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Torch relay

Purpose of report.

For information and discussion.

Summary

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has confirmed the locations for the 70 overnight stops and the full route will be announced later this year. The Torch relay probably offers the most visible way for councils to engage their communities with the Games - approximately 95% of the population will be within one hour's travel time from the Torch.

Ken Kelling, Torch Relay Advance Manager, and Sarah Bartholomew, Government Relations Executive, from LOCOG will be present to provide an update on the Torch relay and answer any questions arising.

Recommendation

Members are asked to discuss the key issues raised in this report and to use them to inform the discussion with LOCOG.

Action

To be taken forward by officers as directed by Members.

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The Torch Relay route and stopovers

1. There can be no more iconic images representing the Olympic and Paralympic Games than the person running with the Torch, either through communities or in the athletics stadium. LOCOG have said that approximately 95% of the population will be within one hour's travel time of the Torch relay.
2. From the start point of the Olympic Torch Relay at Land's end on 19 May 2012, an average of 110 people a day will take centre stage by carrying the Olympic Flame during its 70 day journey towards the Olympic Stadium in London on 27 July 2012.
3. The Olympic Flame will travel for approximately 12 hours each day, concluding on 66 of the 70 days with an exciting early evening celebration event that will enable local people each evening to enjoy entertainment staged by LOCOG and the three Presenting Partners¹, with the support of the host council for the stopovers announced to date. (**attached at Annex 1.**) Each celebration event will differ with locally programmed content on the stage.
4. LOCOG have concluded their search for 2,012 inspirational people who will become the Torchbearers. The appointments will ensure that approximately half of those selected will be aged between 12 and 24 years of age and who are considered as leading lights in their communities.
5. The Paralympic Torch Relay will take place in August 2012 and be smaller in its scale. Further details will be announced later on this year.

The role of local government in the Torch relay

6. The Torch relay offers councils a unique opportunity to create enthusiasm amongst their local populations towards being part of the 2012 Games. Councils are key to supporting LOCOG with route planning, managing the two tier dynamic and developing community engagement along the route.
7. LOCOG has consulted and involved local government in a number of different ways. For example, Torch relay advisory groups have been established in each region and these have included local government representation (although the LG Group highlighted the challenges with the narrow representation in some regions). LOCOG has also organised a series of roadshows across the country

¹ Coca-Cola, Lloyds and Samsung.

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to inform councils of the route announced to date and what activities are planned at the stopovers. These were very positively received, although councils said they wanted the information earlier in the planning process. The LG Group has represented councils' interests nationally through attendance at the Nations and Regions Group meetings and regular meetings between CTS Lead Members, LOCOG and Nations and Regions.

8. The LG Group has also communicated key information to all councils via our monthly e-bulletin.
9. Local government is essential in ensuring that the Torch relay is a success. Councils have vast experience of hosting large-scale events and have well-established partnerships with the other local agencies who will be critical to the organisational and security arrangements. They also know their local area's transport system best and the needs of their businesses and communities.
10. Councils have to agree to the Torch passing through their communities and are required to sign an agreement with LOCOG – this process is underway for councils hosting overnight stops. Councils who are hosting an overnight stop will be responsible for health and safety, traffic management, helping to identify the locations for short stops along the route, stewarding and cleansing and waste management, plus any associated local activity. This is also where the costs will fall. LOCOG's responsibilities include identifying a single point of contact for the council, preparing detailed operational guidance for the Relay, making all logistical arrangements for LOCOG personnel and working with the Metropolitan Police to provide security for the convoy. LOCOG will also provide the artists, staging and content for evening celebrations, where the local area wants this.

Key issues

11. Whilst most councils are very positive about the Torch Relay and are committed to realising the benefits, and also appreciate LOCOG's own objectives and sensitivities around the route, some have a number of concerns. Members may wish to explore these with LOCOG:
 - 11.1 **Local intelligence** – there is a concern in some parts of the country that LOCOG is not making the most of councils' valuable local intelligence when planning the detail of the route. In particular, it is essential that LOCOG consults with county and district councils in two-tier areas.
 - 11.2 **Timing for making the route public** - LOCOG plans to make the rest of the route public towards the end of this year. The LG Group has consistently emphasised the importance of making the route public as soon as possible to aid local planning and to help secure the buy-in of

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communities and businesses. A further consequence of the staggered approach to announcements is that some local areas who did not feature in the first announcement assumed they were not on the route, which is not always the case;

- 11.3 **The cost to councils** - in the current climate councils need to be absolutely clear about how much hosting the Torch Relay will cost them. In particular there is uncertainty about securing legislative enforcement for road closures, which can result in significant costs to councils;
- 11.4 **Overall liability** – councils would welcome further clarification from LOCOG on this point.

Conclusion and Next Steps

12. Members may like to explore the issues raised in this report with LOCOG. The LG Group is committed to continuing to support LOCOG and councils to ensure that the Torch Relay is a great success.

Financial Implications

13. None.

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Annex 1

Olympic Torch relay stopovers

<p>East Midlands</p> <p>Derby (29 June) Leicester (2 July) Lincoln (27 June) Nottingham (28 June)</p>	<p>East of England</p> <p>Cambridge (7 July) Chelmsford (6 July) Ipswich (5 July) Luton (8 July) Norwich (4 July) Peterborough (3 July)</p>
<p>London</p> <p>Bexley (22 July) Ealing (24 July) Haringey (25 July) Waltham Forest (21 July) Wandsworth (23 July) Westminster (26 July)</p>	<p>Northern Ireland</p> <p>Belfast (6 June) Derry~Londonderry (4 June) Newry (5 June) Portrush (3 June)</p>
<p>North East</p> <p>Alnwick (14 June) Durham (16 June) Middlesbrough (17 June) Newcastle (15 June)</p>	<p>North West</p> <p>Blackpool (22 June) Bolton (31 May) Bowness-on-Windermere (21 June) Carlisle (20 Jun) Chester (29 May) Isle of Man (2 June) Liverpool (1 June) Manchester (23 June)</p>
<p>Scotland</p> <p>Aberdeen (11 June) Dundee (12 June) Edinburgh (13 June) Glasgow (8 June) Inverness (9 June)</p>	<p>South East</p> <p>Brighton & Hove (16 July) Dover (18 July) Guernsey (15 July) Guildford (20 July) Jersey (15 July) Hastings (17 July) Maidstone (19 July) Oxford (9 July)</p>

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<p>Isle of Lewis (11 June) Orkney (10 June) Shetland (10 June)</p>	<p>Portsmouth (15 July) Reading (10 July) Southampton (14 July)</p>
<p>South West</p> <p>Bournemouth (13 July) Bristol (22 May) Cheltenham (23 May) Exeter (20 May) Land's End (19 May) Plymouth (19 May) Salisbury (11 July) Taunton (21 May) Weymouth & Portland (12 July)</p>	<p>Wales / Cymru</p> <p>Aberystwyth (27 May) Bangor (28 May) Cardiff (25 May) Swansea (26 May)</p>
<p>West Midlands</p> <p>Birmingham (30 June) Coventry (1 July) Stoke-on-Trent (30 May) Worcester (24 May)</p>	<p>Yorkshire and Humber</p> <p>Cleethorpes (26 June) Hull (18 June) Leeds (24 June) Sheffield (25 June) York (19 June)</p>