

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00, Tuesday, 11 September 2018

Meadowbank Sports Centre

Item number	8.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

This report is in response to a motion approved at the City of Edinburgh Council meeting on the 31st May 2018. As a result of the motion it was agreed that details about decisions made previously by the full Council or any of its Committees relating to the strategic vision for the new Meadowbank Sports Centre would be submitted to the next meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee.

Meadowbank Sports Centre

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the Approvals which are in place to allow the delivery of a new major sports centre at Meadowbank.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 31st May 2018, the City of Edinburgh Council approved a motion about Meadowbank Sports Centre.
- 2.2 The motion stated: “Council instructs the appropriate Directors to report in one cycle to the Culture and Communities Committee on agreements made to date on the strategic vision for the replacement of Meadowbank Stadium, including details of when decisions were taken and all meetings at which they were scrutinised publicly.”

3. Main report

- 3.1 Meadowbank Sports Centre and its redevelopment have been reported on extensively to meetings of the City of Edinburgh Council and various other Council committees over the last fifteen years. This report details the key reports and decisions made by the Council since [13 March 2008](#) when it was decided that Edinburgh’s flagship sports centre should remain at Meadowbank.
- 3.2 Two of the specific recommendations in the 2008 report were:
- To approve a new build at Meadowbank as the best option and to commission an appraisal for this new facility.
 - That approximately 3.5 hectares of the Meadowbank site was considered for sale, with all capital funds released as a result being ring-fenced for investment in future Meadowbank sporting facilities.
- 3.3 At the budget meeting on [7 February 2013](#), the Council agreed to progress the project for a Meadowbank Sports Centre by approving funds to carry out stakeholder engagement and complete an options appraisal. The results of the stakeholder engagement and options appraisal were reported to the Culture & Sport Committee on [17 December 2013](#). The outcomes of the appraisal highlighted that the new Meadowbank should be tailored to the current and future sporting needs of the city and that there was no requirement for a 25,000 capacity stadium.

- 3.4 The report from Culture & Sport Committee was referred to the Council's budget meeting on [13 February 2014](#), where Council approved funding to take forward a design feasibility study for a new sport centre. The scope for the facilities to be designed through the feasibility study were in line with the outcomes of the previous stakeholder engagement and options appraisal.
- 3.5 The outcomes of the feasibility study were reported to Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee on [20 January 2015](#) where the decision was made to refer the report to the Council's budget meeting on [12 February 2015](#). As part of the feasibility study, an initial design for the new Meadowbank sports centre had been developed and Council was asked to approve the facility mix detailed within the design. This request was approved along with the decision that further work was required on the project's funding package.
- 3.6 An update on the funding package was reported to Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee on [20 September 2015](#) and it was agreed that work could begin on the procurement of a full Project Team to take forward the development of the detailed design for a new sports centre. This report was also referred to the Economy Committee meeting on [17 November 2015](#) and Finance & Resources Committee meeting on [26 November 2015](#).
- 3.7 A report on the funding package for a new Meadowbank was then taken to the meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council on [10 March 2016](#). Amongst the decisions made at this meeting it was agreed that the development of the detailed design for the new Meadowbank Sports Centre should continue. It was also approved that receipts from sale of land on the site would be ring-fenced and form part of the new sport centre's funding package. This report also approved the transfer of parts of the site to the Housing Revenue Account for housing development.
- 3.8 An update report was taken to Culture & Sport Committee on [14 December 2016](#) to inform members on progress along with detail of the financial position of the project. It was agreed the report would be referred to the Council's budget meeting on [9 February 2017](#) to consider the funding gap of £7.9M as part of the budget setting process. At the meeting of 9 February 2017, Council agreed to allocate £7.9M towards the costs to build a new Meadowbank Sports Centre.
- 3.9 A project update was reported to Finance & Resources Committee on [23 January 2018](#) and this report was also referred on to the Culture & Communities Committee meeting on [30 January 2018](#). It was agreed that a further report would be presented to Finance & Resources Committee before the main construction contract was awarded. The tender process for the new sports centre is now nearing completion and a report on the outcomes of this process will be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee on 11 October 2018 for consideration.
- 3.10 The full planning application for the development of a new sports centre at Meadowbank was considered and approved by the Development Management Sub-Committee on [29 June 2018](#).

Culture and Communities Committee – 11 September 2018

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Delivery of a new Meadowbank Sports Centre by 2021 in line with the coalition commitment
- 4.2 Committee, stakeholders and the public have a clear understanding of decisions taken on Meadowbank to date.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. A report will be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee on 11 October 2018 so that the outcomes of the tender process for the new Meadowbank Sport Centre can be considered.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 All risk, policy, compliance and governance issues have been addressed in the previous reports highlighted above as and when appropriate. Any new issues will be addressed in the report to be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee on 11 October 2018.
- 6.2 A Member Officer Working Group and Investment Steering Group are in place for the Sports Centre element of the project.
- 6.3 A wide range of Council project managers, senior management and specialist consultants are involved in the day to day management of the project.
- 6.4 The project fulfils a wide range of Council outcomes particularly those to deliver a new Meadowbank Sports Centre by 2021 and to deliver more homes for the City.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The new arrangements will widen access for all to the Council's sport facilities and the development of an Integrated Impact assessment is being progressed.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The design of the new sports centre has been developed in line with the Council's current sustainability requirements.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Extensive consultation has taken place with key stakeholders as part of development of plans for the new Meadowbank Sports Centre.
- 9.2 Public consultation was also carried out and detail of this can be found in the Pre-Application Consultation Report.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Links to all the relevant previous reports on Meadowbank Sports Centre are provided throughout the main report.

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