

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

1. The work of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group to keep councils informed of any key issues that arise is continuing over the summer and the task group will have a final meeting in October. The Group was set up by the LGA Executive to make sure that the LGA is supporting councils to contribute to the success of the Games and to ensure that councils have the latest information and share experience and knowledge of local operational issues.

LGA Annual Conference fringe session

2. A lunchtime fringe session was held at the LGA Annual Conference in Birmingham on 28 June, entitled 'Olympic and Paralympic Games – creating new opportunities for the future'. The session, which was chaired by Cllr Florence Nosegbe, member of the LGA Culture Tourism and Sport Board, discussed the drive to secure the long term benefits of London 2012 for communities up and down the country. Cllr Castle, who spoke at the session along with David Moorcroft OBE, Olympian and former world record holder, recalled the moment when the bid was won in Singapore seven years ago, and a bold pledge was made to edge to create an extraordinary legacy for the UK and the world. Councils had been a key part of making good on that promise and had played an essential to the preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
3. The LGA had been involved from the outset in ensuring that local government was involved in the Nations and Regions groups and in offering advice and challenge to the Games organisers and to Government. The Games are truly nationwide with nine Games competition venues outside London, the UK wide recruitment of 70,000 volunteer Games Makers and 1,500 businesses winning contracts from the Olympic Delivery Authority. Crowds are turning out in large numbers to welcome the Olympic torch on its journey which will be going within 10 miles of 95 per cent of the population. Already councils across the country have supported a wide range of initiatives to lay the groundwork for a successful legacy, from holding youth sports days to investing in multi-sports centres. However when most other organisations will be winding down after the closing ceremonies, for many councils this is where much of the hard work will begin and delegates at the fringe session heard that councils would need to step up to the mark.
4. As well as making the most of the facilities built specially for the Games, a key element of the Games legacy will be boosting participation in sport for people of all ages and abilities in the long term. David Moorcroft spoke about plans that

were being made to capture the enthusiasm for sport that the Games will generate. On the weekend of 18 -19 August (the first weekend after the Olympics and before the Paralympics), **Join In Local Sport** will encourage people to head to local sports clubs all over the country that are hosting special events and activities. Clubs will be helping to sign up more members, supporters or volunteers and attract local people who may never have come to their club before. He was very keen to get the message out to councils to encourage local clubs in their area to take part.

London 2012 World Sport Day

5. Thousands of schools and local communities across the UK took part in London 2012 World Sport Day on 25 June, which is part of the London 2012 Education programme, Get Set, through which over 20,000 schools and colleges have been recognised and rewarded for their commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Values. Since 2009, more than eight million school children and 19,000 schools have participated in National School Sport Week. World Sport Day events were also held at thirteen London 2012 Live Sites where big screens are located across the country in each of the Nations and regions. Each site saw local schools taking part in activities including an opening ceremony followed by, a global showcase, traditional games and the London 2012 Mascot dance.

Transport

6. Transport is absolutely fundamental to making the Games a success and travel advice to the general public is intensifying. Motorists are being advised to avoid Central London and roads leading to the venues from the middle of July, when officials and athletes arrive en masse. When the Olympic Route Network lanes become operational on 25 July, (two days before the Opening Ceremony), motorists will be fined £130 if they enter or stop there. Parked cars will be removed and drivers will have to pay £200 to get their vehicles released. At the busiest times, up to 1,400 vehicles an hour are expected to use the lanes, ferrying officials from their hotels to venues and transferring athletes from training grounds to competitive events.

Emergency Planning and Resilience

7. The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme which is supported by the LGA, London Councils, London Fire Brigade and funded by the Home Office, is continuing to provide advice and assistance to councils. As part of this programme, officers are working to ensure that there are adequate officers briefed and available to represent the LGA at the Olympic Secretariat. A staff officer will be located in the Olympic Secretariat for all key times during Games and will liaise closely with the Government Olympic Executive (GOE). A daily report is being sent to councils from the GOE on learning from the torch relay and a weekly summary is also being published and included on the LGA Knowledge Hub.

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