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Consultation Paper
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Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland Response by the SCOTTISH HOCKEY UNION

Introduction

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

Scottish Hockey is the Governing Body for the sport of Hockey in Scotland. Our role is to promote and foster the development of the game across all sectors of the community. Our ***Vision Statement is; to provide the opportunity for more Scots to enjoy hockey in any of its forms to the highest level they desire throughout their lifetime.***

Hockey has a strong sporting history, we are a well run business and have recently launched our most ambitious business plan to date, that being a seven year plan which takes us through to the milestone of 2014.

Our membership profile is 122 Senior Clubs, 6180 individual members. 145 Schools & Youth Clubs, approx 28000 participants.

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. 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 a will to make it happen.

Consultation

Having recently undergone a comprehensive consultation process in producing our Business Plan, I have been able to draw out key areas hockey believes will make an impact for the Legacy plan.

Key issues

I feel it is important to recognise comments from the recent Audit Scotland April 08 'A performance overview of sport in Scotland'. The report raises a number of challenges and has identified that the target for young people's participation in physical activity will not be met and the Adult participation in sport is declining. I believe that it is vital to use this fact as a starting point to base the Legacy plan on.

Taking these major points into account, I have focused on 3 areas that I believe will see Scotland take a lead in Europe.

- **Physical Literacy in Primary Schools**

This initiative will make to biggest impact on the sporting landscape in Scotland for the future. It will require a decade of determined support and delivery, but will place Scotland as a leading country in Europe. The ability for every child in Scotland to be competent in the fundamentals of physical literacy should be priorities. The ability to run, jumps, catch, throw, hit, glide, tumble, stretch and swim will provide to all sports a bigger base of children who are competent with physical activity.

This type of programme will not only change the sporting landscape, it will be reflected by a healthier youth of the country.

It will also release the resources of Governing Bodies, so they can concentrate on secondary and higher education. This is an area with a huge drop out rate.

- **Facility access and provision**

The provision of and access to good quality facilities is essential for all sports. Local Authority is the main provide of facilities for many sports. These range from school estates to local sports centres. Many of these facilities while of good quality aren't accessible to the local community clubs. The move to different business models in local authorities has led to a substantial reduction in affordable access. It is important to recognise that there are also different requirements for different sports in terms of artificial surfaces. A mix of facility stock is required to enable a range of sports to be able to deliver and develop.

Here again the Audit Scotland report April 08, identified the need for a joined up approach with the development of facilities. A strategy for nationwide investment in facilities.

- **Volunteering, in Clubs**

The majority of sport in Scotland is delivered by volunteers through Clubs. The pressure of compliance for Clubs is currently a barrier, while I agree that Child Protection is paramount the administration is both cumbersome and restrictive. A review of this process would go some way to remove this barrier. Clubs are the exit point from school, they provide a service to the community and need to be supported. The requirements for coaches, officials and club administrators can be supported by training, but again it is the 4.00-6.00pm that is the window that volunteers are required, the after school time. There are a number of club volunteers who work full time, would it not be reasonable for Government both local & National to release employees, who are volunteering their time to clubs, to support after school projects. This would only require staff having one afternoon a week/fortnight/month off and who substantially increase the pool of volunteers available.

This project could also be adopted by the Scottish Business community, again increasing the potential workforce.

This type of project would underpin the community club spirit and enhance the link from local schools to local clubs.

Investment

For a legacy to inspire long-term change requires both Political will and funding. While the cost of the games is projected to be in the area of £373 m, there is a need to commit to the legacy plan.

The governing body focus

We are currently looking at a number of projects to enable hockey to benefit from the games.

1. We have started discussions with City of Glasgow Council regarding the management of the hockey facility after the games. This partnership will enable the sport to be more commercial and for the sport to re-invest in programmes that will provide sustainability for the sport. This will also reduce our dependency on investment from SportScotland.
2. We are looking to develop relationships with India and Pakistan to have these countries come to Scotland in a planned programme of international matches. This will raise the profile of the sport as well as engage the Asian communities and business in Scotland.
3. We currently have a club development programme but will need to look at our resources to focus more in this area. While there will be more of a focus in the West it is important that we can provide support to clubs across the country to be in a strong position to cater for the success of the games.

Summary

I would like to take this opportunity to contribute to the planning of the Commonwealth Games Legacy. I believe that to achieve an impact in the 3 areas identified, Scotland will be seen as an innovative leader in sports development, health and life long learning.

Yours in sport



Brent Deans
CEO