

Strictly embargoed: for use after 14.00 on Thursday, July 17

DEBATING THE 2014 LEGACY: WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR GLASGOW?

What will Glasgow's 2014 legacy be? While the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games are first and foremost a festival of sport and a showcase of the city and nation, the Games are underpinned by expectations that they deliver various long-term legacy outcomes.

But what is legacy, what can it achieve, why do we argue about it and what lessons can we learn? The answers to these questions are vital for Glasgow and other cities around the world as they seek to redefine and regenerate their cities and regions for the 21st century.

Today, Thursday, July 17, the University of Glasgow is hosting an expert panel debate on the different meanings of legacy and what we should do next to help secure the regeneration of the city.

This is the first meeting of the newly-launched international legacy research network which aims to exchange knowledge about lessons learned about legacy across its different dimensions - failure as well as success. It aims to work with cities around the world and their research-intensive universities. The network starts with Glasgow 2014 but will encapsulate all large sports and cultural events across the world for which legacy matters.

The network will host its inaugural international conference in the Mitchell Library in mid-October 2015.

The following three experts will offer their individual perspectives on legacy:

- Dr Bridget McConnell, Chief Executive, Glasgow Life
- Prof Ade Kearns (University of Glasgow) provides an academic community level perspective
- Dr Robert Rogerson (University of Strathclyde) looks across the range of legacy research questions and perspectives

The session is chaired by Prof Kenneth Gibb, Director of Policy Scotland (University of Glasgow) and convenor of the Legacy Research Network. The audience will be a mix of invited media and academics. After introductory remarks by each speaker, the audience will be able to join in the debate and put questions to the panel.

Prof Gibb said: "More and more cities around the world are contemplating mega-events. Glasgow 2014 has different measures of legacy embedded in the project in an unprecedented way. At the same time, the city and Scottish Government have established challenging evaluation frameworks to assess the success (or otherwise) of legacy. We are establishing a new international network because we are interested not only in the contribution the Games and their legacy make to the regeneration of the city but in exchanging experience, lessons and knowledge about legacy with other cities and academics around the world."

Dr McConnell said: "From the earliest days of bidding for the Games, we've been planning for a real and lasting legacy and we're already seeing people benefiting, with new jobs, skills and experiences, created as a result of hosting the Games. The new and upgraded venues are primarily for local people and have already demonstrated their popularity long before they play host to the elite athletes. The cultural programme is a world-class festival, with something for everyone, and will attract new audiences and engage with people in a way never seen before.

"Our Host City Volunteers programme will open up volunteering to a wide range of people, many of whom are being supported by us to overcome significant personal barriers. Glasgow Life services, voluntary sports clubs and the arts sector have planned their follow-through after the Games, to stay connected to new audiences. The Games, as important as they are, represent a milestone, not a destination in Glasgow's continuing ambition to be a world class city for both citizens and visitors."

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Notes to Editors:

1. The Legacy Research Network (LRN) steering committee is made up of Ken Gibb (convenor), Josef Konvitz (Hon prof, University of Glasgow), Mark O'Neill (Glasgow Life), Jane Thomson (Glasgow City Council), Robert Rogerson (University of Strathclyde), Linda Christie (University of Glasgow), Julie Clark (University of Glasgow), Lesley Sawers (Glasgow Caledonian University) and Des McNulty (University of Glasgow).
2. The LRN grew out of an innovative 2014 legacy research partnership formed by a collaboration between the three universities in Glasgow, Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Life. The LRN has also benefited from support from the University of Glasgow's knowledge exchange fund, the College of Social Sciences and Policy Scotland.
3. The panel debate begins at 2pm (please arrive from 1.30pm) and finishes at 3pm. The venue is the main building (Gilbert Scott Building) room 253 [entrance from the south side of the west quad].
4. Professor Gibb and speakers are available for press interviews regarding both the network and the legacy debate.