

**REPORT TO: Leisure Services Committee 18 March 2002**

**REPORT ON: Tayside & Fife Institute of Sport (TFIS) and Commonwealth Games Athletes Access to Leisure Facilities.**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure & Arts**

**REPORT NO: 212-2002**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To gain the Committee's approval for Dundee Athletes who have been selected for TFIS and the Commonwealth Games Squads to be given free access to the Council's Leisure Facilities.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to agree to free access to Dundee City Council's, Leisure & Parks Fitness Studios and the Olympia Training Pool for athletes who reside in Dundee and have been selected for the TFIS and the Commonwealth Games Squads.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications can be contained within existing budgets.

## **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

Local Agenda 21 implications have been considered in this report in that local needs are met locally and opportunities for leisure are readily available to all.

## **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Equal opportunities implications have been considered in this report.

## **6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 Reference is made to Article V of the Leisure Services Committee of 17 January 2000 where approval was given for Dundee City Council to become a partner in establishing the Tayside & Fife Institute of Sport. The Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport was formally established in September 2000 with the appointment of an Area Manager. The administrative hub is based in the University of Dundee. The TFIS is a partnership initiative between Dundee, Angus, Perth & Kinross and Fife Councils, the University of Dundee and **sportscotland**.
- 6.2 The aims of the Institute are to:
- Provide a focus for Scottish achievement in sport at the highest level.
  - Provide comprehensive, coach-led quality training and competition programmes that will build on existing structures.
  - Provide facilities and support to sportsmen and women and coaches through an area network and as part of a national network of services.
  - Build on the successful sports development environment created through the IMPACT initiative in Tayside and the Fife sports development programmes, to enable sporting talent to be identified, selected and developed.
- 6.3 A key aspect of the TFIS programme is to offer athletes access to local quality facilities at no cost, to remove cost barriers to allowing them to train at the highest level.

- 6.4 It is proposed that athletes may access Dundee City Council's Fitness Studios and the Olympia Training Pool on the provision of a TFIS card. Access would be for the purposes of additional individual training only and would not replace any existing club programmes.
- 6.5 There are currently 14 TFIS Athletes residing in Dundee and it is envisaged that this number will remain reasonably constant in the future.
- 6.6 If agreed, the athletes would be allowed to access the facilities on an individual basis at the same time as the general public and therefore no groups would be displaced and no places would be reserved in terms of preferential access.
- 6.7 Some of the athletes would not normally use City Council leisure facilities and it is hoped that the athletes would train with a paying partner and therefore increase the usage/income of the leisure facilities.
- 6.8 In relation to the Commonwealth Games, which take place on 25 July – 4 August 2002 in Manchester, it is proposed that athletes selected for the training squads would be entitled to free access to the above mentioned facilities and the Leisure and Arts Department would establish a special card for the monitoring and evaluation of this support, up to the date of the games. The number of athletes is presently unknown but it is estimated at less than 10.
- 6.9 Both athletes groups provide the potential to raise the profile of the City on a national basis. It is proposed that an agreement is established with the athletes to act as role models and ambassadors for Dundee City Council at the international or national events they attend and that they would participate in City Council sports initiatives in the future.

7. **CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Directors of Corporate Planning, Support Services and Finance have all been consulted on this report and are in agreement.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Leisure Services Committee 17 January 2000 Article V

9 **SIGNATURE**

**Director of Leisure & Arts.....**

**Date.....**