

## **Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland**

As Scotland's leading university for sport, the University of Stirling welcomes the opportunities that hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will provide for Scotland.

The consultation paper is a wide ranging document which seeks to identify ways in which hosting the Commonwealth Games might help the Government deliver on its five key strategic objectives: making Scotland 1) wealthier and fairer; 2) smarter; 3) healthier; 4) safer and stronger; and 5) greener. The University of Stirling is committed to work with the Scottish Government and other agencies to help ensure that the Games provide a positive and lasting legacy for the country. A key challenge for all those involved is to ensure that existing structures are fully utilised in pursuit of the potential benefits from hosting the Games.

### Wealthier and fairer

The University of Stirling provides the best range of sports facilities and associated services on a single site in Scotland. These include the National Swimming Academy, the National Tennis Centre, the MP Jackson Fitness Centre, artificial pitches and an athletics track. The University of Stirling is also home to the Scottish Institute of Sport, the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland and to national governing bodies of sport including Scottish Swimming, Triathlon Scotland and Gymnastics Scotland.

The Games provide an opportunity for the University of Stirling to showcase its world class facilities. Our facilities can contribute to providing a platform for world class athletes to prepare themselves prior to competition. At the same time the dispersal of athletes throughout Scotland will provide an economic benefit beyond Glasgow and allow different parts of the country to share in the cultural and social benefits that hosting foreign athletes will bring.

The University also sees the potential of the 2014 Games in encouraging more people to come to study in Scotland. Institutions like Stirling will aim to use the Games as a way of showcasing not only its sports facilities, but also the quality of educational experience. As the largest provider of undergraduate and postgraduate sports-related degree courses in Scotland, the University welcomes the opportunity to promote its courses to prospective students in commonwealth countries.

### Smarter

The University of Stirling has a commitment to lifelong learning and employability. Through its provision in sport-related areas - Sports Studies, Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Management and Sports Coaching - Stirling aims to provide skilled graduates who, whether as employees or as volunteers, will

contribute to the successful planning for, and hosting of, events like the 2014 Games. Our new postgraduate programmes in Sports Coaching and Sports Management are a clear demonstration of our commitment to focus on the needs and demands of the market place.

Volunteering is crucial to the successful delivery of major sporting events like the Commonwealth Games. Our students in disciplines including film, media and journalism; languages; information technology; marketing and tourism, as well as those studying sport; are ideally placed to act as specialist or technical volunteers in addition to more general volunteering activities. Many Stirling students already act as volunteers in a variety of areas. One example is the involvement of Stirling students in the UK Sport Ideals project in Zambia. This sees motivated students selected as sports leaders and deployed to help local volunteers organise a wide range of sports activities in deprived areas of Lusaka.

The University is also committed to providing a framework for helping to equip and up-skill volunteers. For example, the Department of Sports Studies is in discussions with the Youth Sport Trust about how best to involve it in supporting our existing training and volunteering opportunities.

#### Healthier

The University of Stirling is at the forefront of research and learning that helps to improve lives. The desire for a healthier and more active population is central to two of the University's identified research themes – Children and Young People and Sport. Our research activities in the first of these focus on ensuring that children and young people are healthy, safe, able to achieve and make a positive contribution to society. Within the sport theme, among other things we work on improving the use of sport and physical activity opportunities for the development of sport as a social instrument.

The University of Stirling is committed to working with sportscotland, the Scottish Institute of Sport and other existing agencies to achieve the two outcomes of the national sports strategy, increasing participation in sport and improving performance. Indeed our decision to introduce two new postgraduate programmes in Sports Coaching and Sports Management from September 2009 demonstrates our commitment to providing a more professional infrastructure for coaches and to developing the next generation of leaders in sport.

#### Safer and stronger

If there is to be a legacy from the 2014 Commonwealth Games in areas like reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, it is essential to understand the nature and processes involved and, in particular, to have a critical understanding of the role that sport and sports events may play. The University of Stirling is home to academic staff whose work in critically understanding sport's role in delivering

wider social agendas is internationally recognised. Other related areas of expertise among the University's staff include crime and justice, environmental economics, social policy, inclusion and social capital. As such the University is well placed to contribute to the development of appropriate sports policy and wider social policy.

#### Greener

Environment and people is another of the University's key research themes; one which is central to the Government's commitment to improving our environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it. Staff from the University's School of Biological and Environmental Science, Environmental History and Environmental Economics are presently engaged in various projects which seek to help policy makers consider the need for changing lifestyles, now and in the future. Our commitment to this area is also evidenced in our postgraduate degrees in subjects including Environmental Management, Sustainable Development and Environmental History. The University welcomes the opportunity to provide research or knowledge exchange services in these areas, linked to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

SM, 21 April 2008