

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 28TH NOVEMBER, 2011
REPORT ON: NATIONAL FOOTBALL ACADEMY IN DUNDEE
REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REPORT NO: 534-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the establishment of a Steering Group relative to the above.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that to take full advantage of the potential to site the National Indoor Football Centre and attached Football Academy in Dundee that the Committee agree that a Steering Group is established now to start work on taking forward the Dundee bid.

The Committee further agree that the membership of the Steering Group be as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital Costs - The majority of the funding will most likely be coming from the Scottish Government via the SFA. This will need to be developed once the bid criteria are known. The most important task will be to align the budget with the design proposals and costs.

Revenue Funding - It is not yet known the level of financial support that will be given but the revenue requirements will need to be determined based on the design and management agreements. Then consideration will need to be given to how the revenue will be found from various sources and partners including the potential of private sector involvement/sponsorship.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

The SNP Government included with the 2011 Scottish Parliament manifesto under Sport and Commonwealth Games the following statement:

"We will still use funding from our Young Scots Fund to provide a new National Indoor Football Centre with attached National Football Academy, one of the key recommendations of the McLeish Review. We will invite Local Authorities to bid to have the new centre in their area".

The Scottish Football Association is now close to issuing its criteria for the bidding process, to which local authorities will submit their bids.

4.1 Make up of the Steering Group

Dundee has the singular advantage of having two professional football clubs in the City, as well as higher education establishments with sports science research and teaching and established partnership working. Utilising these advantages the Steering Group would be a partnership established to not only under take the bid but to also go on to build and be part of the management of the National Football Academy in Dundee.

The membership of the Steering Group would be organisations whose representative may change as the requirement of the task changed but who would have an input into developing the bid and the subsequent build and management of the project.

The National Football Academy in Dundee Steering Group would be established under the auspices of the Dundee Partnership to maximise its partnership workings.

The proposed membership of the Steering Group would be as follows:-

Members

- Leader of the Administration or representative
- Both Professional Football Clubs in the City
- Both City Universities and Dundee College
- Leisure and Culture Dundee
- National Health Service - Tayside
- Regional representatives of the Scottish Football Association (if allowed)
- Regional Sporting Partnership
- Dundee City Council Departments
 - City Development - Planners, Property, Transport, Designers and Technical Services
 - Environment - Land Management
 - Education - Active Schools and PE
 - Chief Executives - Communities, Youth Work and Policy

The National Football Academy in Dundee Steering Group, due to its strategic importance to the City, would be chaired by the Chief Executive.

4.2 Remit of the Steering Group

The groups first and foremost remit will be to submit a bid to establish the National Football Academy in Dundee. Although the bid criteria have not been issued from the SFA yet it will most likely fall into three major areas and the Steering Group could have preliminary discussions on these.

PHYSICALITY

- Location
- Site Layout
- Design
- Access/Transportation

FINANCE

- Capital Costs
- Revenue Funding

MANAGEMENT

- Property and Land
- Staffing
- Sports Sciences
- Professional Association
- National Perspectives/Involvement
- Community Involvement
- Organisation to Manage the Facility

PHYSICALITY

Location - sited on Dundee City Council land potential sites could be determined now that have the capacity in terms of land area as well as ease of access and transportation links, which will be very important for a national centre

Site Layout - Although the detailed requirements are not yet know, determination of overall size etc. could be surmised to assist in site location. Once the details of the bid are known outline layouts would be required.

Design - The bid requirements will be paramount but that does not preclude a high level of design for the facility, especially in relationship to 'green' elements - renewable energy, sustainable products, all assisting in reducing the revenue costs. There is also the consideration of ancillary requirements i.e. accommodation, additional training venues.

Access/Transportation - As mentioned before highly important for a national facility. What do we have now in Dundee and what would be required to be introduced, improved or reduced to provide the required ease of access for the majority of users from across Scotland?

MANAGEMENT

Property and Land - With the City Council most likely providing the site, consideration will have to be given by the Steering Group into who will manage the buildings and the site. This will be linked to the revenue discussion and the financial vehicle chosen to take forward the construction and management of the facility.

Staffing - Working with the SFA, both nationally and regionally, the Steering Group will need to determine staffing levels. This will extend to sport sciences as well as coaches, administration etc. Inclusion of the use of volunteers and Dundee City Council and Dundee Leisure & Culture staff also need to be considered by the Steering Group.

Sport Sciences - The two Universities and Dundee College as members of the Steering Group could develop proposals for sports sciences delivery at the facility but also research work, utilising the National Football Academy in Dundee as a base.

Professional association - In modern day football, the professional game is so important to the sport, that association with professional clubs and the national team will be critical to the development of a National Football Centre. Dundee has the advantage of having two professional teams, in Dundee FC and Dundee United FC and their input to the Steering Group will be useful in all areas of development both for the bid and the future management.

National perspectives/involvement - The Steering Group will need to consider how the Academy and indoor pitches would link into the national requirements of the sport, the SFA and the Scottish Government.

Community Involvement - To make sure all possible advantages are gained by Dundee in having the National Football Academy sited in the city, the Steering Group should determine what additional community involvement could be generated. This could range from local usage of the facility to regional development programmes, to educational opportunities, career development, research programming, joint associations with other organisations in the city and volunteering. There are also the advantages of involving the local community in its development as has been seen by the V&A in Dundee. The Steering Group will need to decide if this is to be undertaken and, if so, to what level organisations and the local community would be involved.

Organisation to Manage the Facility - If not predetermined by the bid criteria the Steering Group will need to consider the best financial vehicle to manage the facility.

4.3 Conclusion

- (a) Establishing a Steering Group now before the National Football Academy bid criteria is published will be a benefit to Dundee to get ahead of the game.
- (b) Having a Group that can submit the bid but also go on to build and manage the National Football Academy in Dundee would be an advantage.
- (c) The Dundee submission will need to provide additionality to the bid, going beyond what is asked in the criteria issued by the SFA. There is the real potential for the strong partnership working we have in the city, to also include the involvement of the two professional football clubs, two universities and the college which will deliver more than just a series of indoor pitches and an academy to the sport of football.
- (d) The Steering Group will need to work on what the National Football Academy can deliver for Dundee beyond the obvious prestige and provision of new indoor facilities in the city.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance and Director, Leisure and Communities have been consulted.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

David K Dorward
Chief Executive

DATE: 18 November 2011