Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise committee of the events and activities that are planned by North Lanarkshire Leisure in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council and others that will form the launch programme for Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility.

Recommendations

The learning and leisure services committee is asked to note:

(i) the major launch events programme proposed to mark the opening of Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility;
(ii) that the application to Event Scotland to host a pre-games, pan-Lanarkshire 2014 Commonwealth Games legacy event at Ravenscraig has been successful; and
(iii) that discussions are ongoing between North Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Leisure regarding the most suitable date for the official opening of the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility to maximise the media coverage potential of the opening.

Members wishing further information should contact:

Lizanne McMurrich, Head of Community Information and Learning on 01236 812338
NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – LEARNING AND LEISURE SERVICES
RAVENSCRAIG REGIONAL SPORTS FACILITY LAUNCH PLANS

Report by Head of Community Information and Learning

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise committee of the events and activities that are planned by North Lanarkshire Leisure in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council and others that will together form the launch programme for Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility.

2. Background

Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility is a state of the art competition and training venue which has been delivered as part of Scotland’s National and Regional Sports Facilities Strategy. The launch of the facility will also mark the occasion of the second significant facility (after Motherwell College) to open on the site at Ravenscraig, complementing the new house building which heralds the rebirth of this former steel mill site which is one largest brownfield regeneration sites in Europe.

The facility was handed over by the main contractor Balfour Beatty to North Lanarkshire Council and then on to North Lanarkshire Leisure on the 17th May 2010 for fit out, commissioning and appointing, training and preparing the staff for operating a significant portfolio of facilities.

North Lanarkshire Leisure has been working closely with North Lanarkshire Council and partners to prepare a fitting identity and high profile launch programme worthy of the significant investment in this flagship facility, which joins only a few sporting facilities in Scotland and the UK of this scope and scale.

3. Considerations

3.1 Launch Activities

An extensive marketing and publicity programme is in place including presales and outreach activities. A programme of club and potential user group visits began in August. This is an initiative which is generating considerable interest in the facilities and will continue into September.

3.1.1 24 Hour Football Tournament

It is planned to open Ravenscraig on Thursday, 30th September at 12 noon with a 24 hour charity 7-a-side football tournament. The tournament has the following entry categories:

- primary schools festival
- secondary schools cup
- business cup
- emergency services cup
- over 35’s cup
• invitation cup

The entry fee is £5 per person for adults and £2 per person for U16's. All proceeds will go to St. Andrews Hospice.

The indicative tournament timetable (although subject to change depending on entries) is outlined below in Table 1.

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 16:00</td>
<td>Primary Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Secondary Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00 – 20:00</td>
<td>Masters and media**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:00 – 22:00</td>
<td>Real Radio Match Ewen Cameron 'v' Alan Rough**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:00 – 24:00</td>
<td>Emergency Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24:00 – 02:00</td>
<td>Students / 18's – 34's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:00 – 04:00</td>
<td>Over 35's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04:00 – 06:00</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06:00 – 08:00</td>
<td>Businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Invitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>SPL Motherwell 'v' Rangers U19's match**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** these categories are by invitation only

Application forms are available from the North Lanarkshire Leisure website www.nlleisure.co.uk

The Real Radio 'Football Phone In with Ewen & Roughy' will broadcast LIVE from Ravenscraig on the evening of the football tournament. The presenters will then go head to head in the football tournament.

3.1.2 Open Weekend

Following the 24 hour football tournament there will be two 'open days' on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd October. The open days will feature a variety of activities and demonstrations. On the Sunday an attempt will be made to stage the largest Zumba fitness class ever held. The open days will also include live Real Radio (100-101fm) broadcasts from the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility.

Following this open weekend Ravenscraig will be open for operation from Monday, 4th October 2010.

3.1.3 Get Involved in the Games – Commonwealth Games Legacy Event

In May, North and South Lanarkshire Councils and Leisure Trusts submitted an application to Event Scotland to host a 'Get Involved in the Games' Commonwealth Games pre-games legacy event. Notification was received at the beginning of July that this application had been successful. This 'Get Involved in the Games' event will take place at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility on Thursday, 14th October.
2010 from 12noon to 4pm. The event is designed to coincide with the handover of the flag to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games team in Delhi.

This pan-Lanarkshire event will not only strengthen the link between the Lanarkshire 2011 International Childrens Games and the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, but will also support North Lanarkshire’s involvement in the Commonwealth Games, when Strathclyde Country Park will host the 2014 games triathlon. The ‘Get Involved in the Games’ event at Ravenscraig will effectively be a ‘family fun day’ event involving sport and arts activities including come and try, demonstrations and exhibitions, involving a range of partners and voluntary agencies.

Event Scotland has allocated approximately £13,000 in funding (including £3,000 allocation to promote South Lanarkshire’s involvement) and this is being supplemented by a further £5,000 from North Lanarkshire Leisure in addition to providing the facilities free of charge towards the costs of staging the event. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase Lanarkshire and the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility in the local and regional context that it has been designed for.

Since this event will take place during the October school holiday week, there will be no Kids Klub holiday programme scheduled for the Thursday of that week. South Lanarkshire is taking the same approach with their holiday programme activities and encouraging users to come to the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility event to enjoy the family fun day.

4. Official Opening

The Council is currently considering with North Lanarkshire Leisure and the facilities funding partners a suitable date, format and programme to celebrate the official opening of this fantastic £32m regional sports facility. Committee will appreciate that there is considerable interest and anticipation surrounding the launch of this facility.

5. Recommendations

The learning and leisure services committee is asked to note:

(i) the major launch events programme proposed to mark the opening of Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility;

(ii) that the application to Event Scotland to host a pre-games, pan-Lanarkshire 2014 Commonwealth Games legacy event at Ravenscraig has been successful; and

(iii) that discussions are ongoing between North Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Leisure regarding the most suitable date for the official opening of the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility maximise the media coverage potential of the opening.

27