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To whom it may concern

DUNDONALD INTERNATIONAL ICE BOWL – LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dundonald International Ice Bowl was officially opened in September 1986. The facility is currently home to the only public Olympic size ice rink in NI, a tenpin bowling centre and a soft play centre. While the facility has attracted in excess of 500,000 visitors per annum and is recognised by Tourism NI as a regionally significant facility, it now requires significant redevelopment if it is to continue to operate.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council view the redevelopment of the facility as a major regeneration project for the Dundonald area, beyond simply the redevelopment of the Ice Rink. The proposed project includes a 24 lane ten pin bowling facility, adventure play area, party rooms, a gym, café and coffee shops, multi-use community rooms, office space, a healthcare centre including a GP surgery and pharmacy, a play park and parkland setting and approximately 380 car parking spaces (with additional cycle, coach and motorcycle spaces).

The Department for Communities is supportive of the sporting and regeneration outcomes that this project would deliver.

From a sports perspective, it would provide:

- a training facility for the Belfast Giants, a professional Ice Hockey team;
- facilities for other ice sports; and



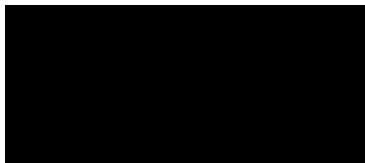
- for general participation in physical activity for all users regardless of ability.

In addition, it is recognised that a regional facility could contribute to the delivery of a number of key themes in the Department's new draft Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity.

The Department is engaging with council colleagues with a view to making a contribution towards the sporting and public realm elements of the proposed project, subject to a positive economic appraisal and budget availability.

The Department is supportive of the project and will continue to work with council officials in the coming months in relation to potential funding contributions.

Yours sincerely



Gerard Murray
Director, Regional Development