

## **2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

This report provides information on international Olympic and Paralympic Pre-Games Training Camps (PGTC) and associated visits from Heads of State. It discusses the potential for the Board to assist councils in the run up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to provide a steer on the proposals outlined in this report.

### **Action**

Officers to take forward any recommendations as determined by Members.

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## **2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

### **Background**

1. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the biggest international sporting event in the world involving almost 15, 000 athletes. A ground-breaking international legacy programme, 'International Inspiration', delivered by the British Council, UNICEF and UK Sport, is working to leave behind a lasting legacy for young people around the world beyond the London 2012 Games.
2. The LGA has been working with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to ensure councils play a central role in delivering a safe and successful 2012 Games.
3. An LGA 2012 Task and Finish Group has been established to provide strategic oversight of LGA programme board work to ensure we deliver a coherent offer to member councils in relation to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
4. At its first meeting on 15 December 2011, the Group suggested the European and International Programme Board may want to support member councils in the lead up to the 2012 Games. It could initially focus on Pre-Games Training Camps (PGTCs) and visits from Heads of State and other dignitaries.

### **Pre-Games Training Camps and Host a Nation Week**

5. Pre-Games Training Camps for national teams will provide athletes with a base from which to prepare, train and acclimatise ahead of the Games, and provide opportunities for local communities to engage with athletes, through cultural exchange, education and engagement alongside provisions for international sporting teams.
6. As of 19 December 2011, a total of 124 agreements have been signed by National Olympic Committees (NOC) and National Paralympic Committees (NPC). Of these approximately fifty-five have some form of council involvement. Most of the other agreements are with educational establishments, mainly Universities (See **Appendix A**). A further 223 NOCs/NPCs are still considering signing a PGTC agreement.

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7. LOCOG has made a commitment to make a Financial Award of up to £25,000 available to every NOC/NPC who sends a team to prepare in an approved PGTC in the UK or Northern Ireland. The deadline for applications for financial awards is 29 February 2012 for NOCs and 31 March 2012 for NPCs.
8. The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is planning to organise a 'Host a Nation' week shortly before the start of the 2012 Games, in order to foster greater awareness of other nations and people. All PGTCs that have a visiting team will be invited to be part of the 'Host a Nation' week.
9. There is also an expectation that over a hundred Heads of State or other dignitaries will make visits prior to and during the 2012 Games. The LGA is liaising with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to see if our assistance is required in liaising with local areas, for example if there are requests for hosting civic receptions for visiting Heads of State.

**Potential ways that the European and Internal Board can support councils**

10. The European and International Programme Board can potentially support councils in a number of ways:
  - 10.1 Liaise with LOCOG to explore ways to support their work with councils.
  - 10.2 Liaise with the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) to support councils with PGTCs to develop activities for the 'Host a Nation' week.
  - 10.3 Promote PGTC council venues to contacts and networks that the LGA has in other countries.
  - 10.4 Assist councils to make contact with appropriate government officials in other countries.
  - 10.5 Support councils to host Heads of State or other dignitary visits during the training camps.

**Conclusion and next steps**

11. Following a steer from Members of the European and International Programme Board on the proposals to take forward, progress made on these will be reported to the LGA Executive by the 2012 Task and Finish Group.

**Appendix A**

**Pre Games Training Camp agreements (as of 19 December 2011)**

<b>UK and Northern Ireland data by nation and region</b>	<b>PGTC agreements in place</b>
North East	3
Yorkshire and Humberside	11
North West	6
West Midlands	2
East Midlands	2
East of England	20
London	9
South East	30
South West	25
Scotland	2
Wales	11
Northern Ireland	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>

A list of the locations of the Pre-Games Training Camps that have agreements in place as of 19 December 2011 can be accessed through this link:

<http://www.london2012.com/documents/venue-documents/pre-games-training-camps-agreements.pdf>

The list runs to 11 pages so it is not attached to this report but a copy will be available at the meeting.

Examples include: the Chinese Olympic Committee agreement with Leeds, the Australian Olympic Swimming team agreement with Manchester, the Grenada Olympic committee agreement with West Sussex and Horsham, the Kenyan National Olympic Committee agreement with Bristol, USA Track & Field and Jamaican Athletics team agreements with Birmingham, and the Canadian Mountain Bike team agreement with Essex.