



NZ Academy of Sport : South Island

Submission

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) – 2009-2019

The Academy would like to congratulate the Council on the preparation of and foresight demonstrated through the development of Draft LTCCP, 2009 and acknowledges the high quality of the circulated documentation and associated material.

The Academy has established an excellent working relationship with the Council and in particular John Filsell and the QEII Management Team, who have been extremely supportive and helpful. We value this partnership enormously and regard the City as a key stakeholder in the delivery of high performance sport in the City. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Academy, in 2007 to establish and drive the Centre of Excellence at QEII Stadium has been the catalyst for a number of exciting and significant developments including:

- The Academy securing around \$600,000 of funds, in addition to Council support in the last two years to support the Centre of Excellence development at QEII.
- Commitment to a shared vision of Christchurch City as a world class training and preparation base for high performance athletes and coaches, with the requisite infrastructure, personnel and facilities.
- Collective planning and investment by the CCC and the Academy to support programmes, personnel and the Centre of Excellence developments as a focal point for performance sport nationally and regionally.
- Five National Sporting Organisation's now have a high performance base at QEII, utilising the Centre's resources, technology and training support for their programmes.
- Many leading regional programmes have established their training base at QEII (e.g. the Tactix), tapping into the hubbing objectives of the Centre.
- The work to date being acknowledged by SPARC, who have formally endorsed the Centre of Excellence at QEII as one of two Centres of Excellence within New Zealand's high performance sporting network.
- Triathlon NZ has recently chosen to base their first ever National Coach at the Centre of Excellence. This is likely to lead to Triathlon NZ's centralisation programme being based in

Christchurch as of November 2009. This will see up to 20 of the countries most promising triathlon talents residing here every summer.

- The establishment of a new Paralympic Academy programme in part supported by the Council Strengthening Communities Fund, which will be a forerunner to setting QEII up as a national paralympic training centre.

The Academy commends the Council's vision demonstrated via this long term planning process. We note in particular the outstanding support the Council provide in the area of facility provision for sport and recreation. Our comments, in this context, we hope will be of some assistance to Council, in assisting shape future plans and priorities.

Whilst we have a clear high performance mandate we are very mindful of the need and importance of community benefits and links at all levels. High performance and community sport objectives are mutually beneficial and with good management and vision, programmes for excellence and community participation can co-exist to the benefit of all.

The recent example of this in action is the impact of the Southland Cycling velodrome. It has demonstrated how a well planned multi-purpose facility, can in a short space of time, contribute to developing junior and senior world champions, and Olympic medallists. Furthermore it adds significantly to the community's recreational and health opportunities and benefits.

Metropolitan Facilities Plan

There was a significant amount of time and effort invested into the development of the Metropolitan Facilities Plan. We support the continuation of and completion of the targets contained in the document and suggest Council retain the concept of the Plan for the future.

Some of the key points in our submission on the Metro Facilities plan are still relevant for consideration today and include:

- That the report dealt with the issues of the today and would benefit from some more blue skies, innovative solutions. The report makes reference to this shaping the next 20 years of facility development. Some conceptual ideas and international comparisons should be explored to keep Christchurch at the forefront of NZ and similar sized world city developments.
- The main sports of today are well catered for in the report but what of the growth sports or new sports in the next 10-20 years. The snowboard, skateboard, BMX, mountain biking, generation y and z types. Also current participation numbers can be misleading, if there was an indoor velodrome for example the numbers of track cyclists would dramatically increase –“build it and they will come” as has been successfully demonstrated in the Invercargill for example.

Relocation of Denton Park Velodrome

- The Academy's preference is for any re-developed velodrome to be ideally located at QEII. Cycling is a high priority sport for New Zealand into the future and is central to the Academy's focus. Looking to the London 2012 Olympics, it is likely to be one of New Zealand's blue ribbon sports. It is also extremely strong in Canterbury with local cyclists well represented in NZ successes at world and Olympic level in recent times. A velodrome would add to the world class facility hub here at QEII, and integrate into the high performance training support with the gym, recovery facilities and support services available here at the Centre of Excellence.
- It is recommended the Council give consideration to the development of a quality covered velodrome as part of a multisport facility at QEII, which could include artificial surface or further

indoor court space. This would offer huge advantages and provide significant community benefits also. (Refer Invercargill). Location at QEII allows the venue to be used optimally for high performance sport and is surrounded by the right expertise, infrastructure and resources.

Future Opportunities for QEII and High Performance Sport

- QEII as a training and high performance base would benefit from enhanced indoor training facilities. For example a large shed for indoor winter sport training artificial surface. The reality is that Christchurch is very cold and has short daylight hours in winter, particularly at the times when most athletes/public can access the facilities i.e. early morning, late afternoon evening.
- Accommodation offerings – An affordable, self catering type facility would dramatically enhance the benefits/opportunities to promote QEII as a national training camp base. A building such as the existing driving range building could easily be converted to accommodation. The lack of accommodation on site has been recognised by National Sport Organisations and the Academy, as a constraint to the Centre realising its full potential as a national training base.
- Additions to existing facilities at QEII. With lateral thinking and a collective vision, there are opportunities to extend the options for use of existing facilities. For example; a walking/running mezzanine could be built within the QEII 50m pool area-cantilevered over the existing seating. It is "dead space" that the infrastructure could support and would provide a wonderful free-heated community indoor training facility.
- Some of the high performance training requirements of wintersport/tumbling athletes would support an indoor jumps ramp with water landing. This would easily fit over the existing little used stand at the southern end of the dive well which could also be developed as an attraction for the facility, that would be of interest to snowboarders, skateboarders, the young and adventurous. It would also enhance the role of existing diving coach staff to coach tumbling/aerial skills.
- Real opportunities exist through leveraging off an events strategy, with a legacy facilities plan in mind, investment in high performance sport and the Centre at QEII, / and or the creation of new events. For example a Commonwealth or International Paralympic sports festival, perhaps utilising Graham Condon's name, could be a wonderful draw card as a major sports festival held every four years, helping to further establish QEII as an internationally recognised paralympic facility.
- The Academy would welcome engagement with the Council in strategic planning and positioning for the City around its opportunities in high performance sport, leveraging off the Centre of Excellence and the hubbing of world class people, resources and technology within the City precinct.

Centre of Excellence Plan

The Centre of Excellence vision outlined a Concept Plan for phased development of the QEII facility. It was submitted as a three stage proposal, in 2007 and has progressed well despite some procedural delays which slowed the start of the building process during the last twelve months

We are on track to have most of the key elements to Stage 2 in place by July 2009. This includes;

- Training floor where squash courts were previously, with a world class commercial sports floor installed
- Adaptations made for specialised paralympic requirements, ensuring the QEII set up will be superior to all other training centres in New Zealand in this capacity.
- Recovery facility, featuring hot and cold pools and counter current rehab/training pool.

- Key sports high performance programmes based on site; Paralympics, Cycling, Triathlon, Bowls, Winter Olympic Sports. Additional space has been tagged to convert for hosting more sports as required.
- Indoor track, which can be used for community and elite development in the upstairs concourse. It has been converted into a multipurpose indoor track and training space
- Sport Science lab / space to carry out functional field/lab assessments.
- Consultation areas for sports medicine, science and technology suites as required.
- Specialist facilities- we are in discussions at present to develop a low cost alternative to allow us to have some capability to provide both heat and altitude simulation training.

Main elements for Stage 3 and beyond;

- Accommodation - suitable budget accommodation for camps on site/nearby to make QEII a genuine training camp location.
- Northern entrance developments into the QEII building, to provide a presentable entrance- with suitable access and connections to the Academy, as well as the new training facility, indoor track and indoor courts area.
- A new general purpose meeting space and a disability friendly lift. It is expected this will be a priority prior to the IPC World Disability Athletics Championships being held at QEII in January 2011. It would be an essential requirement for QEII to be recognised as a national paralympic training centre.
- Further development of specialist facilities for heat, altitude and paralympic athletes.
- Improved access to indoor training facilities and potential for upgrading outdoor facilities to all weather surfaces.

THE PARTNERSHIP WE ARE SEEKING VIA THE LTCCP

Below we have noted some particular requirements and requests. Overall however, the Academy wish to continue building a positive and dynamic working partnership with CCC, based on mutual objectives and a commitment to excellence, leadership and innovation, We see huge opportunities to work with the City, and while noting some areas of specific need and interest, we document our commitment to working with the Council and other stakeholders in high performance sport, to realise the vision of success and achievement for the Christchurch community.

Requests:

- (i) Continued Council investment in the Centre of Excellence operations through an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding and the current Funding Agreement between the Council and the Academy. The grant via the Funding Agreement is currently \$200,000/annum. It is highly valued and the Academy seeks approval for Council to commit to this into the future (beyond 2012) and include a CPI adjustment, based on achievement of agreed performance targets.
- (ii) A confirmed capital development programme for the Centre to ensure the collective vision for QEII is realised and that Centre of Excellence at QEII develops as New Zealand's preferred national training centre. This will enable QEII to develop an international reputation as a training base, offering services and support for high performance athletes to a world class standard. Recommend priority is accorded to the installation of improved disabled access, completion of the northern entrance (providing a dedicated

access area for high performance sport), as well as other projects jointly prioritised by the CCC and the Academy.

- (iii) Continued Council recognition and support of sporting excellence and provision of access to quality facilities for competition and training environments throughout Christchurch. We will look to progress some joint promotions with the CCC around marketing for high performance sport, and Christchurch's advantages in this context.
- (iv) Ongoing and growing partnering between the Council and the Academy on mutually beneficial programmes (i.e. the Paralympic Development Programme, talent development etc).
- (v) Council support for developing and implementing policies and practises in key facilities and venues that support the objectives of high performance sport. (i.e. dedicated pool access time for elite swimmers)
- (vi) The Academies engagement with a major events strategy for the City to strategically target and attract elite sporting events for both community and high performance benefits.
- (vii) An aligned transport strategy that enables easy access to key facilities and continues to make Christchurch an attractive place for events because the transport and facilities enhance the experience not detract from it.

We thank you for the opportunity to prepare a submission, and wish you all the best in preparing the plans to keep Christchurch at the forefront of excellence in sport and recreation facilities.

Yours sincerely

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