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Consultation Paper  
Scottish Government  
Area 2 – F(S), Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

## **Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland Response from Scottish Swimming**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Scottish Swimming welcomes this consultation and the opportunity to contribute to the Legacy Plan for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

As the national governing body for swimming in Scotland, Scottish Swimming represents Swimming, Masters, Diving, Open Water, Water Polo, and Synchronised Swimming. Scottish Swimming supports a drug free, safe, and equitable approach to all of its aquatic work, and to sports development in general. We represent over 17,000 members including 160 clubs. We support our club swimmers in their training and development whether they are swimming recreationally, or to become the next world champion. Our competitive squad structure is well established with swimmers being supported by our District Regional Programme, through to the Youth Development, Youth, and Senior squads.

We also reach beyond our membership to promote swimming as a healthy, life saving activity for Scots of all ages and abilities. Scottish Swimming works for the entire swimming community, including our clubs, our members, our customers, and the thousands of supportive teachers, coaches, officials, and volunteers from across the country. We believe our aims and objectives captured in our corporate plan tie in perfectly with the aims of *Reaching Higher – the National Strategy for Sport*.

The awarding of the Commonwealth Games to Glasgow in 2014 provides Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport and the wider sporting sector with an opportunity to create a step change in the sporting landscape within Scotland. We recognise that swimming in Scotland has already benefited from Government legacy investment through a £5m contribution to the 50m pool in Aberdeen, investment for which we are grateful. We are pleased that the Government is leading a legacy initiative and welcome your ongoing drive to ensure opportunities for swimming, and sport in general, are not lost.

### **2.0 Key issues**

#### **2.1 Generic Sporting Legacy Issues**

Scottish Swimming fully support the key issues raised through the Scottish Sports Association Legacy consultation process. These issues are listed below and are expanded upon through the SSA legacy submission. They include: "*Physical education and sport in schools*", "*Facility access and provision*", and "*Volunteering and coaching*".

Along side the proposed targets outlined in the SSA response, we offer the following detail: It is our sincere hope that Aberdeen goes on to deliver a 50m pool, using the Government's early contribution as leverage to secure the remaining funds. A certain amount of momentum with this project has been achieved and it cannot afford to be lost. Our clubs would benefit not only from evening and weekend access to school facilities, but also from early morning access to school swimming pools, which currently sit empty. In terms of volunteering, Scottish Swimming has a volunteering strategy with key targets for the growth of volunteers in our sport. We propose that bridges are built between our strategy and the modern apprenticeship scheme in order to increase our potential for developing key club volunteers.

## 2.2 Swimming Specific Legacy Issues

In addition to the above key themes, there are five swimming specific priorities we wish to highlight. These include areas of our work identified in our corporate plan that would benefit tremendously from additional political and financial support. While added investment direct from the Government/**sportscotland** is needed, we would also be delighted for the government to support a sponsorship scheme where a strategic lead is taken to identify a sponsor for each of the Commonwealth Games sports. The sponsor could partner with each governing body for a period through to 2014 and beyond and this could help ease the financial burden of ensure Scotland truly benefits from a lasting legacy after the Games. We believe the below Scottish Swimming priorities fit effectively with the Glasgow 2014 Legacy Plan:

### 2.2.1 *Swimming Entitlement for Our Children*

The Scottish Swimming Board strongly believes that swimming, as a life skill, should be considered at a national level, and that an entitlement should be secured on the primary curriculum. We believe the achievement of an agreed set of skills should be required by the end of Primary 3 and Primary 4, with 20 sessions of 30 minutes per year over two years being offered. If a child has not achieved the entitlement standards by the end of Primary 4, the Scottish Government should, through local authorities, provide intensive top-up lessons during primary 5.

Local authorities should be encouraged to deliver lessons in a co-ordinated way rather than a school by school approach. In addition, local authorities should be encouraged to use one swimming teacher workforce rather than separate workforces for the local authority leisure department and the local authority education department. School lessons could be overseen by a qualified school teacher but delivered by local authority swimming teachers that are United Kingdom Coaching Certificate qualified and Scottish Swimming licensed.

We have substantial research and expertise to help the Government take a national position on a swimming entitlement for Scotland and would welcome the opportunity to take this forward as part of the 2014 Legacy Plan.

### 2.2.2 *Teaching and Coaching – Sustainable Investment for UKCC*

Coaching has been addressed under the volunteering heading through the SSA submission. However, for swimming, "teaching and coaching" is a stand alone top priority. Many teachers and coaches are volunteers, while a great number are also paid. The United Kingdom Coaching Certificate initiative has enabled Scottish Swimming to take forward the development of our teachers and coaches in Scotland. The investment from the Government through **sportscotland** has been essential to ensuring the success of the programme. Unfortunately, this crucial investment will terminate in 2009. The announcement of sustained investment in UKCC for swimming ties in with the aims of the Coaching Scotland Strategy (2006) and would be an ideal 2014 legacy.

### 2.2.3 *Full-Time Training Squad Coaching Positions*

Scottish Swimming is working with our clubs and Local Authorities to put in place full-time paid training squad coach positions. These posts are funded by Local Authorities and clubs (£10k/year each), with a 3 year initial investment from Scottish Swimming of £10k/year. The training squad coaches are visionary for a number of reasons:

- The issues raised by the SSA on our behalf with respect to facilities are accurate. We need better access to water at the right times and the right cost for our club swimmers. However, training squads help alleviate any unnecessary pressure on existing water by bringing together the top swimmers across clubs in an area; the individual clubs then need less water for their mainstream programme.

- The partnership approach brings the clubs and the local authorities closer together. In the past, both partners have expressed concern at not knowing who to speak with to resolve issues. The joined up approach offers the needed contact, offering also a platform for clubs to demonstrate how they can help Local Authorities hit their participation/inclusion targets, link with learn to swim programmes, and be an integral part of the wider community.

Clubs and Local Authorities have expressed great interest in the training squad coach posts. We have 5 coaches now up and running. However, we do not have the investment to meet the demand. We are currently working with **sportscotland** to try and identify new resources for a contribution to another 13 posts, however, investment is tight.

It is our belief that these training squad positions, if implemented swiftly, will have a strong impact on our results in 2014. The posts tie in with the Coaching Scotland Strategy (2006) for more paid coaches, and importantly, will continue to foster partnership working, and results, for the long term future.

#### *2.2.4 A Regional Model For Swimming*

We are delighted to be working with the two sports partnership pilots and to benefit from a Regional Swimming Manager in each of these areas. We are not certain whether the pilot will be extended and rolled out to all areas of Scotland. Irrespective of the sports partnership decision, Scottish Swimming contends that it needs the resource for 4 Regional Swimming Managers. We are happy to employ these posts, or to have them placed in Sports Partnerships, or with local partners. However, in order to deliver our UKCC, volunteering, club development, and learn to swim targets, a regional swimming structure for Scotland is required. We believe that the delivery of this vision would be an ideal 2014 legacy for swimming.

#### *2.2.5 A Healthy Living Manager*

Through investment from the health department at the Scottish Government, we are leading a discounted swimming lesson pilot in Clackmannanshire for adults and children. The pilot targets people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and includes a healthy living newsletter to promote the benefits of swimming. The pilot also includes the development of our SwimGym programme, a product designed to keep the average swimmer more focused in the pool, as well as the gathering and tracking of swimming participation data. We need investment for a Healthy Living Manager to drive this important area forward. We are in the process of liaising with the Government on this investment as it ties to the Government's National Physical Activity Strategy and to Scotland's aim to become wealthier, fairer, smarter, healthier, safer, stronger and greener. We believe a positive outcome would help demonstrate the closer partnership between health and sport and would be a strong Glasgow 2014 legacy result.

### **3.0 Summary**

Swimming has delivered tremendous performance results in recent years having had extraordinary success at the Commonwealth Games in 2006 (12 medals; 6 Gold), and with ten Scots having been selected to team GB for the Beijing Games. **sportscotland** have been our strong partners in delivering this success, reviewing new initiatives for performance investment and targeting resources wherever possible to deliver our performance plan.

In order to sustain and improve upon our performance results, ongoing investment in our performance pathway will be needed. However, it is political attention to and investment in the above 5 mentioned priorities that will enable us to deliver for Glasgow 2014, to continue delivering performance medals into the future, and to contribute to the vision of Scotland as a better nation.