



LSSIF REVIEW: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT SINCE 2019 AND WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN 2024?

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LSSIF 2019 vs 2024

On 3rd April, Ministers Catherine Martin and Thomas Byrne published a review of the 2019 LSSIF Fund, including recommendations for the upcoming LSSIF programme. As the 2019 round was the first for this new fund, it is worth reflecting on some of the data and observations shared.

€172m was sought back in 2019 from a fund of €100m. €86m was allocated at the time and an additional €37m allocated in 2023 to address cost inflation, for a total of €124m.

Five years later, only €5.4 million (4%) has been drawn down, with completion achieved for only two out of 33 projects.

Clearly, the LSSIF Fund has had a difficult start, and the review sets out a range of reasons for this, including: Covid19, Construction Inflation, Planning issues and % allocated compared to level of funding sought. There is no doubt that these will be factored into the new round.

The review notes that the Immigrant Investment Programme (IIP) has been a significant factor in helping to fund many of the 2019 projects and that its closure could have an impact of demand in the next round. This, along with the 5-year gap between rounds, demographic growth, continued cost inflation, sports infrastructure deficits and similar access requirements will, in our view, lead to demand at a multiple of 2019's €172m. This would be mitigated if there was a real commitment to LSSIF rounds becoming an annual (rather than an irregular) option for capital development funding for Sport.

5 Key Recommendations

There were 5 key recommendations going forward, none of which were surprising and should enrich the proposed investments in sports and ultimately the communities they serve. However, some of the recommendations caught our attention as they reflected the changes in what is happening with sporting developments across the country at the grass roots level.

Firstly, the equality of access for males and females is a pre-requisite to funding, similar to the requirement which was included in the SCEP funds. This financially supports the Women In Sport strategic objective which has been adopted by all sports. However, this funding incentive will hasten the development of the required facilities at all levels of sport across the country. Many women's teams still struggle to gain access to facilities, but this will ensure that their needs and demands are centre stage.

Secondly, sports facilities are multi usage as well as multi-sport in many cases and they are a part of the wider infrastructure of community facilities. The NGBs provide a focal point for their sport at all levels and share facilities as needed. This is not only for sporting reasons, but also ensures the economic viability of a large facility and brings in additional income streams to the NGB. The need to show access for multi-sport users will encourage and support greater integration, which is economically advantageous for all involved.

Economic viability of a facility is demonstrated by access to other users such as conferencing, social meetings and corporate events. For example, the redevelopment of the Basketball Ireland arena in Tallaght currently facilitates Irish dancing championships, as well as LEGO exhibitions. There are endless possibilities for their state of art facility which will be able to host not only Basketball, but Badminton and Paralympics, as well corporate exhibitions.

The announcement of the new round of LSSIF is being eagerly awaited by all sports and project promoters across the country. I'm sure the competition for funding will be high, with a need to show not only environmental sustainability, but also the socioeconomic impact of sports and the wider community.

Get in Touch

If you requiring support with your LSSIF grant application, learn more about our grant process services [here](#) or contact Patricia Keenan directly at patricia.keenan@2into3.com or +353 86 065 7347.