



**Glasgow City Council**

**Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and  
Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee**

**Report by Director of Libraries, Sport and Communities**

**Contact: Andrew Olney Ext: 74350**

**Item 5**

**17th April 2025**

**CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE SUPPORT BY GLASGOW FOR  
SPORTSPEOPLE AIMING TO ACHIEVE SPORTING EXCELLENCE**

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide the Committee with an overview of the ongoing review into the Glasgow School of Sport and the proposed consultation to take place regarding its future.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to note that:

- 1) A consultation exercise will be undertaken to inform how Glasgow can best support its talented sports performers' with a paper brought back to the relevant committee setting out the findings of the consultation and the proposed next steps to ensure that Glasgow's talented sports people are appropriately supported.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Glasgow was approved on Feb 25 by the City Council, City Administration Committee which has the following Mission and Vision.

### **Our Vision**

Glasgow is a city where everyone thrives and our communities flourish through the transformative benefits of inclusive physical activity and sport.

### **Our Mission**

To create a vibrant, city-wide culture where physical activity is a cornerstone of everyday life. A city that enables and empowers everyone to build physical activity and sport into their daily lives.

- 1.2 It also set out a set of principles, two of which were:

**Addressing Health Inequalities:** We are committed to targeting and reducing health disparities by ensuring equitable access to physical activity and sport opportunities, with a focus on supporting those most affected by health inequalities to improve their overall well-being and quality of life.

**Championing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:** We are committed to actively addressing and reducing disparities in access to physical activity and sport, ensuring that every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, has equitable access to participate and benefit from an active lifestyle.

- 1.3 The high-level strategic priority for sport is:

**Sport and Recreation for All:** Provide equitable and high-quality access to inclusive sport and active recreation for all.

- 1.4 The underlying objectives for this priority are:

1. **Enhance Support for Sports Clubs and Organisations:** Collaborate with sports clubs and community organisations to understand and support their needs to develop and maintain sustainable sport and active recreation opportunities in local communities and create sustainable development pathways.
2. **Engage Inactive Communities:** Engage and listen to under-represented communities to understand the barriers to active recreation and sport.
3. **Provide Accessible and Sustainable Facilities:** Ensure active recreation and sport facilities are accessible, sustainable, and meet the needs of all residents, especially the inactive and those under-represented.

4. **Provide Sustainable and Inclusive Opportunities:** Work with communities to design and deliver truly inclusive sport and active recreation opportunities, that meet the needs of all, through both universal and targeted provision.
  5. **Develop the Workforce:** Enable and empower staff and volunteers within sports clubs and community and public sector organisations through delivery of a programme of training and development to build their capacity and capability in engaging and motivating citizens through inclusive and equitable opportunities.
  6. **Deliver Mass Participation Events:** Ensure that community-wide, mass participation events which can encourage people to participate in sports and recreation are connected to ongoing local sport and active recreation provision and not just one-time occurrences
- 1.5 Recognising the principles for the Strategy of addressing inequality of access to physical activity and sport, objective 1 above sets out an ambition to create and support development pathways for individuals participating in sport and active recreation. This includes supporting athletes participating at the performance and excellence levels of sport who are, or are aiming to, compete at national and international level . To help identify the best way to achieve this as part of the Strategy it is proposed to carry out an engagement and consultation programme with relevant stakeholders currently engaged at the performance and excellence level.

## 2 CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Glasgow currently supports sports people on a pathway to sporting excellence in two ways.
1. **Glasgow School of Sport**
  2. **Talented Sports Performer Scheme**
- 2.2 **Glasgow School of Sport** is run as a partnership between Glasgow City Council Education Services and Glasgow Life. GSOS pupils balance a timetable of sporting and academic studies, undertaking 9-14 periods of dedicated sports coaching each week. It is Scotland's only programme that allows young people to develop their sporting talents as part of their school education.
- 2.3 Opened in 1998, and located at Bellahouston Academy, it currently has 60 pupils with five programmes in five sports, Athletics, Badminton, Gymnastics, Hockey and Swimming. Attendance is not limited to Glasgow residents. 62% (37 pupils) come from 12 other Council areas
- 2.4 **Glasgow's Talented Sports Performer (TSP) Scheme.** Glasgow Life operates a Talented Sports Performer (TSP) scheme, supporting annually approximately 143 Glasgow athletes by providing free access to world-class training facilities.

The TSP is an award open to athletes competing at or aiming to compete at national level. Athletes apply to the programme with NGB confirming suitability.

- 2.5 Across Scotland other local authorities support talented sports performers by operating a bursary programme open to residents who are participating in sport at a performance or excellence level. Such a bursary programme contributes to the cost of sports people participating in training camps, attending competitions and the purchase of specialist equipment. This is an option that is available for the Council should it wish to introduce it, based on the outcome of any consultation.

### 3 CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF GLASGOW'S TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE

- 3.1 Glasgow Life would lead on the consultation process, working with Education Services and be supported by the City Council's Consultation Hub to provide specialist input into the design and delivery of the consultation process.
- 3.2 The aim of the consultation is to receive feedback on:
  - 1 How the current schemes are valued by the participants and the wider sports infrastructure who support talented sports performers?
  - 2 What would be the impact if the current support mechanisms are removed?
  - 3 What is the best approach to support equity of access to sports performance programmes for the city's residents?
  - 4 Are there any additional resources available to support Glasgow's talented sports performers?
- 3.3 The consultation will engage parents/guardians and pupils at the Glasgow School of Sport, participants in the Talented Sports Performers programme, SportScotland, National Governing Bodies of Sport and Sports Clubs in the city supporting athletes performing at national/international level.
- 3.4 Consultation programme. It is envisaged that the consultation process would take place between April and August 2025. Consideration will be given to the programme so as not to impact on any sports performer undertaking exams in the summer term.
- 3.5 The findings and recommended next steps will be presented to the relevant committee.

## 4 POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

*Financial                      The consultation will take place within the existing budgets available to Glasgow Life and the City Council.*

<i>Legal</i>	N/A
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Personnel N/A

Procurement N/A

**Council Strategic Plan:**

Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

Grand Challenge 2 - Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens. Mission 3

Grand Challenge 1 - Reduce poverty and inequalities in our communities. Mission 3 and Mission 4

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

Outcome 14 - improving outcomes education

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

EQIA will be carried out as part of the review.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

**Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

No

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?* NA

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?* NA

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:** No

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to note that:

- 1) A consultation exercise will be undertaken to inform how Glasgow can best support its talented sports performers' with a paper brought back to the relevant committee setting out the findings of the consultation and the proposed next steps to ensure that Glasgow's talented sports people are appropriately supported.