

FIFA Women's World Cup 2035 – Feasibility and bid noted - Council steps down responsibility for delivery to Glasgow Life approved.

5 Bailie Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations, presented a report regarding Glasgow's bid to be 1 of the host cities for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2035, advising

- (1) that FIFA Women's World Cup was the largest women's sporting competition in the world and had been part of the UK Government and Football Associations' hosting ambitions for a number of years;
- (2) that Glasgow had the opportunity to be 1 of the host cities for the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2035, with Hampden, Ibrox and Celtic Park all meeting the hosting requirements, however as the National Football Stadium, Hampden would be expected to be a first choice to be put forward, although the stadium selection was ultimately FIFA's decision;
- (3) that in March 2025, the football associations of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland had submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2035, which was subsequently confirmed as the only valid EOI by FIFA and a bidding agreement had been signed and submitted to FIFA, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that following a thorough evaluation process, FIFA would publish its evaluation reports and should the hosting requirements be met, the member associations gathered at the FIFA Congress would appoint the hosts of the respective competitions in the second quarter of 2026;
- (5) that Glasgow had been required to confirm a desire to be part of the UK bid to the DCMS by 14th November 2025 and as committee approval could not be obtained within the required timescale and in view of the urgency, the Chief Executive had agreed the funding request for Glasgow to host events as part of the Football Associations led bid to secure the FIFA Women's World Cup 2035;
- (6) that the Football Association had requested that the host city underwrite 40% of costs and that the UK Government would cover the remaining 60%, with it being estimated that Glasgow's costs would be approximately £10m;
- (7) that officers had engaged with the Scottish Government to seek a further contribution towards the host city costs and the Scottish Government had now confirmed that they would contribute 15% of the total cost, capped at £3.75m and with the contributions from the UK and Scottish Governments, it was estimated that the host city contribution for Glasgow would be £6.2m;
- (8) of the key considerations in relation to the host city funding, the tournament format and match split, the city hosting obligations, the proposed delivery model, the strategic alignment and benefits to the city; and

(9) of the next steps and timelines.

After consideration, the committee

(a) noted

(i) the report; and

(ii) that the Chief Executive, under delegated authority, had approved the funding request to Glasgow to host events as part of the Football Associations led bid to secure the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2035; and

(b) agreed that the Council steps down responsibility for delivery to Glasgow Life.