

Summary

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The purpose of the investigation was to examine Stockholm's prospects of applying for and hosting the Winter Olympics and the Paralympics in 2026. (The term "winter games" is used as a general term for these competitions.)

The motivation for investigating an application for the Olympic Games is based primarily on the fact that Stockholm is a city of sport and events. The city is full of elite and grass-roots level sportsmen and women, and has a large, engaged and knowledgeable audience at sporting events. Over the last ten years the city has acquired more and more experience of organising major, successful national and international events. The fact that the application involves the winter games and not the summer games is partly because Sweden is a successful winter sports nation with plenty of suitable arenas and venues for ice and ski sports, and partly because the summer games are so much bigger and wide-ranging an event.

Stockholm's interest in applying for the winter games has grown significantly since the Olympic movement launched its new strategy *Olympic Agenda 2020*. This agenda is very much in line with Stockholm's ambitions for social, financial, environmental and democratic sustainability. This means that Stockholm, together with the co-hosting municipalities, has a genuine opportunity to create the most sustainable winter games ever.

The result could be a forward-looking Olympic Games, where the focus is on uniting sporting and public events of the very highest class with the greatest possible care for people's well-being and the Earth's finite resources. Hosting the Winter Olympics in ten years' time can thus achieve the city's goal of being a leading, sustainable city of events.

Good existing capacity

Olympic Agenda 2020 features, among other things, a renewed application process. The candidate cities are invited to present their projects and events, which are expected to be in line with the city's own long-term sporting, financial, social and environmental plans and needs.

The starting point for Stockholm's candidature is the region's good existing capacity with regard to infrastructure and modern facilities for winter sport such as **Ericsson Globe**, Tele 2, Friends Arena, Stockholms stadion, Flottsbro, Hammarbybacken, etc. Together with the well-established, high-class Alpine facilities in Åre and ski-jumping in Falun, the basic conditions exist to create a sustainable concept for the winter games.

The investments required in new or extended facilities relate to sports where there is a demand for and a major interest in exercise, such as ice skating halls and facilities for cross-country skiing, which makes them a natural element of a long-term sporting and public health strategy. It is even felt that the bobsleigh and luge facility, for which there is not the same natural demand, will have a relatively high legacy value, for example for leisure experiences,

in the same way that the course in Lillehammer can still offer 20 years after the winter games there.

The city's major demand for and high rate of the new construction of homes in future mean that residential areas are already planned that would be ideal for an Olympic village, such as the investigation's proposal at Årstafältet. The considerable stock of hotel beds, the number of which can also be easily supplemented for a few weeks with cruise ships at the city's quaysides, provides a high visitor capacity. There are also existing trade fair and conference venues that are big enough to house other necessary facilities such as a comprehensive media centre.

Clear added value

There is clear added value for Stockholm residents, contributing to sustainability in the form of jobs, volunteering assignments and an enhanced focus for all – the latter not least because of the Paralympics, which are held a few weeks after the Winter Olympics. Volunteering assignments can offer an integrating role for people outside the regular employment market. The years before and after the games offer many opportunities to create activities and events inspired by the winter games that contribute to improved public health in the form of grass-roots and leisure sport for children, young people and adults.

Experience tells us that the Olympic Games generate positive socio-economic effects, not least via the tourism sector. This applies to the period before, during and after the event. The wide-ranging exposure of the host city and the country during an Olympic event offers tremendous opportunities to improve the attraction as both a tourist destination and a place to set up new business. The games provide a shop window to the world for the economy in both Stockholm and Sweden at large, offering an opportunity to highlight strengths such as innovation, sustainability solutions, technology and digitisation.

The Olympic Games can be developed in a natural way to provide a stage for events other than sporting competitions, without necessarily having to compete with the heart and soul of the games. During the games, the competition venues are transformed into event locations that can be used to offer scope for various forms of cultural expression, such as music, art and design, to enhance the experience of spectators.

Shared values

There can also be major scope to display other ambitions and values. Stockholm's methodical, distinctive work on human rights, greater tolerance and openness, and the freedom for individuals to express their identity in the way they want can be offered a prominent position in a new, modern Winter Olympics. Here too, Stockholm's ambitions are very much in line with the Olympic movement's traditional, fundamental values of *respect for each individual and friendship across all borders* and the new strategies in *Olympic Agenda 2020*, which includes a focus on work for equal opportunity and against discrimination.

The investigation's opinion analysis indicates that there is both support for and scepticism towards holding the Olympics as the event is known at present. The analysis also indicates that there is no awareness of *Olympic Agenda 2020*, but that there is scope for greater interest,

engagement and support if Stockholm can organise an event that is more sustainable than before and contributes to developments in that direction. Democratic sustainability can be further reinforced and embedded in a dialogue in which Stockholm residents are invited to help create the event.

A balanced implementation budget

The most central issue that the investigation was mandated to respond to, and that Stockholm residents also raise, is to estimate the costs of the event and the possibility of achieving a balanced implementation budget. The investigation therefore devotes a large part of the final report to these issues and performs far-reaching comparisons with previous winter games, especially Vancouver 2010. In summary, the investigation concludes that there are good opportunities to organise the event with a balanced budget.

The implementation budget is balanced and is to the order of around SEK 13.6 billion. This assumes that the City of Stockholm assumes responsibility for most of the investments of between SEK 2 and 2.5 billion, which is estimated to be needed in the form of new sporting facilities. The proposal is based on limiting costs as far as possible and only building new facilities to a limited extent. The new facilities that are built will also have a high legacy value for the region's inhabitants.

The concept is based on approximately 80 per cent of the competitions taking place in Stockholm, Botkyrka and Huddinge, all Alpine disciplines with a drop height of 110 metres or more being held in Åre and the competitions in ski-jumping and Nordic combined being held in Falun.

Proposal to prepare an expression of interest

Certain issues need to be investigated in greater detail during the consultation period. The investigation confirms that supplies of snow need to be secured with resources for storing and producing snow, although in this respect Stockholm is no different from other winter sport locations such as Åre and Falun - or other countries. Accessibility to the various competition venues will to some extent be stretched during the games, but is believed to be manageable during the weeks when the event is taking place. Possible ways of facilitating accessibility during the games require further investigation. The level of environmental impact needs to be further analysed, especially for the skiing facility in Botkyrka.

The final instructions and conditions from the International Olympic Committee for the application for the 2026 games have not yet been presented. 2026 will be the first winter games to be held on the basis of Olympic Agenda 2020. It is expected that some of these guidelines will be published during the first half of 2017. More detailed instructions will be delivered in early 2018.

In addition to calculating and assessing the actual possibilities of organising the Winter Olympics and Paralympics 2026, the investigation can confirm that ahead of these games Stockholm has a unique opportunity, together with the Olympic movement, to create a new, modernised and more sustainable kind of winter games.

In the same way that the summer games in Stockholm in 1912 modernised the competitions and the event for many years that followed, the winter games in Stockholm in 2026 have the potential to be a milestone and an inspiration for future games as well.

Based on Stockholm's experiences as an event organiser, the city's far-reaching sustainability ambitions and resources in the form of facilities and a compact infrastructure, the winter sports nation of Sweden could hold the country's first-ever winter games - with a stable, forward-looking sustainability profile.

On the basis of the conclusions compiled in the report, the investigation proposes that work to prepare an expression of interest be started and carried out in parallel with the consultation process, as it is extremely important that time-critical permit processes be initiated during this period.