

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper updates the CTS Board on the LGA's 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games task and finish group, set up by the LGA Executive to ensure that the LGA provides a coherent offer to councils in the run-up to the Games.

The task and finish group is meeting before the CTS Board so the chair of the Board will update Members on latest developments.

Recommendation

Members are asked to comment on the issues raised in the report and the Chair's update, and to highlight any other issues or concerns.

Action

To be taken forward by officers as directed by Members.

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2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group

Background

1. A 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games task and finish group has been set up by the LGA Executive to provide a 'check and challenge' to LGA Programme Boards in order to ensure that the LGA provides a coherent offer to councils in the run-up to the Games. The Culture Tourism and Sport Board will continue to have policy oversight, including the legacy (including community sports participation and tourism) and on aspects such as the torch relay, promoting the UK wide calendar of events and encouraging councils and communities to get involved in the Games.
2. The task and finish group has ten members drawn from the membership of LGA Programme Boards, including three members from CTS, two members from Children and Young People Board and one each from the Economy and Transport, Safer and Stronger Communities, Workforce and Environment and Housing Boards. The group is chaired by Cllr Stephen Castle (Con). The deputy chairs are Cllr Chris White (Lib Dem) and Cllr Simon Henig (Lab) and Cllr Apu Bagchi (Ind).
3. The objectives for the work of the task and finish group are as follows:
 - 3.1 To support councils to play their part in hosting an exciting and safe 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games that delivers wider benefits for the whole country
 - 3.2 To ensure that links with all relevant services are identified
 - 3.3 To ensure that the role of councils in delivering a successful Games is understood by key stakeholders
 - 3.4 To ensure that councils have the latest information and share experience and knowledge of local operational issues.
 - 3.5 To make recommendations regarding learning and legacy.
4. The task group wants to encourage each Programme Board to consider what activities are already underway or remain to be addressed to support councils in the period before and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. London Councils will continue to lead on issues that affect London Boroughs but there is a shared interest in pursuing concerns about operational issues that have an impact not only in councils in London but on councils bordering outer London and elsewhere.

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5. The Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer will be the largest sports event in the world and like any large event, the Games will bring with them certain challenges. While the impact will be greatest during the Olympic Games (27 July – 12 August) and Paralympic Games (29 August – 9 September), there may also be some impact at other times during this period. The biggest impact of the Games will be felt in and around competition venues and across central London, where Games competitions, Live Sites and planned parallel events will affect the surrounding areas. There are 37 competition venues across the country, of which 27 are in London.
6. There will be a wide range of Games-related activity occurring across the UK during 2012, including Olympic Torch Relay events and overnight stops, Pre-Games Training Camps, Live Sites or other cultural events. Significant Games activity is taking place in Weymouth and Portland, Dorset; Eton Dorney, Buckinghamshire; Broxbourne, Hertfordshire; and Hadleigh Farm, Essex. The Football competition is taking place at stadia in Cardiff, Coventry, Glasgow, Manchester and Newcastle, as well as London.
7. The task group had its first meeting on 15 December 2011 and discussed key operational issues which will be standing items on its agenda, including emergency planning, transport and communications and agreed a work programme for the months ahead. Cllr Chris White introduced a report to update the task group on work on the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay, highlighting the issue of associated road closures and the importance of proper consultation with local authorities.
8. A table of LGA programme boards' activity is attached at **Appendix A**.

Emergency Planning and Resilience

9. A significant amount has already been done to support emergency planning activities in the run up to the Games, which has been overseen jointly by the Culture Tourism and Sport Programme Board and the Safer and Stronger Communities Programme Board. The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme has been established which is funded by the Home Office, backed by the LGA and London Councils and hosted by the London Fire Brigade.
10. This Programme is also supporting the national representation of local government during the Games, for example in the Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms (COBR) Olympic Coordination Group (OCG). This builds upon existing working as the LGA routinely attends COBR when relevant issues arise, but reinforces the current arrangements by providing continuous support to the National Representative for Local Government (either a Member or a Chief Executive, depending on the nature of the meeting being convened). Cllr

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Stephen Castle represented the LGA at COBR at a national exercise held in December 2011 and demonstrated that councils have much to contribute to the success of the Games in 2012. Cllr Chris White will represent the LGA at the next exercise which is due to be held in the Spring which will look at a significant civil contingencies scenario.

Transport

11. Transport is considered one of the biggest risks to the smooth running of the Games. Transport issues will be the main item for discussion at the next meeting of the task and finish group on the morning of 18 January 2012, the same day as the Culture Tourism and Sport Programme Board meeting. Nick Lester, Corporate Director at London Councils will be making a presentation.

Financial Implications

12. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task Group can be taken forward within existing resources.