

**REPORT TO:** POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2011  
**REPORT ON:** FREE FACILITY ACCESS FOR ELITE ATHLETES IN DUNDEE  
**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES  
**REPORT NO:** 397-2011

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To obtain Committee approval for UK athletes within Olympic and Commonwealth Games Training Programmes and athletes competing within significant international competitions, who reside in Dundee or compete for Dundee based sports clubs, to be given free access to training facilities in Dundee.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Committee is asked to note that Leisure & Culture Dundee have agreed to grant free access to fitness studios, training pools, games halls and sport specific facilities, including Regional Gymnastics Facility and DISC artificial pitches, for athletes within Olympic and Commonwealth Games Training Programmes, as identified by Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport.
- 2.2 Committee is asked to agree to free access on a similar basis to sports facilities, including Caird Park Stadium, Velodrome, and artificial pitches for athletes within Olympic and Commonwealth Games Training Programmes, as identified by Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no additional costs arising from this proposal.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Reference is made to a previous agreement in 2002 that was in place between Dundee City Council and Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport. This agreement allowed free access to all local athletes who had been identified as potential athletes for 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. In return for this support, the athletes will be expected to provide positive publicity and act as role models (as set out in paragraph 4.8).
- 4.2 The Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport is a partnership initiative between Dundee, Angus, Perth & Kinross Councils, the University of Dundee and **sportscotland**.

The aims of the Institute are to:

- provide a focus for Scottish achievement in sport at the highest level;
- provide comprehensive, coach-led, quality training and competition programmes that will build on existing structures;
- provide facilities and support to sportsmen and women and coaches through an area network and as part of a national network of services.

- 4.3 A key aspect of the proposal is to offer athletes access to additional local training facilities at no extra cost, to remove any barriers and allow them to continue to train and compete at the highest level.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the identified athletes access any of the available facilities on the provision of a specific photographic ID card which they will be administered in conjunction with the National Entitlement Card.
- 4.5 Free access to facilities would only be for the purposes of additional individual training and would not replace any existing club programmes.
- 4.6 There are currently twelve athletes residing in Dundee who are training in Commonwealth Squads. The specific number of international athletes who are competing for Dundee based sports clubs is not currently known. The Regional Sports Partnership Manager is in the process of collating this information. The number has been estimated at approximately an additional 20 athletes who would qualify for the access agreement.
- 4.7 If agreed, the athletes would be allowed to access the facilities on an individual basis at the same time as the general public, and therefore no groups would be displaced and no places would be reserved in terms of preferential access.
- 4.8 The identified athletes provide the potential to raise the profile of the City on a Regional and National basis. It is proposed that an agreement is established with the athletes to act as role models and ambassadors for Dundee City Council and Leisure & Culture Dundee by attending:
- promotional and / or marketing events;
  - local sports programmes and / or events;
  - sports coaching sessions to provide demonstrations / presentation;
  - local photo-calls and press releases;
  - publicity opportunities, as identified by Dundee City Council and Leisure & Culture Dundee.
- It is understood that attendances at the classes / events above will be dependent on the athletes' availability due to training / competition commitments but athletes' attendance will be monitored and evaluated at the end of each financial year.
- 4.9 It is proposed that the process for the identification of athletes to receive free access to Dundee City Council and Leisure & Culture Dundee facilities should be administered by Sport Development and Tayside & Fife Institute of Sport. The process would be as follows:
- Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport to identify athletes who are currently competing in significant international competitions or training within Olympic and Commonwealth Games Training Programmes.
  - Each identified athlete to attend a meeting with representatives from Sports Development, Leisure Centres or Environment Department and Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport to identify which facilities they would use and estimated frequency levels.
  - An agreement by each athlete, Sports Development and the Facility operator to be signed detailing all specific requirements as stated above and also terms of agreement and usage for the forthcoming twelve month period.

- A list of all approved athletes to be presented to Leisure & Culture Dundee Board and Dundee City Council Committee by Sports Development for information.

4.10 The agreement would be monitored using the following methods:

- Review meetings to take place on a six-monthly and annual basis with representatives from Sports Development, Leisure & Culture Dundee and Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport to update list of identified athletes, discuss and review any issues that have occurred and analyse usage per athlete and facility.
- An Annual Report to be prepared highlighting the athletes' sporting achievements for the year.

4.11 It is proposed that where Dundee City Council enters into a lease agreement with a community club/group for the exclusive access of a specific facility, a clause will be added to the lease agreement to enable the identified elite athletes to continue accessing the facility free of charge, e.g. Velodrome.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

No major issues were identified.

5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website: <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 Consultations have taken place with **sportscotland**, Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport, Regional Sporting Partnerships and National Governing Bodies. We have also consulted with a variety of local sports clubs and local athletes who may benefit from the proposal.

6.2 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Director of Finance and Director of the Environment Department have been consulted on this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Equality Impact Assessment.

**STEWART MURDOCH**  
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**31 August 2011**