

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

13 November 2014

Report by Director of Education

GIFT OF GYM EQUIPMENT TO TUVALU

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the gift of gym equipment from the Action Zone gym at Eastwood Park to the Commonwealth country of Tuvalu.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Cabinet is asked to approve that the gym equipment scheduled to be replaced in the Eastwood Leisure Centre Action Zone should be gifted to Tuvalu, to enable the creation of a gym on the largest island of Funafuti.

BACKGROUND

3. As part of the preparation for the 2014 Commonwealth Games each local authority in Scotland was allocated two countries under the “support a 2nd team” initiative. This was an initiative, led by **sportscotland** with the support of the Games Organising Committee and Education Scotland. Its aim was to “*provide an opportunity for creating partnerships with countries participating in the Commonwealth Games and supporting them through their journey to the Games and beyond*”.

4. East Renfrewshire was allocated the teams from India and Tuvalu. Work was done both through sports and with schools to link to these teams: the Convener for Community Services and Community Safety welcomed both teams into the Games athletes’ village.

5. Tuvalu in particular provided opportunities to do work in schools highlighting the potential impact of global warming. Tuvalu is located in the Pacific Ocean, mid-way between Hawaii and Australia. It comprises 3 islands plus atolls, with a population of just over 10,000. As its highest point, Tuvalu is some 15 feet above sea level and is vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of climate change. Sports facilities in the country are very limited.

REPORT

6. Officers were contacted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) through **sportscotland** to enquire whether East Renfrewshire might be able to support the development of a gym in Tuvalu. The country is keen to develop a gym to improve the well-being of residents and its sporting performance: costs, including shipping have proved prohibitive. Subsequent discussions with FCO civil servants gave rise to the idea of gym equipment from the Eastwood Leisure Centre Action Zone being gifted to Tuvalu, following its replacement late in 2014.

7. Gym equipment is replaced on a 5-year programme. However, because of other works, the replacement at Eastwood Park was rolled back from 2013/14 to this year. Tuvalu has indicated that they would be very keen to take the majority of the equipment currently in the gym, totalling 39 items.

8. Given the location of Tuvalu, the cost of shipping the equipment there presented a challenge. However, the Australian High Commission has indicated that it will meet shipping costs.

9. Subject to Cabinet's agreement, the proposal is for the equipment to be dismantled on site at the point at which the gym is closed for its renewal. It would then be crated and transported for shipping to Tuvalu. This proposal would not extend the closure of the Action Zone gym at Eastwood Park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. It is planned to replace the equipment at the Barrhead Action Zone also this year. Based on tenders for the acquisition of the second-hand equipment there, the smaller amount of Eastwood Leisure Centre equipment would have an estimated value of £15-20,000. That income would be foregone if the equipment is gifted to Tuvalu.

CONCLUSION

11. The proposal to gift gym equipment to the small nation of Tuvalu presents the opportunity to continue the values of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and build on the legacy of those Games. It presents the opportunity to support the development of a very small Commonwealth nation and with the potential to develop links further, including with our schools.

RECOMMENDATION

12. The Cabinet is asked to approve that the gym equipment scheduled to be replaced in the Eastwood Leisure Centre Action Zone should be gifted to Tuvalu, to enable the creation of a gym on the largest island of Funafuti.

Councillor M Montague, Convener for Community Services and Community Safety

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