

Leader's Report – Supplementary 2

City of Edinburgh Council

26 June 2003

1 Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian Football Clubs

- 1.1 Members will be aware of the recent publicity surrounding the announcement by Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian Football Clubs of their possible joint re-location to a shared stadium, with Straiton in Midlothian as the preferred location.
- 1.2 Discussions have been ongoing for some time between the Council and Heart of Midlothian. Heart of Midlothian have concerns over their current stadium at Tynecastle and believe that a move to a new location would be advantageous. Recently, the possibility of a shared stadium with Hibernian has emerged as an option for detailed discussion between the two clubs.
- 1.3 The recent announcement by the two clubs raises a number of issues for the Council. These include the effects of re-location on existing communities in Leith and Gorgie, planning issues associated with the re-development of the vacated stadia and planning and transport issues at a new location for any joint stadium.
- 1.4 The proposed move to a new, shared stadium is primarily a matter for the two clubs. However, it raises the possibility that there might be an opportunity to promote football and other sports in a wider development which provides first class, modern facilities.
- 1.5 Along with the Chief Executive, I met recently with Chris Robinson of Heart of Midlothian and Rod Petrie of Hibernian. The meeting was helpful in clarifying issues and in exchanging views. Clearly, a great deal of work is needed before the clubs can arrive at decisions. I shall ensure that the Council is kept informed of developments.
- 1.6 This Council will receive a report in the near future in order to discuss and consider all the issues concerned and our response as a Council.

Councillor Donald Anderson
Leader – City of Edinburgh Council