Glasgow 2026 Impact Evaluation highlights £223 million economic activity, renewable firsts and Scotland-wide community impact in summer of world-class sport

- New Commonwealth Games model delivered for less than £160m.
- One million people in Scotland attended with 510 million watching across the globe.
- All competition venues powered by renewable energy for first time in Games history.
- 2,749 athletes competed across 10 sports, with six world records and 152 Commonwealth Games records set.
- Glasgow City Region receives £176m boost from Games
- Survey results show Glaswegians proud to host the Commonwealth Games.

Monday 2 November 2026 – Glasgow 2026 generated £223 million in economic activity across Scotland, using the city's existing infrastructure and expertise, and successfully engaged the local community to deliver a world-class sporting event, according to an independent impact evaluation of this summer's Commonwealth Games.

The 11-day Games generated a significant £176m economic boost for the Glasgow City Region, part of a £223m figure across Scotland, with £117.3m Gross Value Added (GVA) throughout the country.

The report also highlights how the reimagined Games model broke new ground by staging sports in venues powered entirely by renewable energy for the first time. The event drew on Glasgow's community assets and experienced events workforce to create a more inclusive and greener event streamed to a global audience of 510 million, reaching viewers in more than 166 territories within and beyond the Commonwealth.

The Games drew a live audience of one million across ticketed events as well as the free live site, the King's Baton Relay in Scotland and the Glasgow 2026 festival. The competition brought together 2,749 athletes from all 74 nations and territories of the Commonwealth across 10 sports and six Para-sports. During 11 days of action, 152 Games records and six world records were set.

Building on the knowledge, talent and partnerships developed through Glasgow 2014 and successive major events, the city stepped forward in 2024 to deliver the Commonwealth Games under the new model introduced by Commonwealth Sport, within a compressed delivery timeline.

The Games were delivered for less than £160m, with the evaluation highlighting substantial sporting, cultural and economic benefits, alongside valuable lessons for future Games hosts. An investment of £5.7m across three sites - Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre and Glasgow International Arena - points to the Games' visible legacy.

Beyond the sporting programme, community activity reached all 32 Scottish local authorities. Schools, cultural organisations, volunteers and local groups helped people experience the Games in their own communities, and free celebrations brought sport and culture into the heart of the city.

Inclusive, Greener, Welcoming and Financially Responsible

The evaluation examines four ambitions at the heart of Glasgow 2026

An inclusive Games

Glasgow delivered the largest Para sport medal programme in Commonwealth Games history, with 47 medal events across six sports. Integrated competition placed Para athletes at the centre of the sporting story, with Para powerlifter Mark Swan winning the first gold medal of the Games.

Accessibility improvements were made to venue routes, entrances and wayfinding, with accessible viewing platforms, Changing Places facilities, hearing assistance and sensory support also improved.

The report identifies opportunities to build on this work by planning and testing accessibility across the complete spectator journey, including ticketing, information and transport, and engaging underrepresented communities earlier.

A greener Games

Using existing venues within a compact eight-mile corridor reduced the need for construction, while hiring and reuse limited the demand for new materials. Almost all (96%) of temporary venue infrastructure was hired, and 79% of purchased assets were recycled, donated or resold.

The Games achieved independent ISO 20121 certification for sustainable event management. All competition venues were entirely powered through renewable electricity tariffs, and 100% of waste was diverted from landfill.

The evaluation also provides recommendations to shape more sustainable future events, highlighting opportunities to minimise material consumption, prevent waste at source, improve recycling performance and embed circular economy principles throughout event planning and delivery.

A welcoming Games

The All In programme involved 755 organisations across Scotland, enabling communities to shape their own celebrations. Over £2m was awarded to community groups and communities through the Festival Fund and Awards for All.

Athlete visits reached 27,827 pupils, while Games Mascot Finnie reached children from more than 500 Scottish schools including 158 school visits.

131,000 people attended the Game On Live Site in Kelvingrove Park, funded through Scotland's Summer of Sport. 97% of surveyed visitors rated their experience good or very good, 99% felt welcomed and 95% felt it was inclusive.

4,000 volunteers delivered 156,000 hours of volunteering. More than a third of the volunteer Legends were new to volunteering with 87% indicating they intend to volunteer again in future.

A financially responsible Games

Existing facilities, local expertise and specialist delivery partnerships enabled Glasgow to stage the Games within its organising budget. Approximately 85% of Games revenue originated outside Scotland.

Alongside the economic activity supported by event delivery and visitor spending, £5.7 million was invested in improvements across three venue sites. At least 82 students secured paid Games-time roles, gaining practical experience in the major events industry.

Phil Batty OBE, Chief Executive of Glasgow 2026, said:

"Glasgow showed what can happen when you build a Games around the strengths of a place and the people who make it special. This report provides the evidence that we delivered great sport and a great Glasgow welcome, while creating opportunities for people across Scotland to be part of something altogether brilliant.

"Our ambition was for these Games to be designed around the city's existing talent and expertise, utilising Glasgow's world-class venues, workforce and volunteer Legends, partners, and the communities who brought their own creativity and energy to the celebration.

"We are proud of what Glasgow achieved. By sharing both our successes and the lessons learned, we have left a valuable legacy that will inform and strengthen future editions of the Commonwealth Games."

Katie Sadleir CNZM, Chief Executive of Commonwealth Sport, said:

"Glasgow stepped forward with courage, generosity and ambition at a defining moment for the Commonwealth Games. We are deeply grateful to the city and to Scotland for delivering a Games that gave athletes a wonderful stage and helped move our Movement forward with confidence. It was a celebration of sport, culture and friendship, with integrated Para sport at its heart and a welcome that once again reflected the very best of Glasgow.

"This evaluation shows the value of shaping a Games around the capabilities of its host: existing facilities, experienced people and communities with the imagination and enthusiasm to make it their own.

"Crucially, it provides valuable evidence for our reset, protecting the quality of integrated sport while opening up more adaptable approaches to hosting. Glasgow's circumstances

were distinctive, but its experience provides a blueprint for more nations and territories to shape future Games around their own strengths, communities and ambitions.

“Glasgow 2026 marked the beginning of a new era for our Movement as we look towards the Centenary Commonwealth Games in Amdavad in 2030. Glasgow's contribution is both a successful Games in its own right and an important foundation for what comes next."

Ian Reid CBE, Chair of Commonwealth Games Scotland, said:

"Two years ago, when the future of these Games was uncertain, we believed Scotland could step forward and lead to provide a solution that could not only reset and secure the future of the Games but also deliver an outstanding event in a responsible and sustainable way, while showcasing our athletes on the world stage.

“Glasgow 2026 made this a reality. It was a fantastic Commonwealth Games for Team Scotland, our athletes won a plethora of medals, set individual and team records and inspired the nation while generating an unforgettable atmosphere across the city.

"It was a reminder of what makes the Commonwealth Games so special. Everyone who worked tirelessly to deliver this altogether brilliant Games should be immensely proud.

Robyn Love, Team Scotland 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball player/coach and Glasgow 2026 silver medallist, said:

"To come away with a silver medal at a home Games was the stuff of dreams. Glasgow 2026 will live with me for the rest of my life. I’ll never forget the noise of the Scottish crowd when we won the semi-final, and to have my little girl there in the stands capped it all.

"I hope the visibility that the Commonwealth Games gives, particularly to para sport, means others may find and benefit from sport earlier than I did, and that the inspiration provided by Glasgow 2026 lives long into the future."

The full report is available at: www.commonwealthsport.com/commonwealth-sport/games-evaluation

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Notes to editors

- The independent evaluation was commissioned by Commonwealth Sport and the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company, working with The Bulb and the Centre for Culture, Sport and Events at the University of the West of Scotland.

- The report draws on athlete, spectator, volunteer and participant surveys, an economic impact assessment and case studies. Survey findings describe respondents to the relevant surveys.
- The final evaluation builds on *The Story So Far: Game Changing Glasgow 2026*, published at the close of the Games. It provides fuller evidence of the outcomes achieved and distinguishes these from longer-term changes in wellbeing, employment and sporting participation that require continued work and follow-up.
- Glasgow 2026 had a global broadcast audience of 509.7m.
- Interviews, methodology information and supporting case studies are available on request.

About Commonwealth Sport

Commonwealth Sport is the organisation with responsibility for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games, and for delivering the vision of the Commonwealth Sport Movement: 'Our Commonwealth, united through sport'. Our mission is to deliver inspirational and impactful Games; to excite and empower Athletes and young people; and to drive equality in sport and society across the Commonwealth.

Established in 1930, the Commonwealth Sport Movement brings together 74 independent nations and territories, creating a diverse Commonwealth community of over 2.5 billion individuals, representing one-third of the world's population. Together we stand as a beacon of unity, diversity, and equality, completely integrating Para athletes, driving gender equality and advocating for legacy and social change through sport.

About Glasgow 2026

Glasgow 2026 promises an altogether brilliant Commonwealth Games, taking place from 23 July to 2 August and combining world□class sport with a future□focused vision delivered through the vibrant spirit of the city. Set within a concentrated eight□mile corridor, the Games will feature 10 sports and six Para sports, across four iconic venues, including Scotstoun Stadium, the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome & Arena and Tollcross International Swimming Centre.

Highlights include a record-breaking Para sport programme, the biggest Track Cycling, Swimming and 3x3 Basketball competitions in Commonwealth Games history, and the return of the Commonwealth Mile in Athletics.

Alongside the Games, the Glasgow 2026 Festival will feature a vibrant programme of culture, music, sport and community-led celebrations. Running from 23 May to 9 August, the Festival will feature world-class creative talent alongside local events delivered by community groups and sports clubs. With opportunities for people of all ages to get active and get involved, it will create a citywide celebration that brings communities together, inspires participation and amplifies the excitement of the Games.

Led by Chair George Black CBE and Chief Executive Officer Phil Batty OBE, Glasgow 2026 Limited is the privately funded Organising Company responsible for delivering the Games. Based in the city centre, the organisation employs nearly 200 people and will generate an

estimated £150 million in local economic activity, welcoming 3,000 athletes from 74 nations and territories, supported by 3,000 volunteers and thousands of fans from across Glasgow and beyond.

About Commonwealth Games Scotland

Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) is one of 74 Commonwealth Games Associations who are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Commonwealth Games Scotland is the lead body for Commonwealth sport in Scotland, and is the organisation responsible for selecting, preparing and leading Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.

Scotland has competed in every Games since the first Empire Games in 1930 and has hosted the Games three times - twice in Edinburgh 1970 and 1986 and most recently in Glasgow in 2014.

Working closely with Scotland's national governing bodies of sport and the sportscotland institute of sport, Commonwealth Games Scotland aims to have the best prepared team possible at every Games, creating the right performance environment and giving athletes every opportunity to excel at the Games, as part of a world class sporting system.

Commonwealth Games Scotland and its member sports rely on investment, including National Lottery support, from sportscotland, the national agency for sport. CGS also actively seeks additional support for team preparations from commercial partners, fundraising activities and the Commonwealth Games Endowment Trust.

About the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games Impact Evaluation

The Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games Impact Evaluation was independently delivered by The Bulb, a sustainability and impact consultancy specialising in major events, in partnership with the Centre for Culture, Sport and Events (CCSE) at the University of the West of Scotland.

Bringing together The Bulb's expertise in sustainability strategy, carbon measurement and environmental impact with the University's academic research capabilities in social and legacy impact in sport, culture and major event evaluation, the partnership provided a multidisciplinary approach to assessing the Games' social, environmental and economic outcomes.

Commissioned by Commonwealth Sport and the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company, the independent evaluation combined robust research methodologies, quantitative data analysis and qualitative insights to assess performance against the Games' stated ambitions.

The collaboration brought together practical industry experience and academic rigour, providing an independent, evidence-based assessment of the Games' achievements, challenges and lessons learned. The findings offer a credible foundation for understanding

the impact of Glasgow 2026 and informing more sustainable, inclusive and financially responsible major events in the future.

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