

BRIEFING PAPER

Fife Council response to: Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland - A Consultation Paper.

INTRODUCTION

Fife Council welcomes this consultation. We believe that the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games offer a significant opportunity to deliver a sporting, cultural and economic legacy for Scotland.

If this is to be realised, we will require an early, concerted and co-ordinated effort, involving the Scottish Government, Local Government, business, education, and the voluntary and community sector.

ARE THE BENEFITS YOU WOULD LIKE FROM THE GAMES COVERED IN THE CONSULTATION PAPER?

The consultation document is very wide-ranging and aspirational. We support the broad range of these aspirations. It would be important to strike a careful balance between ensuring every opportunity to maximise potential legacy benefits are addressed, with avoiding building up unrealistic expectations as to the legacy impact of 2014.

It will be important to distinguish those legacy issues which have the potential to deliver across Scotland, utilising and trading upon the focus the Games will bring to Scotland, to Glasgow and to sport. Where, in essence, we can use the once in a lifetime opportunity of the Games as a driver for wider social, cultural and economic outcomes.

There may however also be an imperative to focus more closely on specific areas and priorities where one can identify a more direct casual relationship with 2014 and the impetus that the Games can generate to those priorities. There is clearly research evidence from previous major games and sporting events which suggest that in addition to the need for early, co-ordinated and careful legacy planning, the approach adopted must also be realistic. Even in areas where there would appear to be a direct link such as increasing levels of physical activity in sport participation, the success of previous Games has been limited.

If there is to be a priority, and we certainly share the view that it should be, there will require to be a concentration of effort, planning and investment to incentivise the impetus the Games can potentially provide.

The consultation document clearly highlights the potential legacy benefits from 2014 that can be achieved and that are a priority for the Scottish Government. This is both welcome and provides a strong starting point for the development of a Scottish legacy plan which we would be keen to contribute to.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD BE DOING?

The draft consultation paper is comprehensive in defining the range of potential benefits that can accrue from the Games. That said, in recognising that there may be merit in focusing on certain areas, and particularly where a more direct relationship with the Games and legacy can be distinguished, it may be worth considering.

Improving the physical literacy of Scotland's school children : There is potential to develop physical literacy in the curriculum. Through this, all children will have the opportunity to achieve minimum basic fitness levels and fundamental physical skills necessary for their future health and development. This would have a key role in ensuring a future legacy of participation.

Improving the provision and access to quality sports facilities in schools and communities : Utilising the Commonwealth Games as a driver to deliver local access to quality sports facilities would ensure a significant lasting legacy. A primary route for this would be to invest in the school estate and ensure comprehensive community access to both these, and wider community sports provision.

Increasing and sustaining sports volunteering workforce : The consultation paper makes reference to using the Commonwealth Games to promote volunteering, particularly in direct relation to the Games itself. There is an opportunity to support the development of a far wider and stronger volunteer workforce. This is already the foundation of Scottish Sport, but if the anticipated legacy of increased participation is to be achieved, then priority requires to be given to increasing the number of core volunteers for the day to day delivery of sport across Scotland, particularly in its clubs. An emphasis on young people as part of this would give an enduring legacy as well as contributing to citizenship.

QUESTION 3 : HOW CAN WE, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, BEST ACHIEVE THESE AIMS

The commitment to development of a legacy plan signals an ambition to maximise the positive benefits which can accrue from the Commonwealth Games. Many of these benefits will only be delivered through an early, focused and co-ordinated effort, led by the Scottish Government and supported by Local Government, who in turn can energise the private, voluntary and community sector. The development of the legacy plan must outline prioritised deliverables and a clear understanding of who is expected to lead to ensure the outcomes are achieved.