

14 July 2009

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## 2012 Games update

### Summary

This report provides background information on issues members might like to discuss with GOE officials who will be attending the meeting to update the Board on their work to secure a lasting legacy from the Games.

### Recommendations

That Members note the report.

### Action

Officers to take forward as appropriate suggested actions by the Board.

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## **2012 Games update**

### **Background**

1. The LGA runs a programme of work to support local government engagement with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Through our networks we are working with 90% of councils on this agenda. The LGA is committed to ensuring that local government fully embraces – and is recognised for – its role as a key delivery partner for the Games.
2. This paper has been informed by the LGA 2012 Games Officer Focus Group, which includes membership from the five councils recently awarded beacon status in the Olympic and Paralympic legacy theme (Dorset, Essex, Greenwich, Hackney and Kent).

### **Changes to the regional 2012 structure**

3. The Nations and Regions Group (NRG) was set up by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and Government to help deliver regional and local legacies across the UK. There are 12 partnerships – one in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and each of the English regions – which bring together representatives from the public, private, and third sectors.
4. The LGA continues to work with NRG to strengthen local government engagement with the regional 2012 partnerships, which is working better in some regions than others. Government is currently reviewing the effectiveness of NRG arrangements and GOE will update members on the options being considered. The review is an opportunity for us to continue to position local government, not regional bodies, as the main deliverer of legacy.
5. Members are asked to agree that:
  - We work with GOE to ensure that local government is more visible in legacy arrangements and local areas are given the freedom to shape a legacy that reflects the aspirations of local people.
  - We work with GOE to ensure that any changes to NRG take into account the need to work better with smaller local authorities.

### **UK Wide Operations**

6. Officials from GOE will update members on “UK wide operations”, which is the work required, outside official venues, to host an inspirational, safe and inclusive Games. Nearly all local authorities will be involved in some way or another in the planning of UK wide operations in the run-up to the Games. UK wide operations covers issues such as the impact of the Games on waste management, transport, licensing, planning, the ‘look’ of streets during the

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Games, extra volunteers needed, and the welcome given to, and services required by, the media, national Olympic and Paralympic committees and other bodies.

7. This meeting is the start of a dialogue between GOE and the LGA on UK wide operations and we can use our 2012 networks to give councils a say on this emerging work.
8. The planning for city operations in London is already well underway. We have already emphasised to the GLA, who is leading the process in London, the importance of talking to local authorities outside London because they will be impacted by what happens in London, for example, commuters from Kent, Hertfordshire and Essex will still need to travel into London during the Games.
9. Members are asked to agree that we work with GOE to give the LGA's 2012 networks an opportunity to contribute to the development of UK wide operations.

## **City Volunteers**

10. As mentioned above, one aspect of UK Wide Operations is the need for an extra pool of volunteers, in addition to the LOCOG volunteers at venues, to help welcome visitors at key transport hubs. The Beijing Games demonstrated the positive role a wider pool of volunteers could play in hosting the Games, and we already know that the UK lags behind other countries in the welcome it provides to visitors.
11. A model for city volunteers is being developed for London. Government believes this model could potentially be rolled-out to other parts of the country, and we have asked the GLA to be consulted on the model in order to ensure it is applicable outside London.
12. Members are asked to agree that officers ask GOE to work with us to assess the feasibility of city volunteers for key transport hubs outside London, including the role of local authorities, training, uniform and the relationship to LOCOG volunteers.

## **Sporting Legacy**

13. The government's key legacy target is for 2 million more people to be active by 2013 (1 million more people participating in sport and 1 million more people participating in physical activity.) Councils through national indicator 8 are leading the delivery on this target. This needs to be backed-up by national leadership on using the 2012 Games to inspire additional participation across ages and abilities.

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14. Members are asked to agree that we work with GOE to ensure that local government's actions to increase participation on the back of the Games are stitched into a coherent national strategy that brings together the work of NRG and national government.

## **Resilience**

15. One of the major impacts of hosting the Games will be the additional resilience planning councils will need to undertake, especially if they are hosting a venue or pre-games training camp. The Home Office's Olympic Security Directorate has set up a number of project boards to oversee the national coordination of 2012 resilience. The LGA has appointed Joe Duckworth, Chief Executive of Newham, to represent all local government on these boards. The LGA, working with London Councils and LFEPA, has secured extra funding from the Home Office for two posts to support local authority engagement with 2012 resilience. The posts will sit in LFEPA but be a resource for all councils, not just London boroughs.
16. Members are asked to note our on-going work on 2012 resilience.

## **Community Cohesion**

17. Local authorities don't just want to plan for the resilience challenges posed by the 2012 Games, but want to use the Games as a catalyst to improve community cohesion. We know this is something GOE wants to explore with us and we would welcome joint working to take this forward.
18. Members are asked to agree that we work with GOE to encourage more councils to think about how the Games could boost achievement against community cohesion targets in local area agreements, for example, by using the beacon councils to help share good practice, and raising awareness about the Games amongst councillors responsible for community cohesion.

## **Financial Implications**

19. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Implications for Wales**

20. Officers will discuss issues of common interest with the WLGA as appropriate.

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