

Health, Care and Sport Committee
23 September 2026
5th Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Building on the 2026 Commonwealth Games and widening access to sport and physical activity

Introduction

1. At today's meeting, the Committee will explore the potential legacy of the 2026 Commonwealth Games and how to broaden participation in sport and physical activity across Scotland.
2. This is the first meeting in session 7 of the Committee with a specific focus on sport. A note of relevant work done by the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee in the previous Session 6 Sport has been included in **Annexe A** of this paper.
3. A separate SPICe briefing paper (**Paper 2**) is available in order to inform this session.
4. Written submissions from witnesses ahead of giving oral evidence has been included in **Annexe B** of this paper.
5. The Committee also wrote to all local authorities in Scotland regarding fees associated with accessing facilities and clubs in their local area. The Committee thanks those local authorities who have provided further information at relatively short notice to help inform this session.
6. Once the session has concluded, the Committee will be able to assess whether more focused work is needed in certain areas within the sport remit and evidence taken will help inform discussions regarding its future work programme.

Today's meeting

7. The Committee will hear from two panels at today's meeting.
8. The first panel comprises witnesses who can offer a broad perspective on the legacy of the 2026 Commonwealth Games and issues affecting access to sport and physical activity in Scotland. Members will hear from –
 - John Doig OBE, Chief Executive, [Commonwealth Games Scotland](#)
 - Professor David McGillvray, Chair in Event and Digital Cultures, University of the West of Scotland (representing the [Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network](#))
 - Forbes Dunlop, Chief Executive Officer, [sportscotland](#)
 - Gavin Macleod, Chief Executive Officer, [Scottish Disability Sport](#)

9. The second panel is comprised of representatives from sports governing bodies (SGBs) and a community-based sports club, with an opportunity to explore the impact and legacy of the 2026 Commonwealth Games and issues affecting participation from the perspective of witnesses involved in grassroots sports and development of elite athletes. Members will hear from –

- John Lunn, Chief Executive Officer, [Scottish Swimming](#)
- Colin Hutchison, Chief Executive Officer, [Scottish Athletics](#)
- Nick Rennie, Chief Executive, [Scottish Cycling](#)
- David Byrne, Chair of Hillhead High School War Memorial Trust, incorporating [Hillhead Sports Club](#)

10. Members will have up to 90 minutes for both panels.

Action

11. Members are invited to question witnesses on the potential legacy of the 2026 Commonwealth Games and how to broaden participation in sport and physical activity across Scotland.

Clerks to the Committee
September 2026

ANNEXE A: SPICe resources and Session 6 Health, Social Care and Sport Committee work on sport and physical activity

Recent SPICe publications

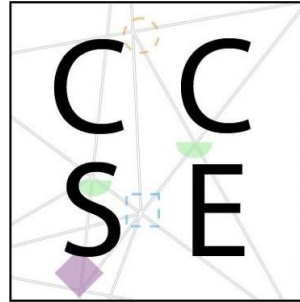
- SPICe published a blog on the 2026 Commonwealth Games in June 2026: [The Commonwealth Games 2026 – SPICe Spotlight | Solas air SPICe](#)
- SPICe hosted an academic fellowship project delivered by Dr David Meir and Dr David Scott. Their research explored barriers to physical activity and potential policy solutions. They published a briefing exploring the existing evidence base on this topic: [Getting the inactive active Barriers to physical activity and their potential policy solutions | Scottish Parliament Website](#) and a briefing summarising the findings from their interviews with key stakeholders: [Getting the inactive active Barriers to physical inactivity and potential policy solutions | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- The SPICe health and social care team offers an annual traineeship opportunity in memory of their colleague Jude Payne. In 2024, their trainee David Collins prepared a research briefing detailing the legislative, governance, and policy landscape of sport in Scotland: [Sport in Scotland An Overview of Legislation Governance Policy and Funding | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Session 6 Committee work

- The previous Health, Social Care, and Sport Committee conducted an inquiry into the [health and wellbeing of children and young people](#) in 2022.
- This inquiry highlighted the physical activity gap between girls and boys, which partly prompted the Committee's 2023 inquiry into [female participation in sport and physical activity](#).
- The previous Committee held several evidence sessions exploring [institutional racism in Cricket Scotland](#), as identified in the [Changing the Boundaries report](#).
- The previous Committee also held various one-off sessions in relation to Sport including:
 - Sport and physical activity - [30 November 2021](#)
 - Scottish Football Association - [19 December 2023](#)
 - sportscotland - [11 March 2025](#)
 - Welfare and sustainability in Scottish youth football - [17 June 2025](#) and [23 September 2025](#)
 - Children and young people's participation in sport and physical activity - [24 June 2025](#)

- Further information on the work of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee in Session 6 is available in its [Legacy Report](#).

ANNEXE B: Written submissions from witnesses ahead of oral evidence



Health, Social Care and Sport Committee – Commonwealth Games Legacy

Written evidence from the Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network, Professor David McGillivray and Professor Gayle McPherson, Centre for Culture, Sport & Events (CCSE), University of the West of Scotland

Introduction

Sport events have become an important policy tool for driving economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes. Securing outcomes beyond the event itself is an important justification for public investment and represents a valuable means of leveraging the attention an event creates to achieve more than would have been possible without the imperative of a fixed deadline. In this written evidence, we provide a background the value of sport events in contributing to social outcomes, outline the work of the Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network and reflect on how legacy activity can be sustained beyond the event's conclusion.

Background context: Leveraging sport events for social outcomes

Scotland, like other parts of the UK and internationally, has been informed and influenced by the hosting of major sport events, including the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and a range of other smaller sport events (2002 Champions League Final, 2007 UEFA Cup Final, 2018 European Sport Championships, the 2021 European Football Championships and, most recently, the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships). Scotland uses these events as drivers of economic (tourism, trade and capital development), social (promoting equalities and addressing inequalities) and cultural (soft power, cultural relations) development. There is, however, focus on the longer-term impacts of these events, known as event legacy, precipitating a growing demand from governments, citizens and sport organisations to show how they

can positively impact broader social outcomes such as empowering disadvantaged groups, enhancing local community infrastructure, and increasing community and sport participation (Meir et al, 2024).

Moving from the post-hoc language of legacy, in recent years sport events have been asked to demonstrate how they can be leveraged (Chalip, 2006; Misener et al, 2018) to produce desired outcomes, beyond the event-theme itself. The focus here on 'making things happen', using the event as a centrepiece, aligns well with how Scotland has sought to use sport events in recent years to strengthen places, health and the economy. In the Scottish policy context, investment in bidding for and delivering major sport events reflects the idea of leveraging. For example, the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games provided a focal point for sport and other policy areas (e.g. health, economic development, education). Sport policy initiatives were catalysed by the hosting of the Games and investment in sport development was informed by a desire to widen participation, while at the same time winning medals for the nation. In terms of facilities, travel and transport infrastructures, volunteering and the development of skills and capacities to host other sporting events, the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games were a success, particularly for the host city of Glasgow (Rogerson et al, 2021). Event hosting success enabled Glasgow to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games at short notice because the necessary infrastructure was in place with only a small number of upgrades needed to reach international standards.

Scotland has been strategic in its approach to major event hosting by investing in the infrastructure and ecosystem of talent that can deliver events, generating legacies by attracting and delivering other major sport events. For example, in 2018 Glasgow reinforced one of its legacy ambitions by hosting the inaugural European Sport Championships multi-sport event in partnership with Berlin, Germany. For this event, existing sport pathways were developed further, and existing venues and facilities were utilised without the need for major investment. A large cultural programme helped strengthen ties with European artistic networks at a time when Brexit had made these more difficult. Furthermore, the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships held for the first time across Scotland, also represents a closer alignment of major sport events with Scotland's key priorities, including international reputation (more than 120 nations accessed broadcast coverage), tourism (extensive footage of Scotland's urban and rural landscape) and sport participation (the 'power of the bike') slogan to encourage everyday participation).

Unlike Glasgow 2014 and other major sport events, Glasgow 2026 was delivered via a different funding model. There was no dedicated Glasgow 2026 Legacy Fund, or an organisation charged with achieving legacy in the way this was conceived for Glasgow 2014. However, Glasgow 2026 Ltd, alongside Commonwealth Sport and Commonwealth Games Scotland were committed to facilitating legacy activities. Commonwealth Games Scotland in refreshing their Board, created a new role for community engagement and legacy. This was in anticipation of hosting the Games and ensuring that they could contribute beyond the event itself to ensure lasting impact and legacy beyond Glasgow 2026. Moreover, Commonwealth Sport appointed a

Legacy Manager seconded to the Organising Company, and partnered with the Centre for Culture, Sport and Events (CCSE) at University of the West of Scotland as part of the Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network, established in 2025.

Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network: Building connections and collaboration

The Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network was established to create a dedicated space for organisations and individuals across Glasgow and Scotland to connect, collaborate and actively shape the legacy of the Games. Led by the Centre for Culture, Sport and Events (CCSE) at the University of the West of Scotland in partnership with the Glasgow 2026

Organising Company and Commonwealth Sport, the Network was established in April 2025 and is currently scheduled to run until at least December 2026, supported by external funding from Spirit of 2012, the London 2012 Legacy funder. Importantly, the Legacy Network has been focused on action, operating with a degree of independence from the Organising Company whilst benefitting from its delivery focus.

The Network was developed in recognition that significant legacy-related activity was already taking place across communities, sport, health, culture, education and other sectors, but that much of this work could happen in parallel. It, therefore, sought to make connections between this activity more visible and intentional, bringing different sectors and perspectives together around a shared ambition for Glasgow 2026 and beyond. The overall aim of the Legacy Network was to use Glasgow 2026 as a catalyst to build and sustain a diverse, connected and collaborative network of organisations and individuals that could actively shape, strengthen and sustain the social and wider legacy of the Games, across Glasgow and Scotland.

Under the guiding principles of *Build – Learn – Share*, the Network sought to build relationships, learn from different approaches and experiences, and share knowledge and good practice to support a more coordinated and sustainable approach to legacy. Practically, it looked to:

- build and strengthen a diverse cross-sector network of organisations and individuals engaged in Glasgow 2026 and its legacy;
- create opportunities to exchange knowledge, experiences, challenges and good practice;
- share activity, opportunities and learning across the Network, making existing legacy-related work more visible and connected;
- develop a clearer understanding of the activities and programmes being undertaken by Network members and the learning emerging from their delivery; and

- build relationships, partnerships and ways of working that could continue beyond Glasgow 2026.

Since its establishment, the Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network has delivered a programme of engagement, networking, learning and co-creation activity before, during and after the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games. This included working in partnership with the Organising Company and Commonwealth Sport's Legacy Manager to host 10 cocreation workshops in August 2025 through which a diverse range of stakeholders contributed to shaping legacy priorities and activity, which subsequently informed the development of the Glasgow 2026 [Story of Change](#). Over 170 people - athletes, young people, residents, community organisations, cultural leaders, event professionals, businesses and public agencies – participated in the co-creation exercise, extending ownership of legacy ambitions to those most able to help deliver them.

Since January 2026, the Network has hosted, or co-hosted, seven learning and networking events covering themes including funding, inclusion, creative and cultural legacy, sport ecosystem, social impact, and community and place-based legacy. At the inclusive sporting legacy network event there were contributions from the recently established National EDI in Sport Forum. The Forum's membership includes the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company, Commonwealth Sport, Scottish Disability Sport, Scottish Women in Sport, LEAP Sports Scotland, Children 1st, Scottish Action on Mental Health, Scottish Sports Futures, Age Scotland and sportscotland. Further post Games activity is scheduled through to December 2026, including an event on maintaining momentum and a conference to reflect on Glasgow 2026 Games legacy.

As the Network has been led by an academic research centre (CCSE) with a focus on sport events and their social impact, the Legacy Network was also able to provide academic advice to the Organising Company and partners on several themes relating to the social benefits of major sport events. For example, along with an embedded UWS PhD student, we formed a human rights working group to develop and draft a [Human Rights Statement](#) for Glasgow 2026 which was published in advance of the Games.

Moreover, CCSE colleagues were involved in the drafting of the Glasgow 2026 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion principles. The alignment of academic expertise with event planning and delivery is itself a valuable legacy asset emerging from this event, which can be built upon in other contexts.

Legacy Network events have focused on convening individuals and organisations from across Glasgow and beyond, to connect organisations with potential partners, funders and sources of support; developing an understanding of the activities and programmes being undertaken by Network members; and providing opportunities for members to share their experiences, challenges, learning and good practice. Communications between events included newsletters, member and project spotlights, and opportunities for organisations to share their work with the wider Network.

As of August 2026, the Legacy Network had 135 members representing 107 organisations, with more than 200 participant attendances recorded across Network events and activities. Membership spans public, third and community organisations alongside sport, health, cultural and creative, education and academic sectors and funders. The geographical reach of organisations extended across Glasgow, Scotland and the UK.

Glasgow 2026 provided a shared platform for engagement between organisations and individuals from a wide range of sectors. The Network intentionally created opportunities for organisations that may not otherwise have worked together to meet, share their work and identify areas of common interest. This included connecting community organisations with funders, bringing creative and cultural organisations into wider Games legacy discussions, and creating cross-sector conversations around inclusion, participation, wellbeing, culture and community impact.

Looking Beyond Glasgow 2026: Sustaining Legacy

The Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network was designed to continue beyond the Games rather than conclude with the Closing Ceremony. Post-Games activity focuses on sharing learning, supporting new collaborations and exploring how the relationships and momentum generated through the Games can be sustained over the longer term, including looking towards the 2027 Tour de France Grand Depart and 2028 UEFA Men's EUROs. The intention is for the Network to continue as a collaborative, cross-sector initiative. Its longer-term ambition is to leave stronger relationships, greater cross sector collaboration and improved sharing of knowledge, learning and good practice between organisations involved in social and wider legacy activity.

While the Glasgow 2026 Legacy Network has been effective in building, learning and sharing, there are limits to what can be achieved, longer term, when funding ends and the focus moves to other priorities. In our view, for a Legacy Network to be sustained and translated into clear legacy outcomes, it is necessary to:

- *Provide resources that incentivise the legacy outcomes you want to see realised.* For Glasgow 2026, the National Lottery Community Fund developed a special fund to support Commonwealth-related funding. As a result of them being part of the Legacy Network the Community Fund developed a £2.2 million Awards for All fund for grants up to £10k to celebrate the Games and its legacy across Scotland. Some of this funding will continue beyond the Games and at the time of writing almost £1m in funding remains to support Games legacy-based projects. This gave Legacy Network projects a concrete funding stream to apply for. Sustaining projects without dedicated resources limits the potential for change to be realised.
- *Embed legacy conversations and planning well in advance of the event.* The Legacy Network sought to initiate discussion on, and shape,

legacy before and during Glasgow 2026, rather than treating it solely as a post-Games

consideration. It leveraged the Games as a catalyst for change and organisations were keen to embrace this idea. Developing a strategic ambition for what you want to make happen, and aligning it with resource, provides a strong foundation to achieve success. The timeline for Glasgow 2026 was very tight, but for other major sport events embedding this thinking as early as possible is necessary.

- *Create opportunities for cross-sector relationships.* The Legacy Network brought together organisations from different sectors and across legacy domains. Legacy projects were conceived that crossed sectoral boundaries and this is a useful means of changing practice by moving outside of pre-established silos.
- *Provide opportunities to learn and share as well as network.* The Build, Learn & Share approach combined relationship-building with opportunities for members to exchange experiences, challenges, learning and good practice. A Network that operates independently of the event organiser can facilitate exchanges and learning that might be more difficult otherwise.
- *Plan for relationships to continue beyond the Games.* The Network was designed around maintaining connections, collaboration and shared learning beyond Glasgow 2026 rather than ending alongside Games delivery. While the specific event (i.e. Glasgow 2026) moves on to the next host, it is important to maintain the continuity provided by a Network, especially when other major events are being hosted soon.

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Scottish Swimming

Written Submission Health, Care and Sports Committee

14th September 2026

How large-scale sporting events like the Commonwealth Games impact on the profile of our sport

The Commonwealth Games, like many international sporting events provides an opportunity to raise the profile of swimming by enabling athletes to compete on the world stage and allowing communities to come together to support the Games. Unlike the Olympics, Paralympics, World and European aquatics championships, the

Commonwealth Games offers a unique opportunity for Scottish Swimming athletes to compete under the Team Scotland banner rather than Great Britain. This helps raise the profile of Scottish athletes and provides opportunities to create the right culture, environment and preparations for the team to achieve their best.

The fact that the Commonwealth Games was on home soil in Glasgow created an inspirational atmosphere for the teams competing and spectating. At times this created an emotional response in the athletes and an energy that helped them deliver their best performance at the Games.

Team Scotland achieved 39 medals in total at the Commonwealth Games, Scottish Swimming athletes contributed 12 of these – their highest ever medal tally with 5 Golds, 5 Silvers and 2 Bronze. We finished 3rd in the swimming and para swimming medal table, above England for the first time since 1954 which is a considerable achievement.

But that is only part of the story. The whole team played a major role in Team Scotland's overall success with 16 Personal Bests, 13 Records and 16 out of 33 athletes going home with a medal.

In terms of the spectator story, seats were for the most part full at Tollcross International Swimming Centre but the TNT Viewing figures have been reported at around 100,000 a day. BBC viewing figures are usually higher, as shown during

the BBC televised European Athletics coverage in Birmingham at 2.44 million. Being behind a pay wall probably accounts for the difference and does impact on the profile of the sport.

What we would like to see from the 2026 Games legacy work in relation to our sport, both in terms of professional pathways and grassroots participation

One of the notable outcomes of the Commonwealth Games and the subsequent European Aquatics Championships is the success of the female athletes. While Scottish Swimming's membership is 57% female, it has always been challenging to encourage girls to remain in the sport and reach the elite performance level. In 2015 we initiated Project Ailsa to inspire more girls to take up swimming and stay in the sport. Using athletes like Hannah Miley to inspire and encourage girls to stay in swimming, we were able to overcome some of the obstacles facing girls such as body consciousness, periods and exam stress. This led to more girls being inspired and while we cannot attribute all female success to this project it certainly was a contributing factor.

In Paris 2024, five of the six Scottish athletes who made Team GB were female. At the Commonwealth Games nine of the twelve medals won were contributed by women including Angharad Evans, Faye Rogers, Keanna MacInnes, Katie Shanahan, and Toni Shaw. It was a similar picture at the European Aquatics Championships where the GB team topped the medal table and Scotland's female athletes contributed to 5 of the 14 medals including 3 individual golds.

In terms of grass roots participation, a lasting legacy will be the roll out of the National

Primary School Swimming Framework across Scotland so that every Primary 5 child can be safer in, on and around water. This universal offer of free school swimming lessons, announced on 13th January by the Scottish Government will have a major impact on children across the country. It will provide essential water safety knowledge, basic swimming skills and vital 'in-water' experiences for thousands of children who may not otherwise get the opportunity.

We also need to keep pools open and accessible. This is crucially important for all swimming opportunities from grass roots participation to recreational swimming in older age categories. The recently published sports facilities Estate Review by **sportscotland** does not include swimming pools because a review of swimming pools has already been completed. 56% of Scotland's 300 public pools are over 30 years old and are nearing the end of their life span. We need, as outlined in the SNP manifesto, statutory consultation with **sportscotland** and Scottish Swimming around pool closures to protect pools as critical community assets. A Joint Task

Force across political parties would also enable exploration of alternative solutions to closures and procurement of investment, or sustainable energy solutions that help with operational efficiencies.

Wider issues affecting participation in our sport – socioeconomic inequalities, access to facilities, and the cost of running facilities

Affordable and available access to facilities is the biggest issue facing aquatics. Having the right pools in the right places so that everyone can swim is our strategic vision for aquatics facilities in Scotland. With ageing stocks of pools and high operational costs we are continuing to see pool closures, reduced opening hours and higher prices being passed on to pool users.

The cost of swimming lessons continues to rise with an increase of 17% in one year alone between 2024 and 2025. This has a significant socio-economic impact, creating inequalities and making swimming a sport for the privileged few rather than for all. Our vision at Scottish Swimming is everyone can swim and as a participation sport it is an activity which appeals to all ages, abilities and backgrounds. School swimming will help address some of the inequalities in ensuring a fair and equitable offering for all but we still need a task force to protect swimming pools.

- **Issues specific to Scottish Swimming:**

The impact of excluding diving from the 2026 Games on participation, funding, and public interest in the sport

Investment in diving in Scotland has never been stronger with a performance lead coach Adam Smallwood appointed at the Edinburgh Diving Programme in 2024. Having coached divers at multiple Olympic Games, Adam brings a wealth of experience that he is sharing across Scotland's diving programmes. At the same time Edinburgh was named one of Aquatics GB's three Performance Diving Centres in the UK with investment from Scottish Swimming, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Leisure and Aquatics GB.

In November 2025 Scottish Swimming invested in diving further by appointing a Diving Talent Pathway Developer Judy Wardlaw. Judy has had a huge impact on the diving pathway and has been instrumental in a Talent ID programme run in 29 Edinburgh and Aberdeen Primary schools for Primary 2 to Primary 5 children. Over 5400 children took part in fun and engaging talent ID sessions at school and 351 children took part in a free diving lesson as a follow up. Edinburgh and Aberdeen diving programmes benefited from the schools

programme with 30 children signed up to their respective Learn to Dive programmes as a direct result of the Talent ID initiative.

In terms of the performance pathway, the exclusion of diving from the Commonwealth Games was very detrimental to the athletes who rely on international multi-sport competitions as an essential part of their experience and journey in performance sport. It represented a gap in the international events calendar which in turn affects preparation for the LA Olympics in 2028. It also highlighted the need for a world class diving facility in the West of Scotland ideally at Tollcross International Swimming Centre. The recent removal of a 5 metre platform and 3 metre

Springboard diving facility in Ayr has adversely impacted on diving in the West of Scotland leaving just a 1 metre diving board and poolside diving for Ayr Diving Club and the children involved in Learn to Dive within the region.

Swimming pool closures

Pool closures and the threat of pool closures continues to be one of the most significant challenges facing the sector. We recently saw the closure of Scalloway pool in Shetland and Jedburgh pool in the Borders with Selkirk pool also under threat. With over half the public pools in Scotland over 30 years old more pool closures are likely to happen unless we can establish a Joint Task Force to explore alternative solutions. In the Scottish Swimming Future of Swimming Facilities paper published in 2023, we estimated that at least 4 pools need to be built a year to maintain provision at a cost of around £40.5 million. We have seen new pool builds using sustainable, environmentally-efficient design at Blairgowrie swimming pool and

Currie High school and the soon to be completed Alloa pool as part of the Wellbeing Hub, but we still need more replacement pools. Often temporary closures for refurbishment, and unplanned breakdowns and issues place greater pressures on pool time with clubs and recreational swimmers missing out. While refurbishments are welcome to extend the life of existing pools, there is little flex in the system to cope with closures.

Demand for pool use is high. According to the Household Survey, Swimming is one of the highest participation sports and is especially high among women and those with disabilities. The roll out of school swimming will also increase daytime usage of pools, creating efficiencies across the pool estate.

Implementation of the free universal learn-to-swim offer

Scottish Swimming is working closely with the Scottish Government, **sportscotland** and COSLA to deliver the roll out of the National Primary School Swimming Framework across Scotland. The Government investment in school

swimming is welcomed to ensure Primary 5 children in Scotland can access water safety education, basic swimming skills and vital 'in water' experience to help them be safer in, on and around water.

Careful cost modelling has been carried out by Scottish Swimming and COSLA and the National Primary School Swimming Framework has been piloted and evaluated in 10 local authority areas. The Framework offer consistency, quality and flexibility to suit different local authorities, for example there is a rural model, a targeted approach, a universal method and a holistic or community led model.

Our hope is that this will start to be rolled out before the end of this calendar year now that agreement has been reached around the policy intent and multi-year investment model.



Scottish Disability Sport Briefing for the Scottish Parliament Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Building a Lasting Legacy from Glasgow 2026: Widening Access to Sport and Physical Activity for Disabled People in Scotland

Submitted by Scottish Disability Sport (SDS)

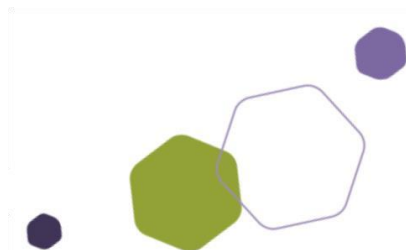
Executive Summary

The Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games presents Scotland with a unique opportunity to create a transformational legacy that extends far beyond performance sport. While the Games showcased world-class sporting excellence, its true impact should be measured by whether more people, families and communities experience meaningful, lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.

Whilst there has been undoubted progress in some areas of inclusion since Scotland last hosted the Commonwealth Games, Scottish Disability Sport's recent national survey and subsequent [Call to Action](#) demonstrate that significant inequalities remain. Despite overwhelming evidence of the physical, mental and social benefits of being active, over 90% of disabled people surveyed do not meet recommended physical activity levels, almost one in five undertake no physical activity at all, and 73% would like to do more. Many face barriers linked to transport, cost, inaccessible facilities, social care systems and concerns that greater activity may impact welfare benefits.

To build a genuine Glasgow 2026 legacy, Scotland must move beyond participation targets and adopt a whole-system approach that places inclusion, equality and human rights at its centre. This briefing highlights the importance of:

- Delivering the SDS four-point Call to Action
 - Removing structural barriers to participation at a local and national level
 - Strengthening inclusive physical education and school sport
 - Embedding intersectionality across policy and practice
 - Recognising sport and physical activity as a public health, education and social justice priority
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The Opportunity of Glasgow 2026

Glasgow 2026 featured an integrated para-sport programme across six sports and provided a powerful platform to demonstrate Scotland's commitment to inclusion.

At the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, Team Scotland's Para Athletes had their most successful Games ever, rewriting the record books. With an incredible 14 medals won across Para sports, including eight gold medals, three silver medals and three bronze medals, all athletes can be extremely proud of what they have achieved.

Team Scotland's Para athletes were responsible for winning 62% of Team Scotland's gold medals, reinforcing the importance of inclusion, and highlighting the contributions of Para athletes to Scotland's success at the games.

However, evidence from previous major events demonstrates that inspiration alone does not deliver long-term participation growth. Sustainable change requires investment, leadership and policy alignment across sport, education, health, transport, local government and social care.

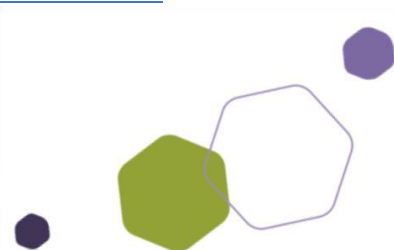
SDS recognised this and worked alongside Glasgow 2026 and other key organisations to embed inclusive practice at various levels within the overall Games. Activities included:

- Delivery of Disability Inclusion Training to key staff and volunteers at Glasgow 2026 and Team Scotland and at the Commonwealth Games Youth Conference
- Convened an inclusion and accessibility forum consisting of participants with lived experience of disability to 'road-test' venues and facilities and the 'participant journey'
- Provided come-and try activities at various events and live sites in the build-up and throughout the games
- Supported several staff and key personnel to volunteer for the Games ensuring strong representation of people with a disability in the volunteer workforce

The Commonwealth Games should therefore act as a catalyst for systemic reform rather than a standalone sporting event.

The key question for policymakers must be:

How can Scotland ensure that every disabled person has a realistic, affordable and accessible pathway into lifelong participation?





Delivering the SDS Call to Action

The SDS Call to Action provides a strong framework for change and aligns closely with Scotland's ambitions around health improvement, reducing inequalities and community wellbeing. Immediate priorities include:

1. Plan to Include

Inclusive design must become the starting point rather than an afterthought.

SDS recommend that:

- Require disability inclusion within all local and national sport and physical activity plans.
- Ensure future investment reflects the additional costs associated with inclusive provision.
- Establish inclusion impact assessments within major sporting policies and programmes.

2. Deliver an Inclusive Whole-System Approach

Participation should not depend on where someone lives or which service they access.

SDS recommends:

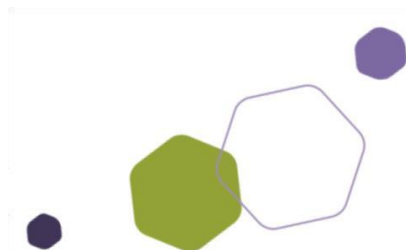
- Create stronger links between health, education, leisure and sport sectors.
- Expand referral pathways from health and social care settings into community sport.
- Implement active opportunities on health sites
- Support workforce development across teaching, coaching and community leadership.
- Establish inclusion measures within national performance frameworks.

3. Create a benefits and social care system that equips individual to be active

The research evidence highlights significant anxiety regarding benefits and participation.

SDS recommend that:

- Provide clear guidance that physical activity participation should not be viewed negatively in benefit assessments.
- Promote the use of Self-Directed Support to facilitate participation in sport and physical activity and see it as a critical and substantial need where relevant.





- Recognise sport and activity as legitimate contributors to health, wellbeing and independence.

4. Champion Intersectionality through a person-centred approach

Disabled people are not a single homogeneous group.

People may experience multiple and overlapping inequalities linked to their characteristics such as:

- Sex
- Race and ethnicity.
- Socio-economic status.
- Geography.
- Neurodiversity.
- Sexual orientation.
- Faith and culture.

An effective policy response must reflect these intersecting experiences and be developed through ongoing co-production with people who have lived experience.

The Critical Role of Inclusive Education

If Scotland is serious about widening access to sport, intervention must begin in childhood.

Inclusive physical education is one of the most effective mechanisms for developing confidence, competence and lifelong participation habits. Yet evidence continues to demonstrate a significant gap in participation between disabled and non-disabled children.

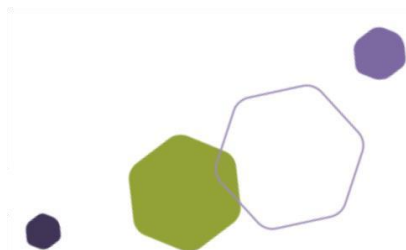
Schools provide the only universal opportunity to reach every child regardless of income, geography or family circumstance. Key priorities should include:

Universal Inclusive Physical Education

Every child should have access to high-quality PE regardless of impairment or additional support needs.

This requires:

- Ongoing professional learning for existing and trainee teachers and school staff





Sport and physical activity in Scotland are welcoming and inclusive for participants with disabilities.

- Inclusive curriculum design.
- Access to adaptive equipment.
- Strong partnerships with SDS, local authorities and governing bodies.

Stronger School-to-Club Pathways

Many young disabled people leave education without a clear route into community participation.

Government should support:

- Local integration planning with SDS member branches and local authorities.
- Local inclusive club development.
- Enhanced Active Schools provision.
- Targeted transition programmes.
- Family-centred participation models.

Inclusive School Culture

Inclusion should be visible throughout the school environment, including:

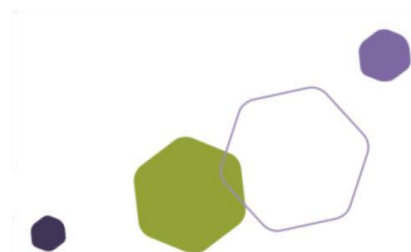
- PE.
- School sport.
- Leadership opportunities.
- Volunteering.
- Competition structures.

Schools that embrace inclusion help challenge stereotypes and foster positive attitudes among all pupils.

Physical Activity as a Health and Prevention Strategy

Sport and physical activity should be recognised as an essential component of Scotland's prevention agenda.

Physical inactivity contributes significantly to poor physical and mental health outcomes and increases pressure on health and social care systems. The SDS survey highlighted





that 95% of respondents recognised the positive impact of physical activity on their wellbeing.

Greater investment in inclusive physical activity can contribute to:

- Improved physical health.
- Better mental wellbeing.
- Reduced loneliness and isolation.
- Greater independence.
- Reduced inequalities.
- Stronger and more connected communities.

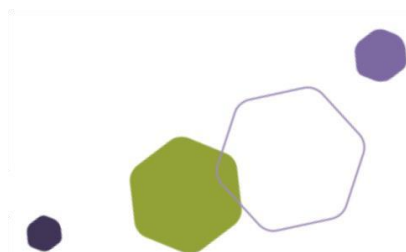
Increasing participation is therefore not solely a sport policy objective but a health and social policy imperative.

Recommendations to the Committee

Scottish Disability Sport recommends that the Committee support the following actions:

1. Adopt and promote the SDS Call to Action across government portfolios.
2. Embed disability inclusion and intersectionality within all national sport and physical activity strategies.
3. Strengthen inclusive physical education and school sport pathways by ensuring all trainee primary and PE teachers are equipped with Disability Inclusion Training to modify their practice.
4. Expand health and social care referral pathways into community sport and physical activity.
5. Ensure welfare and social care systems actively enable participation rather than creating fear or uncertainty.
6. Establish clear national measures to collect data and monitor participation, inclusion and equality outcomes for disabled people.
7. Invest in accessible facilities, transport and community provision.

Conclusion





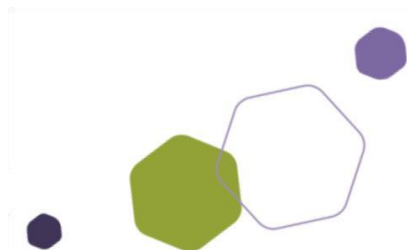
Scottish Disability Sport

Sport and physical activity in Scotland are welcoming and inclusive for participants with disabilities.

The success of Glasgow 2026 should not be measured solely by medals, spectators or television audiences. Its true legacy will be determined by whether it creates lasting change for those who have historically faced the greatest barriers to participation.

Disabled people across Scotland have clearly articulated both the challenges they face and their desire to be more active. The evidence is compelling, the opportunity is immediate, and the solutions are known.

By embracing the SDS Call to Action and placing inclusion, education, accessibility and intersectionality at the heart of policy, Scotland can ensure that Glasgow 2026 becomes the catalyst for a more active, healthier and genuinely inclusive nation.



Written submission to Health, Care and Sport Committee: Commonwealth Games 2026 and widening access to sport and exercise

Evidence session - 23 September 2026

Sport for life

sportscotland
the national agency for sport

Executive Summary

sportscotland is the national agency for sport and a non-departmental public body, accountable through Scottish Ministers to the Scottish Parliament. We are also a National Lottery distributor and operate in accordance with National Lottery distribution rules, giving us a role combining and mobilising both Scottish Government and National Lottery investment to deliver outcomes for people and communities across Scotland.

sportscotland welcomes the opportunity to provide evidence to the Health, Care and Sport Committee. This submission highlights the contribution that sport and physical activity make to improving population health, reducing inequalities, and supporting public service reform. It also highlights challenges facing the wider sporting sector and actions needed to address these.

Key Messages

1. Sport and physical activity are essential preventative investments that contribute to improved health, reduced inequalities, and more sustainable public services.
2. The success of Glasgow 2026 highlights the value of sustained investment in people, pathways, and Scotland's sporting system.
3. Continued investment is required to widen access to sport and physical activity, particularly for those facing the greatest barriers to participation, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to be active and benefit from sport.
4. Long-term investment, strategic planning and a sustainable funding approach are required to address the challenges facing Scotland's public sports facilities and ensure facilities remain fit for future generations.

Importance of Sport and Physical Activity

While sport makes up a relatively low proportion of overall public expenditure, the impact generated through that investment is significant. **sportscotland** leverages investment through the sporting system - helping people take part in sport and physical activity, supporting the delivery of the Physical Activity for Health Framework. This creates benefits that extend far beyond sport itself, contributing to improved health and wellbeing, stronger communities, education, employability, greater social connection, reduced inequalities, and economic opportunity, helping to reduce longer-term demand on acute public services.

Evidence outlined in the Physical Activity for Health Framework and the latest UK Chief Medical Officers' physical activity guidelines show that physical activity is important:

- Estimated 3,000 deaths in Scotland each year are attributable to physical inactivity.
- Over 80% of deaths attributable to inactivity are amongst the least active (< 30 minutes physical activity a week).
- If the least active did an extra 15-minute physical activity each week, could avert 1,000 years of life lost from premature ischaemic heart disease death alone.
- 10 minutes physical activity a week would make a big difference.

Regular physical activity provides a range of physical and mental health benefits. These include:

- reducing the risk of disease
- managing existing conditions
- developing and maintaining physical and mental function

Investment in sport and physical activity should therefore be recognised as a strategic investment in prevention, population health, and the long-term sustainability of public services. By helping people to live healthier, more connected, and more independent lives, investment in sport delivers value across multiple policy objectives while reducing future pressure on acute and reactive services.

1. Performance Sport - Commonwealth Games

Overview

Glasgow 2026 was a significant milestone for Scottish sport and provided an opportunity to review Team Scotland's performance, the contribution of sportscotland, and the wider value created through hosting a home Commonwealth Games.

Team Scotland delivered a strong overall performance, winning 39 medals across nine of the ten sports and finishing fifth on the medal table. The team also achieved several

significant sport-specific and individual milestones, with Para athletes making a substantial contribution to the overall medal profile and the integrated Games programme increasing the visibility of inclusive high-performance sport.

sportscotland Contribution sportscotland made a significant contribution before, during and immediately after the Games through investment, performance support, Games planning, practitioner deployment, operational delivery, and post-Games wellbeing support. This helped ensure that Team Scotland and its athletes were well prepared for the demands of a home Games environment and provided useful learning for future workforce, practitioner, and Games-readiness planning.

The ability to deploy staff into Team Scotland roles, non-accredited support and wider Games functions helped connect strategic planning with operational delivery and supported a consistent athlete-centred approach.

Delivery Against sportscotland Investment Expectations

Performance outcomes at Glasgow 2026 were assessed against sportscotland's pre-Games investment expectations, with eight of the ten funded sports meeting or exceeding their performance targets.

- Athletics, basketball, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, netball, swimming and weightlifting all achieved their agreed outcomes, with particularly strong performances in swimming (12 medals against a target of five or more) and cycling (eight medals against a target of six or more).
- While judo (2 medals against a target of 3 or more) and lawn bowls (1 medal against a target of 3 or more) fell short of their medal targets, the overall results demonstrate that the majority of funded sports delivered against expectations, reflecting the impact of sustained investment across Scotland's high-performance sporting system.

Para Sport Performance and Inclusion

Team Scotland's Para sport performances at Glasgow 2026 provided an indication on the strength, as well as visibility and future development opportunities for inclusive performance pathways in Scotland. Para athletes were central to Team Scotland's overall Games performance suggesting sustained support across Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth programmes can help ensure Para athletes are embedded within performance planning and investment discussions.

Wider Impact of Hosting Glasgow 2026

Hosting Glasgow 2026 generated wider value for Scottish sport, national partners, and future major event ambitions. The Games created a visible platform for Scottish sport, helping connect athlete performances with public interest, media coverage, and national pride. This was valuable for sports with an established medal-winning record

and for those where medals or top-level results are less frequent, creating moments that could support future engagement, participation interest, and pathway visibility.

The Games also provided practical evidence that a scaled hosting model can generate meaningful sporting and reputational value, supported by close working between Commonwealth Games Scotland, **sportscotland**, Glasgow 2026

Organising Company, Glasgow City Council, Scottish Government, Scottish Governing Bodies of sport, British programmes, UK Sport, local authority partners, and wider stakeholders.

Key sportscotland message: While elite sporting success is important in its own right, the primary public value of sport lies in its contribution to population health, wellbeing, inclusion, and prevention. We ask that the lessons and visibility generated through Glasgow 2026 be considered alongside efforts to increase participation and tackle inequalities in access to sport and physical activity.

2. Wider Access to Sport and Physical Activity

sportscotland works in partnerships with Scottish Governing Bodies of sport (SGBs), local authorities, leisure trusts, sports clubs and community organisations, schools colleges and universities to provide greater opportunities for all to participate in sport.

During 2025/26, we continued to advocate for the Scottish Government's commitment to double investment in sport and active living, welcoming confirmation of an additional £40 million investment in the 2026/27 sport budget.

While it is not possible to cover all of the work being undertaken across sport to contribute to a more active Scotland, some examples of current activity are provided below.

National Partnerships

Partnership working is critical to maximising the impact of public investment in sport and physical activity.

National partnerships helped extend reach to groups facing the greatest barriers to participation. Through partnerships with organisations including SAMH, Scottish Sport Futures, Scottish Student Sport, Scottish ClubSport and Enable Works, support was provided to young people experiencing poverty, disabled people, and the wider workforce, through training, mentoring, and employment opportunities. Together, these partnerships demonstrate how collaborative investment can deliver greater reach, improved inclusion, and stronger outcomes for communities across Scotland.

Schools and Education

Physical activity plays an important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our nation, particularly for children and young people.

More than £16 million was invested in local authorities and partners across 2025-26, with 13 local authorities receiving support to align local approaches to the Physical Activity for Health Framework.

Active Schools is one of **sportscotland's** flagship programmes, providing more and higher quality opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity before school, during lunchtime and after school, and to develop effective pathways between schools and sports clubs in the local community. The network consists of around 400 staff across all 32 local authorities, dedicated to developing and supporting the delivery of quality sporting opportunities for children and young people.

Last year (2025/26 academic year):

- over 5 million visits to Active Schools activity and 290,000 participants (47% female). Over 270,000 sessions were delivered, supported by 21,000 deliverers, 92% of whom are volunteers.
- the number of participants in Active Schools increased by 4% from 2024-25. There were increases across all school types, primary school participants increased by 2%, secondary and Additional Support Needs (ASN) schools increased by 8%.
- the percentage of the school roll participating also increased, 42% in 2025-26, an increase from 40% in 2024-25 and 2023-24. Similar increases in percentage of the school roll were seen across all school types.

The **Active Campus Network** is an exciting partnership between **sportscotland**, Scottish Student Sport and Colleges Scotland that helps put sport and physical activity at the centre of college life by giving students across the country the opportunity to get active, significantly benefiting the physical and mental wellbeing of participants.

In June 2023, **sportscotland** in partnership with Scottish Student Sport, announced investment of up to £1.45 million over two years (2023 to 2025) to create a new 'Active Campus Network' in colleges across the country. A further investment of £1.45 million was announced in 2024 and committed into the Active Campus Network for the next two-year period (2025-27).

Made up of 18 colleges across Scotland, the network consists of 18 Active Campus Coordinators committed to putting sport and physical activity at the centre of college life by widening access to physical activity, increasing participation among students who may not usually engage in sport, and embedding Active Campus more firmly within the wider student experience.

Year 3 (2025-26) findings:

- 59,133 visits and 5,579 sessions. Although this represents a reduction from Year 2, the programme remains significantly stronger than in its first

year, with visits up by 94% and sessions up by 59% compared with the Year 1 baseline.

- 73.7% reported participating in organised sport/physical activity, overall satisfaction averaged 4.35/5 (≈90% positive).
- physical activity increased from 2.75 to 4.12 days/week (+1.37 days; ~50% increase)
- 86% became more active, and wellbeing measures (health, inclusion, confidence, relaxation, optimism, and community belonging) improved strongly (82-97% positive across domains).

These outcomes support continued reach, inclusion, wellbeing, and wider student engagement.

Clubs and Communities

Club and communities play a critical role in delivering **sportscotland's** ambition of enabling and supporting more and more diverse people to participate, progress and achieve in sport. **sportscotland** continue to lead and influence club and community sport and demonstrate its contribution to a strong and inclusive sporting system.

- **sportscotland** currently invest over £20m in 50 SGBs and national partners and £2.2m in just under 200 community sport hubs through local partners. The latest data for 2025-26 shows there are 8,591 SGB affiliated clubs in Scotland, with 847,537 members (6% increase from 2024-25) and 62,121 coaches.
- £20m of the new £40m investment received from Scottish Government has also been aligned to club and community sport, to support growth and development. This includes SGB core costs, Club Support Programme, Local Club Development Officers, Pathways, and Growth and Innovation.
- A new partnership with London Marathon Foundation and additional investment into the National Lottery Awards for All programme has also provided over £2m of additional investment directly into clubs.

sportscotland's commitment to taking a geographical approach to its work will ensure the impact of its existing and new investment is maximised. It will drive local and national partners to be more connected, help them to better understand each other, plan better together and strengthen club and community sport. **Places sportscotland** understands the important role places play in improving people's lives, whether it is taking part in sport and physical activity for the first time, developing, progressing, or achieving success. They can bring people together and make a positive contribution to building healthier, happier, safer, and stronger communities.

- **sportscotland** has invested over £215m (of Scottish Government and National Lottery funding) since April 2007 to help sports clubs, community

groups, local authorities, sport's governing bodies, and other organisations deliver new and upgraded sporting facilities across the country.

sportscotland's core capital investment programme, the Sport Facilities Fund, supports capital projects that help to create or improve places where people take part in sport and physical activity. **sportscotland** has recently increased the investment it makes through its Sports Facilities Fund from £2.5m to £5m over the next two financial years. This additional investment will be clearly aligned with **sportscotland's** organisational outcomes with a focus on club and community sport. This should enable **sportscotland** to double the number of projects it invests in each year.

sportscotland's commitment to working through its geographical approach, planning strategically, and using data better with partners, will ensure **sportscotland** invests its capital in the right projects, where the outcomes are clear and the impact is greatest.

Summer of Sport

Scottish Government announced plans, as part of its 2026-27 Budget, for a £20 million fund (part of its wider £40 million additional investment to **sportscotland**) '**Summer of Sport**' to provide opportunities for children and young people age 3 to 26 years, to help them get active, stay active and improve their lives. Opportunities should be **free, targeted or at a reduced cost** to maximise engagement and is intended to address barriers to participation. Funding will be available for activities planned through to March 2027.

This investment forms part of the national Summer of Sport 2026 programme and sits alongside complementary funding for national partners, live-site activity linked to Glasgow 2026, and a coordinated national communications campaign.

A breakdown of how the £20 million Summer of Sport fund is allocated is provided below.

Work Strand	Focus	Budget	Progress
Summer of Sport - before, during and after school holiday sporting opportunities	Local Authority	£12m	Ongoing - £12m allocated to 32 LAs
	National Partners	£1.75m	Ongoing - 29 SGBs and 11 Nat Partners approved - £1.75m
	Glasgow 2026 Live Site	£1m	Completed
	National Campaign activation	£0.25	Completed
	Football	*£2m	Active Scotland managing
	Activation		
	Movement for Health Coalition	*£1m	Active Scotland managing

School Swimming	Learn to Swim	£2m	A universal learn-to-swim offer for every primary school child in Scotland that will continue beyond 2026
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* £3m in-year funding being managed by Active Scotland (Scottish Government).

3. Key Challenges Facing the Sporting Sector

Facilities Estates Review sportscotland's recent *Estate Review: Scotland's Sports Facilities* highlights the importance of significant and sustained investment in local and national sport infrastructure as part of a wider preventative approach to public spending, including efforts to remove barriers for people by making the estate more inclusive, and more sustainable. <https://sportscotland.org.uk/facilities/estate-review-scotland-s-sports-facilities>

The review, informed by extensive engagement across local government, leisure trusts, governing bodies of sport, education providers and community organisations, identifies a significant long-term infrastructure challenge.

- Almost 40% of Scotland's publicly available sports facilities (approx. 4,500 facilities) already beyond their design lifespan, rising operating and energy costs, maintenance backlogs, and substantial future investment requirements to maintain, modernise and decarbonise facilities.

Ageing facilities, increasing operating costs and substantial investment requirements are placing growing pressure on Scotland's sports estate and underline the importance of sustained investment and funding certainty.

Importantly, the review demonstrates that the value of sports infrastructure extends far beyond sport. Scotland's facilities contribute to a wide range of policy objectives, including population health, tackling inequalities, economic participation, community wellbeing and net zero ambitions. As these benefits are shared across multiple sectors, addressing the challenges facing the sports estate requires a collaborative, cross-sector approach that aligns with the principles of preventative spending and Public Service Reform.

Key Conclusions and Recommendations from the Estates Review

- Better data needed**
There is currently a lack of consistent, high-quality information about facilities, which makes planning more difficult.
- Improved planning and collaboration**
There is a need for stronger partnership working across sport, health, education, and local government.
- Long-term investment**

Sustained investment is needed to maintain, improve and future-proof the estate. **An estimated £15.5 billion will be needed over the next 25 years to:**

- Maintain and modernise facilities ○
- Improve accessibility and inclusion ○
- Meet Net Zero (climate) targets

This represents the total level of investment required over time, not all new or additional funding. Current levels of investment will vary depending on each local authorities' priorities.

sportscotland key message: Without investment, Scotland's sport estate will continue to deteriorate—limiting participation and increasing pressure on public services. Current funding models are unsustainable, decisions are often made without robust, consistent data and strategic planning is fragmented. We encourage the Committee to support a coordinated approach that aligns investment decisions with national health, wellbeing, equality and climate priorities.

Cost of Access to Sporting Activities

Despite the well-evidenced benefits of sport and physical activity, cost remains a significant barrier to participation for many people across Scotland, particularly those living in the most deprived communities, risking further widening existing health inequalities

Local authorities are primarily responsible for community sports and leisure facilities. It is also the responsibility of each local authority to set a fair pricing structure for these facilities.

sportscotland conducts an annual review of local authority charges for sports participation in Scotland. The main aim of the review is to produce an up-to-date digest summarising the charges for the most popular sports facilities and activities in Scotland. We report the average charge reported by each local authority for each activity. This report is available here: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/about-us/ourpublications/archive/charges-for-sports-facilities>

Key findings:

- **Charges for sports facilities continue to rise across Scotland**, reflecting ongoing financial pressures on local authorities and leisure trusts, including staffing, maintenance and utility costs.
- **There remains significant variation between local authorities**, meaning people can face very different costs for participating in the same activity depending on where they live.
- **Affordability remains a key issue for participation**, particularly for families and regular users, as charges for many popular activities have increased year on year.

- **28 local authorities continue to provide concessionary or discounted access schemes**, helping reduce barriers for children, older people and those facing financial disadvantage.

sportscotland key message: Sustained investment in Scotland's local and national sport and leisure infrastructure is essential to help mitigate rising facility charges, protect participation opportunities, and ensure that cost does not become a barrier to accessing sport and physical activity

Public Sector Reform

In the context of Public Service Reform, **sportscotland's** role is fundamentally preventative. Prevention is not simply one element of our work; it is the primary public value created through sport and physical activity, helping improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reducing future demand on acute public services. While we also contribute significantly to integration and efficiency, prevention sits at the heart of our contribution to reform.

Our approach is to maintain a strong core workforce, work collaboratively with partners and access specialist expertise where it delivers better outcomes, improved services, and best value for public money. In doing so, we are helping ensure that more of every pound invested supports people and communities across Scotland to benefit from sport and physical activity.

We see Public Service Reform as an important opportunity to deliver efficiencies, but, as importantly, support more fundamental transformation across Scotland's public services. Many of Scotland's biggest challenges, including improving population health, reducing inequalities, responding to climate change, and delivering sustainable public services, cannot be addressed by individual organisations or sectors acting alone.

sportscotland key message: The role of sport and physical activity in delivering shared national outcomes should be recognised and supported through greater cross-sector collaboration, helping to mobilise the public sector around prevention, wellbeing, tackling inequalities and creating sustainable public services.