

Renfrewshire Council

Draft Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill

Response to Consultation

Introduction

Renfrewshire Council supports Glasgow in its bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2014 and acknowledges this unique opportunity for Scottish athletes to compete in front of a home crowd, to showcase modern Scotland to billions of people, to inspire young people to take up and excel at sport and to leave a social and economic legacy that will bring benefits to Glasgow and to Scotland as a whole.

The nature of wider benefits to Scotland is of particular relevance to Renfrewshire Council due to its proximity to Glasgow with the M8 as the main transport artery and transport links to Glasgow and Prestwick airports. It is important to acknowledge that the proposals could involve financial implications for Renfrewshire which will be considered in relation to the provisions which will be put in place as a result of legislation. Further clarification is desirable in relation to the role of the organising committee in determining access routes to funding to ensure that there is no financial burden to Renfrewshire without recompense. Section 35 of the draft bill is of relevance in this context.

Advertising

Section 9-14 of the draft bill sets out the regulations for advertising and the potential for ambush marketing is discussed in the introductory paper. The proposed scope of the legislation, however, must acknowledge the wider context, particularly in relation to Renfrewshire as a neighbouring council to Glasgow. There is potential for ambush marketing within privately owned land including the green field space along the A737 and M8 corridors. Renfrewshire is also currently involved in advertising contracts for 10-15 years and ultimately will have no control over any sub-contracting. Legislation should acknowledge these facts and incorporate accompanying measures.

Trading Activities

The importance of cross-referencing new legislation to Trading Standards legislation is paramount to ensure protective measures for existing traders.

Ticket Touting

It will be important to build on previous experience in relation to hosting of the Commonwealth Games in Great Britain. The fundamental principle of effective liaison and co-ordination between the policy and enforcement officers has to be acknowledged.

Enforcement

It is assumed that Trading Standards will influence practice in relation to the designated duties. The resource implications should be emphasised once again, as there is a clear expectation of a high level of input with corresponding expertise/training. Further guidance is desirable to clarify roles and responsibilities, given the level of power invested in the enforcers and the significance of the end of the legislation at the conclusion of the Games. There is also reference in section 16 of the introduction to local authority employees undertaking the role of enforcers. It is not clear if this is restricted to Glasgow and no detail is given in relation to training and associated costs.

Transport

The importance of consultation with Renfrewshire in the development of a transport plan in section 31 of the draft bill must be emphasised given its geographical proximity to Glasgow as stated earlier. Consultation is essential even if no sporting functions will be taking place within Renfrewshire.

Further discussion and clarification in relation to the resource implications for promoting traffic regulation orders should be noted, particularly in the context of section 32 (2).

Land Acquisition

Further clarification is desirable on the range of sports to be included in the Games and the potential for Renfrewshire facilities to be used for training purposes. Previous comments in relation to resource implications and roles and responsibilities for the council and the official body continue to be of relevance.