**Multi-Use Arena – questions and answers.**

**Why was a pre-feasibility commissioned?**

The Stadium Trust was commissioned by the Minister supporting Greater Christchurch Regeneration and the Christchurch City Council to develop a pre-feasibility study for the development of a new multi-use arena (MUA/Arena). The Stadium Trust was asked to analyse and test the scope and potential of the MUA precinct, identify a shortlist of Arena options, and provide recommendations on the most promising options for the facilities, amenities and precinct infrastructure necessary to deliver the vision for the site.

**What the prefeasibility study has provided?**

The prefeasibility study has provided the government and Christchurch City Council with some direction and clarity regarding:

* Covered stadium as the preferred approach. The feasibility study recommends a full solid roof.
* Multi-use arena required.
* The global trend of a hard floor with mobile turf (retractable).
* Number and frequency of events (sports and other) in current context
* Seating capacity requirements – the preferred option is for a permanent seating capacity of 25,000, plus 5000 temporary. A concert capacity using the field of play would be 35,000 to 40,000.
* Commercial interests.
* Potential costs.

**What is the cost of the preferred option?**

The study came up with a range of options ranging in cost from $368 million to $584 million with the design and construction time ranging from four to 5.5 years. The estimated costs confirms that the Council in budgeting $253 million in its Long Term Plan has allocated sufficient funding to meet its 50% share of the proposed Multi-Use Arena.

**When will we build /open the stadium?**

The Council’s current Long Term Plan has made provision for the new stadium of $253m – allocated over the three years 2022 to 2025. The option preferred in the pre-feasibility study will take five years to build.

**Where is the proposed venue for the new multi-use arena?**

Under the blueprint, the land between the three blocks bounded by Hereford, Tuam, and Madras and Barbados streets was designated for the new multi-use arena. Most of the designated land has been purchased by the Crown and negotiations for the remaining parcels continue.

**What will we do until the stadium is built**?

The original AMI stadium (Lancaster Park) which seated 38,628 was severely damaged in the 2010/11 earthquakes. The Christchurch Stadium Trust was established to develop and own a replacement temporary stadium in Addington. This was constructed on the site of the former Addington showgrounds and opened in March 2012. It was originally anticipated to have a five-year life span, but it has been upgraded and we can now continue to use the stadium as a venue for sports and other events until 2022.

**How will we fund the stadium?**

The study came up with a range of options ranging in cost from $368 million to $584 million with the design and construction time ranging from four to 5.5 years. The estimated costs confirms that the Council in budgeting $253 million in its Long Term Plan has allocated sufficient funding to meet its 50% share of the proposed Multi-Use Arena.

Further exploration of potential sources of funds is required.

**What happens next?**

We now need to:

1. Explore the feasibility of mobile turf options in more detail.
2. Discuss with stakeholders and the public to ensure they are part of the conversation.
3. Develop a business case.
4. Consider funding options. Currently the only commitment if $253 million from the Council to meet its 50% share of the Canterbury Arena cost.

It is proposed that a joint project (DPMC/Council/Otakaro) team be established to carry out further investigation on the above.

**Do we really need a stadium?**

Multi-use functionality is considered to be a key to the viability and success of any stadium/arena facility.

The feasibility study was informed by consultation with more than 50 organisations and individuals.

It has identified criteria to assess the merits of a number of options including:

* All season, all weather
* Capable of multiple uses
* Suitable capable for a Tier 1 international rugby test match
* Rectangular field of play
* Visually attractive and connected to the city
* Offers a great fan experience and:
* Financially sustainable.