

Association of Scotland's Colleges response to the Scottish Government Consultation – "Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a Lasting legacy for Scotland"

Association of Scotland's Colleges (ASC) is the policy and representative body for Scotland's 43 colleges of further and higher education. ASC welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland.

Scotland's colleges, through ASC, broadly supports the framework and strategic priorities set out in the Scottish Governments Consultation paper 'Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland'.

An event like the Commonwealth Games creates an interest in sport and physical activity which for some individuals may lead to a career as an elite athlete. However, the most Scots the outcome is more likely to be an interest in participating on sport and physical exercise.

The risk of Glasgow 2014 is that the lasting legacy focuses on elite sport. A more serious issue is the supply of manpower to the sports and recreation industry at the coaching and sports development level. Many young people are encouraged into the sports and recreation industry only to be disappointed by the career opportunities as coaches and Sp[orts Development Officers and face barriers to entry.

It is also important that participation in sport is encouraged into adulthood. A recent Audit Scotland report states that participation in sport by adults had fallen from 49% in 2001 to 42% in 2006. A legacy of Glasgow 2014 would be to see a reversal in this trend.

It is important that consideration is given to what skills will be needed to deliver/service the Games in terms of event management, stewarding, security, catering, accommodation, not just to achieve current standards but to improve these standards in the longer term.

General issues colleges wish to highlight include:

- The need for infrastructure investment in Generation X sporting activity including extreme sports suited to Scotland's outdoor resources (sand yachting, grass boarding, kite-surfing and so on) including more resources for mountain leadership and climbing.

- The ongoing need for coaching and training for staff who will teach sports and fitness in the future.
- More links with schools for a holistic approach to young people's sports activities with proper transition from school to college to life.
- Pervasive presence of academies of excellence throughout Scotland: perhaps by building a network of academies based in Scotland's Colleges.

ASC Executive