

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

SeattleFWC26 – Local Organizing Committee – Global Soccer Tournament Update

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**INFORMATION
ONLY**

SeattleFWC26 is the local organizing committee for Seattle's participation as one of the 16 host cities selected for the FIFA World Cup 26™ (FWC26). SeattleFWC26 staff will share regional plans leading up to the FIFA 2026 Men's World Cup.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**Background**

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the largest ever, hosted by Canada, Mexico, and the United States with 48 teams participating in matches in 16 cities. Seattle will host six matches at Lumen Field between June 15–July 6. On April 14, city staff presented Bellevue-specific items and tonight will cover the regional context and SeattleFWC26 coordination efforts.

Role of the Local Organizing Committee

SeattleFWC26 serves as Seattle's official local organizing committee for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, coordinating everything from Seattle operations and safety planning to community legacy projects and fan experiences. It acts as the central hub connecting FIFA, regional government agencies, and local partners to ensure the tournament runs smoothly and leaves long-term benefits for the region.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**Policy Impact**

This work advances Bellevue Comprehensive Plan goals for economic development (ED-13 and 24), which support tourism, hotel, retail, and arts businesses in the city, and communicates Bellevue's vision as a leading regional employment and activity center.

Fiscal Impact

The budget for Bellevue's programming and support during the tournament is part of the city's approved 2025-2026 budget. Visit Bellevue estimates net new economic impact could reach up to \$23

million within the city.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

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N/A