This will be geared to ensure that the organisation both meets its statutory duties and manages risk regarding delivery of programme outcomes. The requirements will also be proportionate to past performance - good delivery will mean a lighter monitoring requirement, with poor performance calling for greater attention. Further details of monitoring and</p>

	evaluation requirements and procedures will be available to potential applicants and recipients as new funds are formally launched.
Partner contribution required	Sport England will generally expect to be a minor funding partner within a larger project.
Relationship to other funding streams	We will look to work strategically with other capital investment programmes such as Building Schools for the Future and the Learning & Skills Council's capital programmes, to add value to these investments, create genuine opportunities for community sport and develop fully sustainable approaches to delivery.



3 Sport England will operate a streamlined application and award process

In this section we set out:

1. How we are designing the application and award processes
2. The principles for future reporting and evaluation
3. The timing of the introduction of the new funds

3.1 Sport England is designing the application and award processes to balance efficiency and support

The consultation on National Lottery funding told us that:

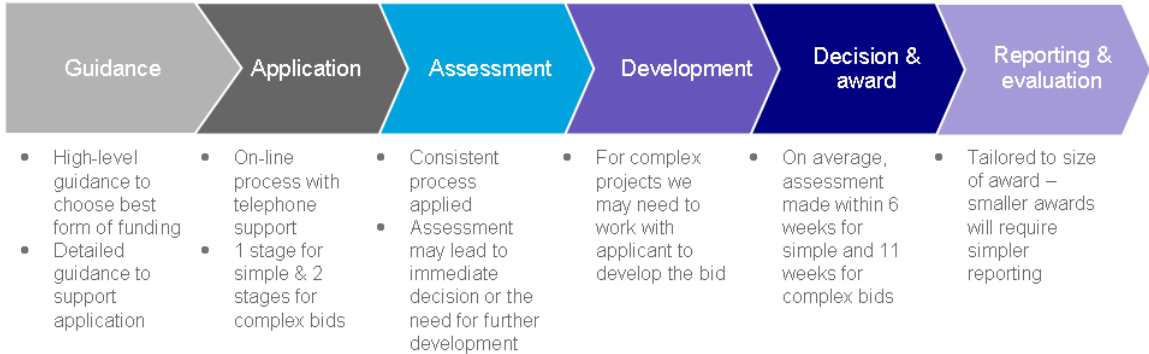
- Applicants were generally happy with the support and advice we provide and they particularly liked the online application
- However, the process of applying to the Community Investment Fund was one of the least liked features
- Applicants thought the quality of support and advice was more important than the speed of response.

We are therefore designing the application and award processes to balance efficiency and support:

- Being transparent about the eligibility conditions and award criteria
- Matching the time taken up by the application process to the size of application
- Further enhancing our online application system
- Using our new shared service centre in Loughborough to process applications in a consistent and efficient way.

The flow-chart below sets out the application and award process from the customer's perspective. This will be put in place by April 2009.

Figure 1: Journey through the application and award process



The period between submission of an application and decision is currently 11 weeks (three weeks to give an initial decision of eligibility and priority and eight weeks following receipt of a Stage Two application), based on our current agreement with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

We are working to reduce any unnecessary delay in this process through establishing a more efficient, centralised grant-processing system. For our small grants programme, decisions will be available six weeks after receipt of the application.

However, our ability to reduce the time taken to process grant applications is also dependent on other factors, such as the quality and quantity of advice needed, the complexity of the project, the availability of specialist support (e.g. on planning or facility construction) and the capacity of the applicant to develop their application in time. We will tailor our approach according to the project and the programme to reduce the paperwork.

3.2 Sport England is designing the reporting and evaluation requirements to be proportionate to the size of award

We are required to account to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, as to what we spend our funding on and, to the extent possible, the impact it has.

Our consultation told us that there should be a strong relationship between the size of award and the scale of reporting required by us. In other words, generally, large awards will require more extensive reporting (including where appropriate an evaluation against stated outcomes) than smaller grants (where the focus will need to be on assuring delivery and financial probity).

Each funding stream will therefore have reporting and evaluation requirements that are appropriate both for the amount of the award and for other criteria, such as objectives of the spend and whether Sport England is the major or minor funding partner.

We will also ensure that our requirements are based on three principles of good information management:

- Where possible, we will request only that information which an organisation would itself require for effective management
- We will use the information provided in a way which improves what we do and how we do it with a clear focus on our core strategic outcomes of 'grow, sustain and excel'
- We will ensure that the learning from our evaluation is shared with funded projects and the wider sports sector to drive continuous improvement and innovation.

3.3 The new funding strategy will be operational by April 2009

Our aim is to work to the timetable below. If this changes we will publish details on our website <http://www.sportengland.org>.

Date	Activity
December 2008	Plans for national governing bodies approved and funding agreed.
6 January 2009	Funding strategy published and made available to all to provide a context for our future funding programmes.
6 January 2009	Final date for receipt of Stage One applications for funding from our existing Community Investment Fund.
February 2009	First 'themed round' of funding announced, together with an outline of the application process and timescales. Themes for future rounds will also be announced.
April 2009	Applications accepted for our small grants programme, innovation fund, facilities fund, Sportsmatch and our first themed round. Timescales for future rounds will also be announced.
May 2009	First awards made under small grants programme.
July 2009	First awards made under the first themed round.



4 About Sport England

The English Sports Council (trading as Sport England) is an executive non-departmental public body, distributing funding received from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and National Lottery funds in relation to sports.

We are committed to creating a world-leading community sport system and increasing participation in sport. We have invested more than £2 billion of National Lottery funds into community sport in England since 1994 and invested in 3,000 sports club projects.

Please see http://www.sportengland.org/index/about_sport_england/about_who.htm for more details on us and our role.

This document can be provided in alternative languages, or alternative formats such as large print, Braille, tape and on disk upon request.

Call the Sport England switchboard on 08458 508 508 for more details.