

**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
FOR THE RUGBY WORLD CUP**

The Chair
CABINET POLICY COMMITTEE

FINALS VENUE FOR RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011

PROPOSAL

- 1 This paper provides a progress report on the review of the Eden Park redevelopment design proposal and the associated funding and governance issues.

BACKGROUND

- 2 On 23 November 2006 Cabinet noted the views of the Auckland City Council and Auckland Regional Council on a waterfront stadium development and agreed that the Rugby World Cup final in 2011 would be held in Auckland. Cabinet further agreed that discussions be commenced with the Eden Park Trust Board (EPTB) and the Eden Park Redevelopment Committee to assess and report on the redevelopment design proposal for Eden Park and the funding and governance arrangements which need to be resolved before final commitments could be made available to that redevelopment.
- 3 A report on progress with these issues was to be provided to Cabinet Policy Committee by 13 December 2006.

COMMENT

Redevelopment Design

- 4 Engineering, quantity surveying and construction expertise has been retained and the design and costing for the \$320 million and \$385 million redevelopment proposals for Eden Park are being reviewed. A meeting was held in Auckland on 1 December with Eden Park advisers but obtaining access to the information and documents behind the proposals was only achieved on 7 December. It has been established that the only commitment made to the International Rugby Board (IRB) is to provide a 60,000 seat stadium with better facilities for players, officials and VIPs, although the bid presentation included a slide showing an image of Eden Park with a new South Stand.

- 5 In recent days Auckland civic leaders, media and other commentators have expressed preferences for the additional 12,000 seats to be provided through temporary facilities. Eden Park's current configuration and seating plan does not easily lend itself to absorbing the additional seats through temporary seating. The analysis of options however carried out by the Rugby World Cup Bid Committee and the Eden Park Trust Board in 2005 focussed on providing an appropriate venue for the event and leaving a legacy development at the ground. Since the bid's success the onerous resource consent difficulties presented by Eden Park's location have driven the design requirements and the cost of the redevelopment.
- 6 Temporary seating facilities of the scale required are a challenging engineering and design exercise. Stadium architecture expertise is critical to any such evaluation and Richard Breslin, a principal in HOK's London office, has been retained to review all design options including the ground's capacity to provide temporary seating. This evaluation is technically difficult and will not be completed until mid January 2007.

Funding and Governance

- 7 Funding and governance issues fall out of which redevelopment proposal is ultimately approved. Discussions have been held with the EPTB and third party funding sources to clarify their specific funding capability and potential contribution.
- 8 Discussions have also been held with EPTB on the core principles from which a new set of trust arrangements for Eden Park might be derived should the more substantial design options be approved. Officials have also met with the Eden Park Trust beneficiaries and believe accommodating the interests of all parties will take time to work through.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9 I recommend that Cabinet Policy Committee:
 - a) **Note** the contents of this report.
 - b) **Note** further time is required for the technical evaluation of design proposals for the redevelopment of Eden Park.
 - c) **Note** the technical evaluation will include an assessment of whether the seating requirements for the Rugby World Cup 2011 can be provided with temporary facilities.

- d) **Note** progress has been made with Eden Park funding and governance issues but specific proposals are conditional on the particular redevelopment option that is committed to.
- e) **Invite** the Minister for the Rugby World Cup to provide a further report to Cabinet Business Committee on 30 January 2007.

Hon Trevor Mallard
Minister for the Rugby World Cup