

Assessment Summary

NI Draft Programme for Government 2024-27

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Overview

Consultation dates: 10th September – 4th November

Document: [Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most \(northernireland.gov.uk\)](https://www.northernireland.gov.uk)

TEO Consultation Events: [Shaping Our Future Together: draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' Consultation Registration - Page 1 of 4 - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

Consultation return: [Draft Programme for Government Consultation 2024-2027 - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

PfG Dashboard for measures:

https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/executiveofficeni/pfg_wellbeing_dashboard.html?tab=overall

PfG Framework

Outline below is the framework used for the PfG consisting of

1. Three Missions and Cross Cutting Commitment
2. Three 'Areas of Focus'
3. Nine Immediate Priorities

3 Missions and cross cutting commitment:



3 Core Areas of Focus

1. **Doing What Matters Most Today**
2. **Building New Foundations**
3. **Shaping a Better Tomorrow**

Nine Immediate Priorities



Together, these cross-cutting priorities will help us deliver our Missions.

Overall (initial) comments

We welcome that sport, physical recreation and the environment has been included in specific areas of the document, however the *immediate priorities* have not included specific aspects that we can pinpoint will directly support the sector.

There is a lack of detail and outline of investment specific to areas of sport/ recreation where e.g. we have seen a standstill investment in SportNI and reduction in Capital funding over recent years, equating to a real-term cut. The PfG outlines these for some other initiatives, but no indication for investment is provided for sport and physical recreation.

More clarity is needed on the definition of 'International Events'. Events, as outlined in the NISF there should be support for sporting event bids also.



Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Stadia referenced, with small reference to grassroots clubs. There has been limited investment in clubs since Covid 19 and with a high demand in updating basic facilities, this must be included in an Action Plan, with an overall Sports Facilities Strategy completed and adequate funding in support.

We welcome that an Environment Strategy is outlined and means for some progress for water quality monitoring specific to Lough Neagh, however, this needs to be across bodies of water where recreational use is high.

Reform and Transformation of the Voluntary Sector must include multi year funding models and core funding considerations to allow better and more effective planning by sports bodies. This will provide assurance to the sector and allow more effective Strategic planning and delivery.

Quick reference

We have made Initial quick reference of the PfG based upon four key headings:

1. Clear labelling of Sport/ Physical Recreation
2. Areas where sport / Physical recreation will play an active part
3. Areas sport/ physical recreation needs to be considered in any action plan

This is by no means exhaustive, and members should look to read in full, this is to help support assessing the document.

1. Clear Labelling for Sport/ Physical Recreation

Page	Priority	Reference
61	Mission: Building New Foundations	<p>“Upgrade Stadia and Support Local Sports”</p> <p>“investments for (..)grass roots sport”</p> <p>“host events that can draw international audiences”</p>
69	Mission: Shaping a New Tomorrow (People)	<p>“We will also prioritise sports and PA to tackle obesity which currently costs our health service £500m each year. These efforts will be tailored to reflect the needs of our increasingly diverse and aging population”</p> <p>“Our Investments in new outdoor recreation facilities will help to ensure we provide quality and modern focal points for our communities and that we can help people to enjoy active social lives. Both now and in the future, these will be assets for everyone and help to ensure that we can host events that draw international audiences”</p> <p>“Prioritise sports and physical activity to tackle obesity”</p> <p>The “Live Better” initiative will deliver and test a new place-based approach to addressing health inequalities</p>

2. Areas where sport / Physical recreation will play an active part

Page	Priority	Reference
26	Cutting Health Waiting times	<p>“It also requires addressing Health Inequalities and helping improve the long-term health and well-being of the population (...) taking proactive steps to cure, care for, and prevent illness”</p>
28	Proposed Action: Cutting Health Waiting Times	<p>“supporting a move to addressing health inequalities and improving health through primary, community and social care”</p>
29		<p>This coupled with actions that help people remain healthy and tackle health inequalities will improve the lives of all our citizens and relieve pressure on the Health and social Care system”</p>

31	EVAWG proposed Action: Raising awareness	“We will lead and work with partners to develop campaigns to ensure that there is strong, consistent messaging so that everyone here, including our children and young people, understands the issue and knows how to help end VAWGs”
35	Better Support for children and young people with SEN	“access to appropriate data to inform planning of the schools’ estate (...)
45	Safer Communities	We will work collectively to develop a cross-government strategy to reduce offending and reoffending (...) focus on preventing people from entering the justice system...”
46	Proposed Action: Our First Environment Strategy	“we will publish a new environment strategy which will be adopted as NI’s first Environmental Improvement Plan”
66	Mission: Shaping a Better Tomorrow (People)	Issue: “People from more deprived areas are more likely to suffer from poor physical and mental health, are less likely to be active in their community and are more likely to be a victim of crime”
67	Mission: Shaping a Better Tomorrow (People)	Proposed Action: “(...) a long-term mission to make sure everyone can live a long, healthy and happy life” “(...) a fair and inclusive society” “(...)bring forward actions to address the issues of integration and Racism “Through joint working across depts, statutory agencies and voluntary and community orgs, we will work to keep people safe” “(...) introduction of social inclusion strategies”
P 68	Mission: Shaping a Better Tomorrow (People)	“ We will build on the Executive’s strategic framework for public health, Making Life Better, to tackle wider determinants of health and we will redouble our efforts to improve the physical and mental health outcomes on NI’s population and reduce inequalities (...)”

3. Areas sport/ physical recreation needs to be considered in any action plan

#	Priority	Reference
46	Protecting Lough Neagh and the Environment	“growing importance for recreation and tourism”
48	Interagency Protocol	“(...) categorisation of surface waters, with bathing waters presenting highest risk in terms of public health (...) The protocol can be used by councils and water business operators on how to monitor sites being managed and how to advise the public”
51	Reform and Transformation of Voluntary Sector	“Community and Voluntary Sector is a key partner but we recognise that they have been significantly impacted by unpredictable funding arrangements along with increased demand. (...) so we will prioritise

		interconnected solutions and sustainable funding models.
61	Mission: Building New Foundations	“Manage Our Water”