



Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games – delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland

**A consultation response from the
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations**

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About SCVO

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations is the national body representing the interests of the voluntary sector in Scotland. It does so through its policy committee which is elected from its membership of around 1300 Scottish voluntary organisations. SCVO's mission is to advance the values and shared interests of the voluntary sector to provide them with information and assistance; to improve their effectiveness and efficiency and to represent their views to Government and other public bodies. Further details about SCVO can be found at www.scvo.org.uk.

SCVO has a long-standing interest in both policy relating to the distribution of National Lottery Funds, and a key interest in the development of Scotland's communities.

For three years SCVO has been the host of the World Assembly of the global civil society movement CIVICUS and therefore is experienced in connecting Scotland's communities to their counterparts internationally.

Introduction

SCVO welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation on an appropriate legacy for Scotland of the 2014 Commonwealth games and to make clear our views on the associated issues of resourcing a legacy plan for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Resourcing a legacy plan

Although not mentioned in the formal consultation document, SCVO considers it essential to consider the nature of the resourcing of the Commonwealth Games proposed legacy. The Scottish Third Sector has been the victim of successive raids by the UK government on National Lottery funds previously destined to support good causes, being diverted to fund the infrastructure of the 2012 Olympic Games in London. SCVO would not support any equivalent raid on National Lottery funds due to be distributed by The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) and other good cause distributors. We welcome the fact that no Lottery funds are proposed to fund the infrastructure for 2014.

The First Minister has publicly stated his view that funding for a legacy for 2014 (perhaps £150m) should be found from the National Lottery. SCVO would not support a further raid on the Lottery distributors' shares of the National Lottery Fund for this purpose. An alternative mechanism (being used in part for the Olympics) is the 'dream number' specific Lottery game which raises money from Lottery players which is directed immediately to the Olympics project. This could be re-designated after it reaches its current target of £750m for the Olympics, for the Commonwealth Games 2014. While this does, of course, divert resources from the good cause distributors, it does so only marginally and is less disruptive to the planning and programmes of eg BIG. SCVO's Policy Committee views this mechanism as a preferable means of securing the resources to fund the legacy plans.

Nevertheless the money raised by such a mechanism should ultimately be directed to the 'good causes', albeit via a 2014 Legacy framework. The Scottish Third sector has been uniquely disadvantaged by the huge Olympics diversion of Lottery funds. As the principal

beneficiary of Lottery funds, and the most significant agent of change in communities it is right that Third Sector organisations should be the focus of the legacy plan.

What would an appropriate legacy look like?

It is SCVO's view that an appropriate legacy for the 2014 Commonwealth Games would be evidence that individuals, families and communities had been inspired, motivated and enabled to take control of their lives. We would hope to see an increased interest in physical activity, health and in community participation. This impact should be felt across Scotland, and not just in Glasgow.

Third sector organisations are the means by which people come together to make change in their lives and their communities. From the smallest arts groups, through sports clubs, to health promotion centres and local day care facilities, non-profit, volunteer-run organisations are the means by which communities enhance quality of life and build opportunities for people to make change for themselves.

With this in mind it is SCVO's firm belief that an effective legacy for 2014 should be community-based and third sector organised; top-down public programmes simply won't have the enduring impact and sustainability of a community/third sector based approach. Unfortunately the tenor of the current consultation document (framed as it is round the government mainstream programmes) could lead one to believe that supplementing ordinary public expenditure is what is in mind. SCVO would oppose this as it would miss the opportunity to take a distinct and innovative approach around 2014, engaging directly with people in their own settings, networks and communities.

Much is made of the involvement of volunteers in the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002. However while a great many people were involved on site and in activities in the period immediately before and after the event itself, with hindsight we now know that this energy and enthusiasm quickly dissipated because it was not embedded in communities. This is a lesson which should be learnt: the recruitment and use of volunteers specifically for the Games must be linked to a wider development plan for those same volunteers. This should use their skills and experiences within their communities after the event. This will provide continuity and legacy for those individuals to further support their own communities.

Another concerning aspect of the consultation document is the very weak linkages made between the nature of the event itself i.e. a sports competition, and the kinds of methods proposed. While it is our belief that the legacy of the event can and should be a very wide base of community activity, to make sense, and provide focus this should be framed initially around physical activity and participation. Sport and wider charity and community benefits have a classic association, through eg fundraising events, and this can be strengthened to deliver a wide spectrum of impactful projects.

One very tangible proposal for a legacy to 2014 linking both sport and community activity is that groups should be enabled to take ownership of local facilities and assets such as halls and pitches for long-term and wide-ranging community use. A clear policy on public asset transfer would facilitate this, and should be considered in the short-term to enable asset transfer and development projects to get going and be ready for use by 2014. Similarly a long-term plan should be developed for community access and use of those facilities being built specifically for the Games.

Likewise consideration should be given at an early stage to the development of human resources and skills within third sector organisations, including eg coaches and volunteer development workers in sports associations, to prepare to capitalise on enthusiasm for participation around 2014. Barriers to participation eg the implementation of the new disclosure system, and physical access issues for those with disabilities should be addressed well in advance.

Opportunities should be created for Third Sector sports associations and networks to engage with their opposite numbers internationally to develop their ability to work though a common medium (sport) with colleagues from different parts of the world and cultures, and to create working relationships between volunteer sports bodies and other in their communities that will last way beyond the duration of the Games. Building confidence for third sector and community organisations to interact internationally will enhance Scotland's capacity to take a leading role in the world.

Skills and training more generally are an appropriate theme for the legacy plan, with the possibility of providing routeways through participation in and leadership of community activities to greater confidence and employability. Engaging young people effectively in planning for a significant legacy will be essential and examination of models such as the Big Lottery fund's young peoples' panels is recommended. The Games will inspire people from all aspects of the community, particularly perhaps young people and effective engagement with youth voluntary organisations will be essential, as will engagement with disability organisations to ensure everything to do with the Games and its legacy is inclusive. Because there is no equivalent to the Paralympics at a Commonwealth Games, there will need to be a major programme to allow for those with disabilities to engage.

The consultation document

SCVO understands the effort made in the consultation document to identify the 2014 Commonwealth Games dimension to many areas of public policy, aligned with overall government strategy. We share the view that 2014 can provide a stimulus and focus to many activities, not least the physical regeneration of Glasgow's East End. Many of the ideas listed in the document will no doubt contribute to the legacy of the games. However, it is our view that at the heart of such a catalogue of activities should be an ethos or driving principal of generating community involvement and participation – social capital - and that any new resources securing specifically for the purpose of creating a legacy should be dedicated to that purpose.

Future Engagement

SCVO is pleased to engage with the Scottish Government on plans for the legacy of the Commonwealth Games 2014, to develop these outline ideas further. We welcome the invitation for Chief Executive Martin Sime to join the Legacy Board, and look forward to further opportunities for stakeholders to engage with planning for the legacy along the lines we have proposed.

SCVO

7th May 2008