



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Report by Chief Executive

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Item 8

24th October 2024

Commonwealth Games 2026

Purpose of Report:

To advise Committee of the proposed arrangements for the city's assistance in hosting of the Commonwealth Games 2026.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:-

1. Note the contents of the report, including the governance arrangements proposed to support the planning and delivery of the city's role in the hosting of the Commonwealth Games 2026; and
2. Agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Finance to negotiate and conclude all legal and financial agreements associated with the city's role in hosting of the Games.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1 Background

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Australian state of Victoria was awarded the right to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games in 2022.
- 1.2 In July 2023 the then Premier of Victoria announced that as a result of projected cost overruns the state was withdrawing from hosting the Games. Victoria later agreed to make a compensatory payment of \$380m (approx. £190m) to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Commonwealth Games Federation Partnerships and Commonwealth Games Australia.
- 1.3 Following that announcement, the CGF began to look for a new host with a number of commonwealth countries ultimately confirming they were not interested in hosting.
- 1.4 In October 2023 Glasgow Life was contacted by Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) who were beginning to develop a new delivery model for the Games. The new model would cost substantially less to deliver, consisting of fewer events. All of the funding for this new delivery model is proposed to come from the CGF and commercial arrangements.
- 1.5 Glasgow Life has been supporting CGS in developing the costings for the new model. The cost of staff time involved in this process has been reimbursed.
- 1.6 Glasgow Life's Director of Culture, Tourism and Events and Glasgow City Council's Director of Communication and Corporate Governance have been regularly engaging with the Scottish and UK governments and the CGF.

2 Proposed new delivery model

- 2.1 The concept is based on a significantly reduced budget, timeline and scale of event, therefore the approach and experience will be different to previous Commonwealth Games. The model remains in development. The key points of the model for 2026 currently being developed are:-
 - The Games will consist of an 11-day event from 23 July to 2 August 2026, with a 10-sport programme, fully integrating para competitions, and including athletics and swimming as mandatory sports. CGS and CGF are finalising remaining sports to be announced, with the multi-sport venues identified providing a number of options to the organisers.
 - The Games will be hosted across four competition venues in Glasgow - Emirates Arena/ Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre and the Scottish Events Campus. Competition would be contained within the venue footprint, with no road-based events.
 - The Games would be delivered by a Games Organising Company (GOC) established by CGS, with a Board of Directors and supported by key committees. Discussions are on-going regarding the representation by both Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Life on the Board and Strategic Communications committee.

- The GOC model would be based on a core delivery team, along with specialist, experienced suppliers and partners.
- A capital works programme has been identified across all three Glasgow Life managed competition venues.
- There is an aspiration to develop activation and cultural programmes and these will be funded by the CGF. These will leave a lasting legacy for communities and enable the continued attraction and hosting of major events.
- Accommodation for competitors and officials will be based within existing accommodation across the city as there will be no Games Village built.

2.2 This concept presents Glasgow with the opportunity to contribute to an innovative Games delivery model that will provide a more sustainable event proposition. The new model should also enable smaller countries and cities to host the Games in the future, which would have been otherwise unattainable for them.

3 Financial and Contractual Arrangements

3.1 At this time the organising structure for the Games has not been established but the Council will require to enter into a contractual arrangement with the Games Organising Company. The contractual arrangement will cover a range of issues, including:-

- hire charges for the use of Council venues currently managed by Glasgow Life.
- the capital works required to these venues.
- the agreed city services to be provided by the Council.

3.2 There is a commitment from CGF to meet the entire cost of the Games.

4. Benefits to Glasgow

4.1 Glasgow has a well-earned reputation as a sporting city with the expertise, excellence and innovation required to stage these Commonwealth Games. While the look and feel of these Games will be different to Glasgow 2014, staging these Games provides Glasgow with an opportunity to sustain and enhance the sporting, economic, social and environmental legacy achieved through its hosting of previous major sporting events.

5 Governance Arrangements

5.1 In order to oversee and monitor progress of the city's role in hosting the Games, a Glasgow 2026 Programme Board has been established, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive. It will have specific responsibility for monitoring the progress of delivery of the city's operations and functions within the agreed budgets, ensuring a legacy for Glasgow.

- 5.2 In terms of the operational governance structure within Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Life, two groups are being established. These will directly oversee all aspects of delivery of the city's operations and functions as well as oversee all aspects of delivery and liaison with the GOC regarding venues and sporting events. Both groups will report into the Glasgow 2026 Programme Board.
- 5.3 Given the timescales for delivery of the Games in 2026, delegated authority is sought for the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Finance to negotiate and conclude all legal and financial agreements associated with the city's hosting of the Commonwealth Games, which will include discussion for entering into agreements for the hiring out of the council venues referred to in this report.
- 5.4 Further update will be brought to relevant committee(s) in due course.

Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There is a commitment from CGF to meet the entire cost of the Games.
<i>Legal:</i>	The council will require to negotiate and enter into a number of legal agreements, including with the Games Organising Company.
<i>Personnel:</i>	A workforce plan will be developed in accordance with the available budget.
<i>Procurement:</i>	Any required procurement by the Council will be undertaken in accordance with the Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

Council Strategic Plan: **Grand Challenge 1:** Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities.

Mission 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities

Mission 4: Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant

Grand Challenge 2: Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens

Mission 2: Support the growth of an innovative, resilient and net zero carbon economy

Grand Challenge 3: Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow

Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

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

An EQIA will be undertaken as planning and delivery of the Games progresses.

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

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

Climate Impacts:

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

Not directly at this stage; although as planning and delivery of the Games progresses, more detailed consideration will be required

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

Not directly identified at this stage; although as planning and delivery of the Games progresses, more detailed consideration will be required

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

Not directly identified at this stage; although as planning and delivery of the Games progresses, more detailed consideration will be required

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

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

If Yes, please confirm that
a Data Protection Impact
Assessment (DPIA) has
been carried out

6 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:-

- 6.1 Note the contents of the report, including the governance arrangements proposed to support the planning and delivery of the city's role in the hosting of the Commonwealth Games 2026; and
- 6.2 Agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Finance to negotiate and conclude all legal and financial agreements associated with the city's role in hosting of the Games.