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Dublin Senior Inter-County G.A.A. Players to benefit from Government – Kennedy

The Government has agreed with the Irish Sports Council and the G.A.A. to introduce schemes in a bid to recognise the outstanding contribution of Senior Inter-County players according to Vice Chair of the Dail Committee on Arts, Sports and Tourism, and T.D. for Dublin North, Michael Kennedy.

“These new schemes will be designed to enhance team performance and the Sports Council will award €3.5 million in grants to meet the associated costs.”

“The schemes will encourage aspiring teams and players.”

“In return the teams and players will work closely with Local Sports Partnerships on a programme of visits to schools and youth clubs to increase participation in sports.”

“This agreement may have taken some time to come to fruition but I am confident that it is one that will benefit the players and their communities alike.”

“County committees, team management and players representatives in participating counties will develop improvement plans with measurable goals and objectives, agreed with the Irish Sports Council, in line with national GAA coaching and games development policy based on agreed criteria.”

“Our G.A.A. teams prepare and train to the highest international standards for team sports. The current scheme of tax relief for professional sports people cannot be applied to Gaelic players because of their amateur status.”

“The commitment and contribution of Inter-County players is huge. They have to sacrifice significant amounts of family and personal time to meet training commitments but give so much joy to fans.”

“Three Dublin Inter-County players live in my constituency, All-Star Ciaran Whelan, Bryan Cullen and Shane Ryan and I know that these new scheme will be of great benefit to them and the up and coming G.A.A. stars,” concluded Deputy Kennedy.