

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
FINANCE HOUSING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
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Agenda Item	31
Report No	FHR/ 53/14

COMMONWEALTH GAMES ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & LEGACY

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Summary

This report outlines the responsibilities on the Council in relation to the Commonwealth Games, in particular the expectation to develop a Games Legacy Plan and to co-ordinate and fund the Queen's Baton Relay. It suggests that the Council creates a Legacy Fund and appoints a project officer as a one year secondment to undertake the different strands of the work required.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A number of significant events take place in Scotland during 2014-15 in which the Council will have an interest, including the 20th Commonwealth Games, the Year of Homecoming, the Ryder Cup Competition and the Junior Ryder Cup.

In addition several key national and international events will take place within the Highland area such as the Mountain Bike World Championship, the World Sheepdog Trials Championship, the World and Scottish Orienteering Championships along with a range of more local activities and festivals.

- 1.2 In relation to the Commonwealth Games in particular, the expectation on local authorities to lead and deliver on a number of initiatives designed to ensure that the country as a whole takes maximum advantage from the opportunities the Games will provide is significant. Each local authority is expected to prepare a Legacy Plan highlighting how it will capitalise on the interest the Games will engender across Scotland and on how the various national programmes set out in the Government's Legacy proposals can be taken forward and implemented more locally. Local Authorities are also expected to co-ordinate and fund the visit of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay to their area.

2.0 Commonwealth Games Legacy Plan

- 2.1 In order to ensure a consistent approach the key themes to be included in each local authority's Legacy Plan have been set by the Scottish Government and are as follows:-

- **Active** - increasing opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity
- **Connected** - educational, cultural and creative opportunities
- **Sustainable** – promoting environmentally responsible, sustainable activities
- **Flourishing** - increasing opportunities for business and economic growth

Local authorities can add any particular themes to their Legacy Plans which may be relevant in their particular area.

Wherever possible and appropriate the local actions within each theme should link to the individual Council's current programme and priorities for the period 2014-2019.

- 2.2 As far as Highland is concerned, it is envisaged that the **Active** and the **Connected** themes will be of greatest relevance and the Legacy Plan should consolidate and build on some of the initiatives already underway, eg sports and physical activity initiatives, the development of sports hubs and the sports facilities being provided in the new schools building programme.

An aspect of the **Connected** theme will be to bring to the Highland area some of the cultural projects that have either been developed for Glasgow 2014 or are from Commonwealth nations visiting for the Games. There are also many projects to link schools, clubs and organisations to Games activities and to create a better awareness of the Commonwealth. These include:

- Game on Scotland – the key Educational Programme linked to the Games;
- Support a Second Team – Highland's links with two Commonwealth countries;
- Games for Scotland – projects which mark the countdown to the Games; and it has been recently announced that there will be opportunities to involve young people from across Scotland in several projects around the opening and closing of the Games, meet Commonwealth athletes and to engage and work with young people from other Commonwealth countries on different programmes.

- 2.3 Councils are expected to have their Legacy Plans in place in time for the start of the Games in July and they should have a time frame of 5 years. Arrangements will be introduced to review the impact of Legacy Plans in 2016 and again in 2019.

- 2.4 In addition to some of the ongoing projects and proposals which could contribute to the Legacy of the Games within the Council area, it is suggested that the Council establishes a Games Legacy Fund. This would be open to Council Services, community groups and other relevant organisations to bid into to create a new and lasting project which in some way will preserve the legacy of the Glasgow Games. While the exact criteria for such a fund has yet to be agreed the availability of the Fund could be included in the Council's Legacy Plan and announced at the time the Plan is publicised. It is suggested that the Council's contribution to the fund be set at £100k and that this sum is made available from Council balances. A discussion with other Community Planning Partners should take place to see if they might contribute also and so extend the funding that may be available.

3.0 Queen's Baton Relay

- 3.1 The Queen's Baton Relay aims to highlight the forthcoming Games and for many countries and communities it will be their most tangible link with the Games. The Relay will visit every Commonwealth nation on its way to Glasgow, and in Scotland it will visit every local authority area. Each area has one official day for the Relay but because of the geography of the Highlands the Relay will have to pass through

Highland on other days as it makes its way from the Western Isles, or to Orkney, for example. Highland's nominated day is Friday 11th July but it is likely that the Relay will pass through Highland on 3 other days also. The actual route the Relay will follow is being finalised and will be made public in the next few weeks but it is envisaged that it will visit 16 Highland communities with the main Highland celebration for the Relay to take place in Dingwall.

- 3.2 The Council is expected to set up a co-ordinating group, involving Police and other appropriate agencies to oversee the safe planning of the route, assess and manage the impact on traffic and other road users, put in place any emergency back-up required and organise an the evening celebratory event for the Relay on Friday 11th July. It is envisaged that there will need to be some local co-ordinating arrangement in the various towns the relay is visiting and a link between these and the wider group. As with the Olympic Torch all the obligations related to the Relay in Highland are expected to be funded by the Council. However, until the actual route is finalised the cost cannot be calculated accurately –but based on the experience of the recent Olympic Torch Relay it is estimated this will result in a net cost to the Council in the order of £30k. Of this sum, £20k has been set aside within the Highland Culture Fund and it is suggested that the remaining £10k be met from Ward Discretionary Budgets in the communities the Relay is to visit.

4.0 Project Officer

- 4.1 In order to maximise and extend the benefits presented the 2014 legacy, it is proposed that the Council creates a dedicated budget and staff resource to lead the development and implementation of the Highland Area Legacy Plan, to work with the appropriate Community Planning Partners and other organisations at Highland and national levels, to encourage and to support school and community involvement in the different programmes on offer.

There is also a need to co-ordinate all the detailed arrangements around the Queen's Baton Relay, to service the planning group and to be the link with the local communities. There will be a requirement to develop the proposed Legacy Fund, set the criteria, advise and work with applicants on their proposals and put in place a decision making procedure. This approach worked well for the Highland 2007 Year of Culture project, and having a dedicated staff resource was a key factor in the success of that particular initiative. It is considered that to meet the salary and on costs for a one year project officer secondment, effective from 1st April 2014 a sum of £50k will be required and that this may also be made available from Council balances.

- 4.2 It is suggested that this resource – staff and budget, would best sit within the Council's Education, Culture and Sport Service which has the main responsibility for the Council services most closely linked to the Games. Any member of staff within the Council with the appropriate experience would be eligible to apply for the secondment. However as the Council's arm's length organisation High Life Highland delivers sports, cultural and other responsibilities related to the Games on behalf of the Council, it is proposed that the opportunity to apply for the secondment is made available to HLH staff also.
- 4.3 During the term of the secondment the project officer post would also help staff engaged with the other 2014/15 opportunities such as the Ryder Cup, Homecoming

the Orienteering Championships and the other national and international events scheduled to take place in Highland in the months ahead.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 These proposals require funding of £150,000 from Council balances. The earlier report on today's agenda indicated that balances are projected to be above the 3% minimum, so this sum could be accommodated.

6. Implications

- 6.1 There are no resource, legal, equality, climate change/Carbon Clever or risk implications arising from this report.

7. Recommendation

7.1 Members are invited to consider this report and agree that:-

- a) The Council develops a Legacy Plan linked to the forthcoming Commonwealth Games with the aim of having it published by the end of July of this year
- b) The Council agrees to undertake the planning and co-ordination of the Queen's Baton Relay in the Highland area, and to provide the necessary funding to ensure a safe and successful route is followed, from the Highland Culture Fund and Ward Discretionary Budgets.
- c) To create a Games Legacy Fund with a contribution of £100K from Council balances, to develop legacy initiatives, and to discuss with other partners if they wish to become involved and to contribute
- d) To create a short term Project Officer post to be filled on a one year secondment basis by a member of staff of either the Council or HLH, at an estimate cost of £50k, with the funding for the post also being made available from Council balances.

Designation: Hugh Fraser, Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Date: 17 February 2014

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Background Papers: