

North Highland Curling Trust

Brief: Undertake a Feasibility Study into a curling facility in the Tain/South East Sutherland area

Purpose

North Highland Curling Trust (NHCT) is seeking to commission a suitably qualified and experienced person to research and develop a proposal for a curling facility in the Tain/S.E. Sutherland area. The work will be carried out over a 3 month period, reporting to a steering group and consulting with a range of stakeholders. The successful applicant will have experience in sports facility development and a track record of success with gaining funding for such projects.

The final report will include all information needed to make funding applications to potential main funders such as SportsScotland and LEADER.

Objectives

NHCT is keen to investigate the possibility of establishing a curling facility in the Tain/S.E. Sutherland region. Areas to be investigated include:

- Identifying site options including tenure/planning
- Establish existing market and market potential including residential weekend curling market
- Strategies for growing curling numbers including engagement with national initiatives and Active Schools Co-ordinators
- Explore complementary uses and year round revenue streams
- Appropriate management and operating structures including social enterprise models

Background

A small group of curlers has come together to investigate the possibility of establishing a curling rink north of Inverness following the closure of Brora Ice Rink. The intention is to enhance the curling experience in the North of Scotland by adding to facilities already available in Inverness. The aim is to provide good quality facilities at reasonable cost from an easily accessible site.

Key to the success of the project would be identifying complementary activities and revenue streams to ensure ongoing viability.

Expected actions/outputs

1. Research/mapping

Defining the need: what is the interest of locals in using a curling facility in addition to Inverness Ice Centre and requirements in terms of ice times?

Track record of curling in the North Highlands.

Map current provision of weekend residential curling competitions and bonspiels following the closure of Brora and Pitlochry ice rinks and assess the market potential. Assess the weekend market potential against availability of appropriate visitor accommodation in the area in the winter months.

Reviewing existing leisure facilities and identify gaps in the market which an indoor facility might address outwith the curling season.

2. Interim report on market, demand and capacity

3. Development and establishment issues including:

Investigate site options

Site acquisition

Funding considerations

4. Operational issues drawing on experiences from other curling facilities including:

Activities

Level of usage, charges and operating hours

Staffing levels

Legal and insurance requirements

Establishment costs, ongoing revenue costs and financial sustainability

Size and design

Linkages and partnerships with other operators

5. Public benefits and impact on region including:

Strategic fit

Social impact

Economic impact

Environmental impact

Displacement issues

6. Options appraisal including assessment of potential sources of funding

7. Final Report

Applications should be received by 17.00 on 30th June 2009

Shortlisted applicants will be notified within 7 days.

Interviews are anticipated week beginning 6th July 2009

Project

The project is anticipated to start mid July – introductory/scoping meeting with steering group and take up to 3 months.

Interim report on research stage by 14th August 2009

Final draft report by 30th September 2009

Submission

You should include:

Response to the brief

Outline methodology and approach

Personnel – relevant experience and skills

Allocation of days to tasks and breakdown of tasks by named individual or sub-contractor if appropriate with daily rates.

Breakdown of costs: fee structure, expenses, +VAT where applicable

Names and contact details of two referees with whom you have recently worked.

Contact

Applications are invited by e mail to lesleyann@developmentpartners.co.uk by 17.00 on Tuesday 30th June