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Consultation Paper  
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## **Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland Response by the Scottish Sports Association**

### **Introduction**

The Scottish Sports Association (SSA) welcomes this consultation and the opportunity to contribute to the Legacy Plan for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The SSA is the independent voice for sports governing bodies in Scotland. We represent their interests and currently have 53 full members and 17 associate members. The governing bodies of sport are responsible for the governance, development and delivery of their individual sports and provide a formal structure for over 12,000 sports clubs in Scotland. Many of these organisations provide coaching, competition and youth participation development opportunities to their local communities and most of the 146,000 people who volunteer in sport do so within the club structure.

The awarding of the Commonwealth Games to Glasgow in 2014 provides the governing bodies of sport and the wider sporting sector with an opportunity to create a step change in the sporting landscape within Scotland. It is crucial that the planning and action to ensure that the Games are a success starts now and is driven by clear political leadership and the will to make it happen.

It is essential that these Games are a sporting success in terms of medals and elite performance. It is just as important that they succeed as a catalyst to help strengthen the sporting infrastructure across the whole sector. The governing bodies of sport also recognise the significant benefits to the Nation's health that will occur through increased participation in sport and recreation.

### **Consultation outcomes**

This response stems from a number of consultation events with our member sports and other organisations including the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland, Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils, Scottish Disability Sport, Scottish Schoolsport and Scottish University Sport. We aimed to achieve a synergy in our responses across the broad sporting sector. We also shared our thoughts with colleagues from the wider

voluntary sector, for example SCVO, VDS and the Scottish Youth Parliament. This response has the endorsement of all SSA members.

Sport is such an enjoyable and effective way of boosting physical activity, which is a key Scottish Government target. This is why SSA firmly believes that these Games should benefit all sports, not just those 17 sports selected for the 2014 Games.

All member governing bodies of sport have been encouraged to respond to this consultation in addition to making their views known through us. It is our belief that these responses will reflect some of the thinking expressed within this paper, as well as highlighting issues of specific importance to each sport.

We know the Scottish Government wants the hosting of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014 to provide the whole of Scotland with a wide range of opportunities and benefits. This is as it should be. Glasgow 2014 is a multi-sport event which will capture the imagination of the Scottish public. It is a unique opportunity to improve the sporting infrastructure within Scotland. This is why sport must be one of the greatest beneficiaries.

## **Key issues**

During our consultation process there was remarkable consistency about the key areas that need addressing and are ripe for improvement. These are:

- **Physical education and sport in schools**
- **Facility access and provision**
- **Volunteering, including coaching**

All are clearly identified within *Reaching Higher – the National Strategy for Sport in Scotland* and it is crucial that this is used as the key reference document when considering potential solutions to these issues. Chapter 6 of *Reaching Higher*, identifies in greater detail the ‘challenges’ and ‘agenda for change’ in these areas.

These themes are crucial to the infrastructure and delivery of sport in Scotland.

## **Physical education and sport in schools**

There is an urgent need to improve the basic physical skills and fitness of our children. This message was overwhelming from all sports.

The following are specific proposals for consideration:

- To ensure that all children receive a minimum of 2 hours of high quality PE per week throughout primary school to gain the basic physical skills that will give them the confidence to participate in physical activity and sport. This should be supplemented with a range of opportunities for participation in sport at school.
- This must be supported by sufficient high quality PE specialists who can deliver the curriculum in a positive and motivating way in a wide variety of sports. There is an opportunity to further develop the link between the training of education specialists

and the governing bodies. Additionally further use of qualified governing body coaches should be considered in this environment.

- Schools and clubs should work more closely together to provide opportunities for progression and enjoyment. This will require additional support to clubs.
- Interschool sport should be further encouraged and supported.

## **Facility Access and Provision**

Sport needs access to facilities that are not restrictive in terms of cost or time availability with sufficient facilities across a diverse range of sports.

The picture painted by recent studies is not a healthy one. Nevertheless, there are examples of investment in high quality facilities and the rise in the use of our outstanding natural landscape is encouraging. Additionally, there has been significant investment in the school estate, many with excellent sports facilities, providing a network of halls, courts, pitches and pools that are ideal for community use. It is essential that maximum use is made of these assets.

Investment for larger facilities is essential. This needs coordination at national and regional level.

The following are specific proposals for consideration:

- By July 2014 every school with sports facilities should be open for community club access in the evenings, weekends and during the holiday periods. This would go some way to solving the facility crisis that many local sports clubs currently experience. It is unacceptable that some are not available to the local communities due to restrictive contracts, lack of staff cover or the will to make it happen.
- Local sports clubs that are affiliated to their governing body should have the barriers of affordability and access lifted in recognition their contribution to the community health and inclusion outcomes.
- Specialist sports facilities built for the Games, other international events and trial events should be maintained for those sports after the Games.
- Every opportunity should be made by local planners to secure maximum planning gain (the provision of community facilities) where new building developments are taking place.
- Ensure that Local Authority planners abide by the current planning regulations SPP11 to ensure there is no net loss of sports pitches within Scotland.

## **Volunteering, including Coaching**

Sport in Scotland would not survive without the volunteers and coaches. They need better support with improved training and education opportunities.

It is essential that grant funders recognise that although volunteers provide their services for free, that does not mean that there is a zero cost. It is unrealistic to expect volunteers to deliver sporting outcomes without offering basic expenses and the training and equipment they need to do the job. Sport funding does not appear to factor this in.

The importance of coaching and the contribution they make is widely recognised. Now is the time to put some real effort into finding a way for them to be recognised more widely both within and outside sport. Coaching Scotland addresses the need to provide a career pathway for coaching within Scotland.

The following are specific proposals for consideration:

- Funding applications to include realistic costs that will support volunteers.
- Support new approaches to developing young coaches within schools. The governing bodies of sport have a wealth of experience and expertise in source materials for training and development of coaches.
- There must be tangible benefits to gaining coaching qualifications – for example:
  - encouraging more employers to recognise volunteering in sport as a socially beneficial act they might support in some way – e.g. matching time with funding, offering time-off
  - reduced entry to sports facilities for recreation as well as when delivering coaching sessions

## **Performance Sport**

It is vital that current investment in the sporting performance structure continues. Further investment is essential to ensure the pathway to performance is supported and this must not be at the expense of those sports that are working towards Olympic performance goals. This structure must be flexible enough to allow support to a wider range of sports than the 17 that will be present in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. This has the potential to produce a number of outcomes:

- medal success in 2014;
- a high performance coaching structure, and associated support services across a range of sports;
- the provision of a supported pathway for developing athletes;
- the potential to develop world class athletes for future generations beyond 2014.

## **Investment**

SSA believes the legacy has to be planned and it has to be paid for. This means:

- increased investment in £ Sterling;
- investment in the human resource;
- clear leadership;
- genuine political will to make it happen.

For example, the former Scottish Executive had the vision to realise that in order to build a legacy for the 2014 Ryder Cup in golf, it would require investment. This started 10 years before the event and golf is enjoying a £1/2m investment per year. This support is most welcome and demonstrates a recognition that legacy will not happen on its own.

The SSA believes that the effect of London 2012 has the potential to provide a significant springboard effect to generate enthusiasm for sport and physical activity across the country. The two years between London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 can be a fertile period and opportunity for sport to grow and flourish.

### **Business models**

It is important that the business models being developed by Local Authorities and Leisure Trusts for the delivery of sport and facility management are consistent with the principles within *Reaching Higher*.

There is potential for unhelpful tension between the need to operate on a break even basis and the national outcome target in *Reaching Higher* of increasing participation. This response can not address the detailed argument but it has highlighted the need to ensure that all agencies who are delivering sport in Scotland are working to common goals. Coherence between local and national agendas will go some way to addressing this.

Both governing bodies of sport and Local Authorities are identified as key deliverers of the sporting pathway and it is essential that increased and regular dialogue exists between them. The SSA requests assistance in facilitating this from the Scottish Government and **sportscotland**.

### **The role of governing bodies**

SSA and our members recognise that we too have a significant part to play and need to commit to action within their own organisations. Some of this may be low or no cost options to help build the desired legacy.

For example:

- identifying economies of scale that we could employ to improve efficiency
- encourage cultural change in clubs if necessary
- refocus of existing resources
- forging more partnerships with other organisations

The governing bodies of sport have a wealth of expertise and experience to offer the wider community. Each sport has been asked to identify a number of possible actions that they can consider within their own sport or in partnership with others.

SSA can act as a catalyst to kick start this activity and work with governing bodies.

## Summary

As highlighted by both the First Minister and Lord Coe in the Parliament within the last week, the awarding of an Olympic and Paralympic Games and Commonwealth Games to these shores within a 2 year period provides a unique opportunity to Scotland. We must use this to inspire the people in Scotland to engage in sport and physical activity.

This is only possible if the infrastructure and framework are in place to match the enthusiasm and expectations of those who wish to become involved. This requires resource, innovation and the political will to implement the simple things that only national and local government can do.

We believe a lasting legacy plan must include:

- measures that ensure our children get sufficient PE and opportunities to do sport;
- plans to open up schools for community use 7 days a week;
- investment to ensure sports centres are welcoming, fit for purpose and offer a diversity of sports;
- plans to prevent the loss of any more sports fields (not just pitches);
- measures to look after those sports fields we currently have; and
- a system of benefits for our volunteers, especially coaches.

With sufficient investment, the sports will continue to;

- work hard with our volunteers to be welcoming and inclusive to all;
- provide clubs, coaching and appropriate competition for all who wish to participate;
- develop our best athletes in partnership with the institute network and other partners;
- consider ways of how we can become more efficient and further develop partnerships.

This work needs to start now.

The SSA looks forward to what promises to be a challenging and exciting period for sport in Scotland.