

# Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland Consultation response from the University of Edinburgh

April 2008

## 1. Introduction

Following its strong support for the 'Back Scotland's Bid' campaign, the University is delighted that Glasgow is to play host to the 2014 Commonwealth Games. The University shares the Scottish Government's view that the games present an opportunity from which the whole nation can benefit and is keen that the higher education sector be fully integrated in the process of shaping the Games and the sporting, economic, cultural, international profile and health legacies they will provide. Such integration is central to ensuring that the widest possible cross-section of society share in the lasting benefits of the Games.

## 2. Context: Sport, Higher Education and the University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh in particular enjoy a close and positive relationship with sport at all levels. This relationship makes a major contribution to the life of the University and the institution's contributions to the local community and to Scotland as a whole. Key aspects of this relationship and their particular relevance to the legacy of the 2014 Commonwealth Games are enumerated in the following subsections.

### 2.1 Student participation

The University of Edinburgh Sports Union is one of the largest organisations of its kind in the UK with 5,000 members, 65 active clubs covering everything from archery to windsurfing and 1,500 members who play competitive intra-mural sport on a weekly basis. This level of sporting participation contributes to a healthy lifestyle, with exercise habits begun at university continuing to contribute to healthy living later in life<sup>1</sup>. Successes include team performances such as the men's football team's recent success in the early rounds of the Scottish FA cup and individual achievements, including the performance of 400m hurdler Eilidh Child, ranked third in the Scottish all time list and aiming to participate in both the 2012 Olympic and 2014 Commonwealth Games.

*There is a huge interest and participation in sport amongst universities' student bodies. The long-term health benefits this provides could be enhanced by means of the 2014 Games to increase participation and to highlight volunteering opportunities both in direct support of the Games and more widely. This would make a significant contribution to both the national outcomes of living longer healthier lives, developing responsible citizens and of building strong, resilient and supportive communities.*

### 2.2 Facilities

Many of Scotland's leading sports facilities are to be found in universities and the University of Edinburgh offers a range of excellent such facilities and has played host the British University Games in both 2003 and 2008<sup>2</sup>, as well as the men's World Cup Hockey Qualifier (2001), the European Cup Winners' Cup Finals for Hockey (2005) and the European Youth Hockey Championships (2007). This year University facilities will host the Scottish Basketball Cup finals, the European Basketball 'C' Championships and Scottish Hockey's domestic cup finals. In 2010 the World University Hockey Championships will also be hosted by the University.

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<sup>1</sup> *Wellbeing Scotland*, Universities Scotland, 2007, Pg 2 (<http://www.universities-scotland.ac.uk/uploads/publications/Wellbeing%20Scotland%202007.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Jointly with Heriot-Watt University

The University's Centre for Sport and Exercise offers one of the largest, most extensive and highly regarded sport & exercise programmes in the country. It is rated as one of only sixteen "five star" facilities at UK universities in *The Times Good University Guide 2007* and *Scotland the Best* described the gym as "best in town". Facilities include two top-class sports halls, four glass-backed squash courts, four free weights gyms, a machine weights gym, a 100 station state-of-the-art cardiovascular training gym with personal viewing screens, dedicated body circuits gym, climbing wall, bouldering room, archery/rifle ranges, six multi-purpose activity gyms and a 25M swimming pool. The Centre also plays host to the internationally renowned FASIC Sports Injury Centre, which is one of the country's leading sport and exercise medicine providers, whose expertise includes physiotherapy, podiatry, medical consultancy, and preventative sports medicine.

Peffermill, the University's outdoor playing fields, offers high-quality sports, teaching, and social facilities about 1.5 miles from the city centre. Home to Scotland's National Hockey Academy, Peffermill has two international standard, water-based AstroTurf pitches, which are ideal for hockey and football. The expansive natural turf pitches are of the highest quality and are used for various sports, including football, rugby, lacrosse, shinty, and cricket. There are also artificial tennis courts, cricket nets, and a golf teaching and practice facility.

On the south shore of Loch Tay, 60 miles north of Edinburgh, Firbush Point is the University's residential centre offering outdoor activity courses, from novice to instructor level. Summer sports and activities such as sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering and hill walking, are complemented by winter activities such as cross-country skiing and mountaineering.

*There is the possibility to utilise the University's extensive existing sports and accommodation facilities and expertise in support of the 2014 games and preceding training camps thereby making a contribution to the reduction of our global environmental impact through the use of existing infrastructure.*

### **2.3 Elite Athletes**

Some 65% of the Great Britain team for the Athens Olympics had previously or were currently attending a higher education institution<sup>3</sup>. World champions including Chris Hoy and Katherine Grainger pursued their sporting goals alongside their studies whilst at the University of Edinburgh. The University recognises the close relationship between individuals' academic and sporting excellence and offers a growing range of sports bursaries.<sup>4</sup> These currently support 27 individuals and 12 teams. In addition to Katherine Grainger, high achieving athletes to have held such bursaries include Mike Hart (Commonwealth Championships Gold medallist – power lifting), Ian Edmond (World Championship silver medallist - swimming), Tim Munden (World Student Games medallist – archery), Matt Thompson (World Junior Champion, rifle) and Shirley Webb (Great Britain International athlete – throws), and numerous others besides.

*The 2014 Games represent a unique opportunity better recognise the link between higher education and elite sport and build on established structures in order to improve Scottish performance. In addition to enhancing performance in the 2014 Games itself, there is the opportunity to put in place a legacy of improved support for elite sport at universities, ensuring a step change is maintained in the long term contributing to the national outcome of ensuring our young people are ready to succeed.*

### **2.4 Community**

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<sup>3</sup> *The HE Sector and the 2012 London Olympic Games*

<sup>4</sup> Edinburgh University Sports Bursaries

([http://www.sport.ed.ac.uk/services/sports\\_bursaries/sportsbursary\\_main.shtml](http://www.sport.ed.ac.uk/services/sports_bursaries/sportsbursary_main.shtml))

The University's facilities are open to members of the public with membership of the Centre for Sport and Exercise starting at just £20 a month or £5 a month for pensioners. There are circa 2,000 members of the public with no formal relationship to the University who hold such memberships and, an additional 20% of "pay as you go" access to facilities is from the general public. Professional and amateur groups and individual athletes also access the University's sports medicine, sports massage, and children's week events and hire facilities. For five weeks per annum the Centre's facilities form an integral part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival venue network.

*The 2014 Games present an opportunity to highlight the benefits which accrue from an active lifestyle by developing and enhancing university facilities and their use by the wider community. This will contribute to achieving the national outcomes of strong, resilient and supportive communities and living longer, healthier lives.*

### **2.5 Widening participation**

The University is a primary producer of PE teachers and other leisure professionals, and this resource could be further developed within the scope of the 2014 legacy to ensure those going on to teach, coach or work in the sports and leisure industries are equipped with the specific coaching knowledge to give school children the best possible introduction and exposure to certain sport in order to better capture the imagination of young people.

The University's relationship with sport plays an important part in ensuring that young people from all social backgrounds aspire to achieve their full potential in higher education. Football, in particular, has been an important tool in reaching out to young males, particularly in communities with a limited history of participation in higher education. This has taken place through both the publicity around the exploits of the University's football team in the Scottish FA Cup and, more strategically, the University's "Educated Pass" scheme which, in collaboration with local colleges and the Professional Footballers Association Scotland, which helps to unlock the education and football potential of 13-16 year old boys. Working with the full support of the Scottish Youth Football Association (SYFA), the programme engages the boys, their parents and their coaches with the educational opportunities open to them at local colleges and universities. This success will grow further as the University and Scottish Football Association progress a new partnership to develop new coaches and women's football in the East of Scotland.

*Utilising the opportunity presented by the 2014 games to underline the link between academic and sporting achievement and the opportunities to pursue sporting interests at university would assist the sector in achieving its widening participation objectives and make a direct contribution to the desired national outcome that our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.*

### **2.6 International links**

The University of Edinburgh has strong links with countries around the world by means of its alumni network and former employees. In addition to more than 6,000 current students and around 900 staff from outside the UK, the University has a network of alumni associations in 39 countries around the globe, including many Commonwealth countries. Many of the University's overseas alumni who were involved in competitive sports whilst at University retain an affiliation to their club and remain in touch, with some attending reunion events.

*Universities' international networks are a key resource which could be drawn on in promoting the 2014 games in contributing to the national outcome that Scotland be the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.*

## **2.7 HE and the 2012 Olympics**

In recognition of the higher education sector's role in relation to sport and its potential to contribute in a range of other ways, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has published a strategic document<sup>5</sup> outlining the way in which it will be supporting the games via the institutions it funds.

*Learning from universities' involvement in other major sporting events around the world and early collaboration with Scotland's higher education sector, including the relevant Government directorates, will significantly enhance Scotland's ability to deliver on the whole range of intended national outcomes.*

## **3. Answers to the consultation questions**

### **3.1 Are there benefits from the Games you would like not covered in this paper?**

In broad terms the University believes that the potential benefits identified are correct and will help to secure a lasting legacy for Scotland. The University particularly welcomes the potential to exploit the international connections of the Games and the link to Fresh Talent. However, as outlined above, there may be additional opportunities for the higher education sector to be more closely involved in relation to the Games and the desired national outcomes. Specific suggestions for such possibilities are made in 3.2 below.

### **3.2 Is there anything else we should be doing?**

The University advises that the Scottish Government consider the following in relation to its planning for the legacy of the 2014 Games:

#### ***A. Extension of the Active Schools network into further and higher education to support participation and improve health***

Scottish Universities Sport's *Active Students* proposal (previously submitted to Scottish Government), promotes the extension of the Active Schools network into further and higher education. The University endorses this approach as it could provide a physical resource, an extra level of continuity and planning as well as a valuable bridge between the HE sector and local authorities. A network of University activity coordinators could deliver intra – mural sport at a participator level, promote and develop volunteering opportunities and introduce a nationally coordinated approach to physical activity and health aimed specifically at the student population.

#### ***B. Better recognise the intimate relationship between elite sport and Universities through the creation of a managed network of coaching centres across Scotland's Universities, financial support elite for athletes and sports related studies and implementation of the recommendation of Sportscotland's 'Elite Sport in Higher Education' report***

The 2014 Games must be underpinned by Government funding to support elite athletes whilst they participate in higher education. Although the University is itself seeking to expand the range of scholarships it offers in recognition of the 2012

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<sup>5</sup> *The HE Sector and the 2012 London Olympic Games*

Olympics and 2014 Commonwealth Games, the Glasgow Games must provide the catalyst to address the lack of a Scotland wide bursary scheme akin to that which operates in England. A pan-Scotland scheme would help counteract the attraction of English and US institutions as destinations for elite student athletes who are making the important transition between junior and senior competition.

Evolution of a managed network of coaching centres across Scotland's Universities, based on the extensive facility infrastructure that presently exists, could support the intrinsic athlete and coach pathways, assist with the retention and progression of competitive level participants and provide a fast-track opportunity to develop their skills. The links between Scottish Universities and elite sport continue to strengthen with the Scottish Institute of Sport (SIS) and several Area Institutes hosted by Universities. The University sector is the ideal focal point for such an investment and early attention should be given to advancing the recommendations set out in the 'Elite Sport in Higher Education' report [Sportscotland 2006].

It is important that support for elite sport in universities be based on a network model involving as many institutions as possible. This approach will maximise athletes' academic and facilities choices, enable individual institutions to excel in areas of strength and thereby deliver the most beneficial impact on Scottish team performance. Such a model will also better enable the appropriate exploitation of universities' related skills and facilities in academic research to enable elite athletes to gain a competitive edge through, for example, work such as the current University of Edinburgh study of swimmers' "glide" which makes use of a pioneering underwater camera analysis system. Such work could, in itself, be the focus of an important legacy of the 2014 Games. By better support for and utilisation of the sports medicine, biomechanics, sports science, physiological and psychological expertise of universities, the Games could provide a legacy which enables Scotland's universities to better support elite sport by means of research and innovation.

*C. Create targeted student volunteering and graduate employment opportunities to build on existing work using sport to widen participation, raise aspirations amongst young people, particularly in social groups currently underrepresented at our higher education institutions and address demographic issues*

With increased participation rates within Scottish Universities a coordinated and cohesive approach to Games-related volunteering will harness the potential of the student population and help in Universities existing efforts to attract people from non traditional backgrounds.

Through engaging Commonwealth students across Edinburgh and Scotland in volunteering opportunities for the 2014 Games, there is the opportunity to develop a positive image of Scotland and ensure the Games benefit from a diverse range of volunteers representing many of the Commonwealth nations. This initiative could be linked to wider promotion of the Fresh Talent Initiative in key Commonwealth nations thereby assisting with positioning Scotland as an attractive place to work and study. The possibility of linking full-time paid Games positions to Fresh Talent for Commonwealth students should also be actively pursued as a clear demonstration of the benefits of the Scheme to Commonwealth nationals.

Consider encouraging/brokering partnerships between national governing bodies of sports and Universities to ensure the content of academic courses is relevant to industry needs. In the University of Edinburgh's case, this would include work with BEd PE students to ensure they are equipped with the sports specific coaching knowledge necessary to offer the best possible introduction and exposure to a particular sport. There is also the opportunity to build upon the University of Edinburgh's pioneering

Coaching Week<sup>6</sup> and develop this into a national scheme. This is a partnership project with several sports' national governing bodies and is proving a convenient, efficient and productive way of qualifying students as coaches/officials contributing to participation rates and support for grass roots sport both within the University and beyond.

*D. Further embed Universities' contributions to the health and well-being of their local communities by recognising universities' existing infrastructure and expertise through making them the first choice when locating training camps and developing partnerships for new national or local facilities.*

There has been a considerable investment made in University sporting infrastructure and residential settings that are high quality, well managed and extensively used by the wider community. The University sector should be considered an obvious location for training camps and partnerships associated with new national or local facility projects. In this way Universities will be able to further reach out to their local communities. The University advises that the Scottish Government should carefully examine the approach taken to the international promotion of training camp locations made by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) and consider utilising a similar model for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

*E. Build on Scotland's international links and help position Scotland as an attractive place to study and, by means of the link to Fresh Talent, contribute to demographic issues.*

As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have recently announced that the contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan is to end from 2009/10 it would be beneficial for Scotland to demonstrate its commitment to the Commonwealth and the development of educational capacity by delivering a national Commonwealth Scholarships Plan linked to 2014 Games.

Scholarships could be offered across all nations but perhaps targeted at specific nations where Scotland would benefit from greater promotion of its educational opportunities and where potential for further recruitment exists in major student markets for the UK and Scotland, specifically India, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Pakistan and Nigeria. India 2010 would offer a natural platform for the launch of these national Scotland Commonwealth Scholarships, given that the FCO CSFP funding will cease that year. Such a scheme would greatly assist with the promotion of Scotland in a key international market as a welcoming, attractive place to work, study and visit.

*F. Overseas promotion of Scotland as a student destination*

Scotland's colleges and universities would benefit greatly from a sustained education promotion campaign linked to the Commonwealth Games in 2014 particularly in key international education markets such as Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, Pakistan, Nigeria and India. Linked to scholarship provision this could assist with Scotland's promotion internationally and providing a lasting legacy in terms of educational mobility and engagement. The Scottish education should be fully involved in the branding, promotion and marketing of the 2014 Commonwealth Games internationally.

Mobility and educational exchange schemes should be considered in order to promote reciprocity and mutual benefit between Scotland and Commonwealth nations providing a range of new links, projects and opportunities for the education sector and for students in Scotland's schools, colleges and universities. In Edinburgh, the focus for this may be the Centre for International Development.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.eusu.ed.ac.uk/st/content/Coaching/>

The inclusion of the University's National Hockey Academy at Peffermill in LOCOG's Pre-Olympic Training Prospectus, and the new partnership between the University and the City of Edinburgh Council to establish Edinburgh as a world class training venue for prospective Olympic and Commonwealth Games teams, will help cement our international profile yet further.

### ***3.3 How can we individually or collectively best achieve these aims?***

Much of what needs to be done in support of the Games and their legacy has already been documented in the Government's National Strategy for Sport in Scotland *Reaching Higher*<sup>7</sup>. This strategy's six themes/drivers of Increasing Participation; Providing the Pathway; Improving Performance; Well Trained People; Strong Organisations; and Quality Facilities will make a direct contribution to the achievement of the national outcomes sought from the 2014 Commonwealth Games. It is therefore important that the Scottish Government find the resources required to deliver the Actions set out in this document.

Scottish Universities are making a separate and collective integrated case for the sector's relationship to the Games via Scottish Universities Sport<sup>8</sup> (SUS). The Scottish Government's early and active engagement with SUS will ensure that the opportunities afforded by the award of the Commonwealth Games to Glasgow in 2014. Such an involvement will assist in maximising universities' contribution to the achievement of the national outcomes set out in the consultation document.

### ***3.4 Do you have any other comments to offer on what should feature in the final Games benefits and legacy plan?***

No.

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<sup>7</sup> See: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/03/07105145/0>

<sup>8</sup> See: <http://www.susport.org.uk/>