

## **2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group – report from Cllr Stephen Castle (Chair)**

1. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group had its third meeting in Cardiff on 6 March 2012. The Group has been set up by the LGA Executive to make sure that the LGA is supporting councils to play their part in hosting a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games and to ensure that councils have the latest information and share experience and knowledge of local operational issues.

### **Games Policing and Security**

2. Games Policing and Security was the main focus of discussion at the meeting. Members had a presentation from Chief Inspector Colin Green from the Association of Chief Police Officers and Metropolitan Police Olympic and Paralympic Policing Coordination Team.
3. A major factor in the decision to grant the Olympic and Paralympic Games to London was the commitment from the Government to take all necessary measures to secure the safety and peaceful celebration of the Games. Delivering a safe and secure Games will be one of the biggest security challenges the UK has faced.
4. In order to ensure there is a safe and secure Games, an Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy, covering the work of the Government, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, the Olympic Delivery Authority and the police as well as other key agencies was published in July 2009. Following a review and audit of the Strategy in 2010 a revised Strategy was published in March 2011.
5. The Strategy itself covers the competition venues, areas around the competition venues or areas that are used for non-competition purposes, training venues and camps, transport infrastructure, critical supporting infrastructure for the Games and the Torch Relay. No single force could meet the Olympic policing requirement, which it has been estimated will require an additional 10,000 officers on peak days. This is particularly true when considering the specialist officers (such as firearms officers and mounted officers) that will be needed during the Games.
6. Individual forces have therefore been expected to put in place their own and regional plans to ensure that they can support the Games while also ensuring the communities they serve continue to be protected as normal.
7. Chief Inspector Green told the Task Group that plans are progressing well and although resourcing the demands on the police service during 2012 would be

challenging, core policing across the country would not suffer and disruption would be minimised.

### **Emergency Planning and Resilience**

8. The Task Group also discussed activity underway to make sure that councils have emergency planning and resilience arrangements in place for competition venues, the torch relay and other events. The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme which is funded by the Home Office, supported by the LGA and London Councils and hosted by the London Fire Brigade is providing advice and assistance to councils. As part of this programme, the LGA hosted a successful one day conference on Olympic Emergency Planning that was chaired by Cllr Chris White. The conference was attended by over 100 delegates representing more than 70 local authorities. Although reporting of the proceedings was restricted, there was a strong media presence including journalists from BBC News, Channel 4 News Sunday Times, Sunday Express and the, Daily Mail.

### **Transport**

9. Transport is a standing item on the Task Group's agenda because it is an absolute fundamental to making the 2012 Games a success. Regular dialogue is being maintained with the LGA Economy and Transport Board, which is now working with the British Chamber of Commerce and London Councils to ensure that information and guidance relating to access to the capital and other venue areas during the Games is being communicated to councils and to business across the country.

### **Economic Growth**

10. A workshop on the potential for the Olympic and Paralympic Games to promote economic growth was held at the LGA Urban Commission on 22 February. Cllr Steve Wilson from Sheffield City Council gave a presentation on the significant economic benefits to the City from its investment in sport and support for the 2012 Games. Members discussed the ways in which councils, business and local communities are engaging with the opportunities of the 2012 Games and what further actions councils can take.
11. Some economists predict that an Olympic Games "ripple effect" will extend far beyond the venues for official events and suggest that towns and cities across the UK that join the celebrations with promotions and live screenings of the Games will see a significant increase in consumer spending. Over 80 percent of companies now expect to see an increased demand for their goods and services from the Games. Delivering long term growth is seen as a key part of the UK's Games legacy. Tourism is a key part of the Government's 'GREAT' campaign, which will be closely linked to the Olympic Torch Relay. It will build on the publicity generated by the Torch Relay to drive an increase in domestic tourism in the nations and regions of the UK.

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