

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group – report from Councillor Stephen Castle (Chairman)

1. Councillor Stephen Castle attended the final meeting of the Nations and Regions Joint Members and Co-ordinators which took place on 18 September 2012. The Nations and Regions Groups (NRG) were established by the London 2012 Organising Committee and the Government Olympic Executive, with a group in every nation and region to ensure that all parts of the UK were involved in the staging of the 2012 Games. Each NRG established broadly similar structures, with a Chair and members from private, public and voluntary organisations making up the committee, supported by a full time coordinator.
2. The LGA worked closely with the Nations and Regions Groups from the outset and met regularly with the national Chair, Sir Charles Allen to review progress and to ensure that councils were able to support the wide range of initiatives being promoted by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and highlight any concerns that councils had raised with the LGA. The final NRG meeting, which took place just a week after the athletes' victory parade in London, provided the opportunity to celebrate the huge success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games around the UK and reflect on the experience of preparing for and hosting the Torch Relay and the Games.

National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme

3. The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme, which was set up in August 2010, closed on 30 September 2012 having delivered all of its objectives on time and to the original budget. The aim of the Programme was to support and enable all local authorities in England and Wales to effectively discharge their statutory and regulatory emergency planning and response responsibilities effectively during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and to promote a coordinated and consistent national approach. The Programme was part of the Olympic programme within the Home Office Olympic Security Directorate and was formed after extensive lobbying of the Home Office by local government. The Programme was a strategic partnership between the Home Office, the London Fire Brigade and the Local Government Association and London Councils who provided support to the Team and access to Members and their wider Olympic work.
4. The guidance produced by the Programme was very well received, in particular the Assurance Framework, developed in conjunction with the host authorities, Olympic Security Directorate, Civil Contingencies Secretariat and the Police National Coordination Team. The Programme team worked with the LGA, host authorities, Department for Communities and Local Government and the Cabinet Office to put in place arrangements to represent local government during the Games.
5. The Task Group would like to thank Programme Manager, Andrew Huddart, for his contribution to the success of the Programme. His expertise and professionalism ensured the full support of all the stakeholders at local and national level. We wish him every success for the future.

Item 3(k)

Cultural Olympiad

6. Alongside the sporting competition, the Cultural Olympiad's grand finale took place from 21 June to 09 September 2012. In the lead up to the last day of the London 2012 Paralympic Games on 09 September, audiences across the UK were brought together in community-wide celebrations of music and dance as part of the London 2012 Festival. The final event was the Bandstand Marathon which saw hundreds of bandstands around the country, including the Olympic Park Grandstand, strike up in song at the same time to mark the end of a fantastic summer of sport and culture. Since the Cultural Olympiad started in 2008, over 18 million people all over the UK participated in or attended over 9,000 performances and more than 8,000 workshops as part of Cultural Olympiad programmes inspired by London 2012 and funded by the principal funders and sponsors.

Legacy Ambassador

7. Working to secure the long term benefits of the Games was always an integral part of the bid to host London 2012 and a lot of attention is now being focused on ensuring that efforts to boost the sporting, volunteering and economic impact remains on track. A meeting is being arranged between the LGA and Lord Sebastian Coe who has been appointed legacy ambassador by the Prime Minister. Lord Coe will be based in the Cabinet Office.

Legacy 2013 fund

8. Cllr Castle met Alison Seabrooke, the Chief Executive of the Community Development Foundation (CDF) on 27 September to discuss a proposal for a new fund to support communities as a long term legacy of the 2012 Games and a catalyst for community development. The CDF is working with partners London Funders, Comic Relief, City Bridge and Trust for London on the proposed 'Legacy 2013' fund. The idea has been inspired by a foundation set up as a legacy of the Los Angeles Olympic Games and 28 years on is still supporting grassroots sport in the communities of Los Angeles and Southern California.
9. The LGA Task and Finish Group will have its final meeting on 8 November 2012 to consider recommendations on learning and legacy.

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