

Bring it on! Success for Bristol's World Cup bid

The England 2018 World Cup committee have today confirmed that Bristol is amongst the top 12 cities selected to World Cup football and will go forward as part of England's bid to FIFA in May. A superb location, outstanding facilities and accommodation as well as international transport links have highlighted the city as a key setting for England's 2018 World Cup campaign.

Bristol's successful bid highlighted the city's fantastic cultural offerings and stunning locations for Fan Fest sites, positioned throughout the city and the surrounding areas as well as its plentiful hotel accommodation offer available to visitors to the city. The impressive plans for the new regional stadium and top-notch training sites have also greatly strengthened the positive impact for Bristol's bid.

Bristol will now join a list of the England's most successful footballing cities alongside the likes of Liverpool and Manchester. Being a part of England's national bid will offer the city a fantastic opportunity to be seen as one that can rival even the country's most famous sporting cities.

Councillor Simon Cook said "This truly is wonderful news. Being granted candidate status will give us a unique opportunity to show off our beautiful city to the rest of the world. If England is successful in their bid to FIFA next year, we expect that hosting the competition in 2018 will have a huge impact on the local economy and could bring in excess of £250m to the sub-region. We will see a significant rise in employment through construction and hospitality and hosting the tournament will leave a lasting impact on the city with improved transport links and acclaimed international facilities."

Bid Director Stephen Wray said, "The news is fantastic. We are delighted and proud to have been part of Bristol's successful bid to host world class football. Bristol has so much to offer as a host city and we are all so pleased that the England 2018 has recognised Bristol's strengths and selected us to represent the country's bid. I would personally like to thank everyone who has supported the bid along the way and has helped to contribute to this momentous occasion for Bristol. Now we look forward to contributing to what we hope will be a successful England bid in 2010."

Ends

Notes to Editors;

1. The 11 other cities selected by England 2018 are: Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Newcastle Gateshead, Nottingham, Plymouth, Sheffield and Sunderland.
2. Bristol's bidding process began back in May 2009. The city hosted two visits to the city from England 2018 committee members and submitted two outline bids prior to handing in their final bid document at Wembley stadium on 26 November.
3. There has been huge public support for the bid. Bristol's bid has received well over 11,000 Facebook members, more than any other bidding city and has received over 500 followers on their Twitter site.
4. Its very own viral game made by local multi-media company Wonky Films has to date received over 8,000 game plays in 15 different countries.
5. Bristol based Pieminster Pies has also produced their very own limited edition 'World Cup at Steak' pie.
6. The bid has also had in excess of 12,000 signatures of support on their 4m inflatable ball which has been touring the city and the South West over the past few months.
7. Hosting the competition could see up to four group stage matches and possibly a quarter-final. Bristol's plans for their proposed Fan Fest and Live Sites could now be the setting for an influx of over 2 million visitors to the city during the tournament.