

## **142 days to go: Countdown to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

The CTS Board will receive a presentation from Councillor Stephen Castle, Chair of the LGA's 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group.

This paper updates the Board on the 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.

### **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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## **142 days to go: Countdown to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

### **Background**

1. At the last meeting of the Board in January, Members had a report on the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group, which has been set up by the LGA Executive to make sure that the LGA is supporting councils to play their part in hosting a successful Games this summer. The report set out how the Task Group was working with the Culture Tourism and Sport Board and the other Boards to ensure that the LGA provides a coherent offer to councils in the run-up to the Games. The key role of the task group is to make sure that the role of councils in delivering a successful Games is understood by key stakeholders and that councils have the latest information and share experience and knowledge of local operational issues. The CTS Board continues to have policy oversight, including the legacy (e.g. community sports participation and tourism) promoting the UK wide calendar of events and encouraging councils and communities to become involved in the Games.

### **Transport**

2. Transport and the Games was the main item for discussion at the second meeting of the Task Group on 18 January. Members had a presentation from London Councils' corporate director, Nick Lester, who set out some of the key transport issues. Transport is an absolute fundamental to making the Olympic Games a success. The biggest impact of the Games will be felt across London and around competition venues, where Games competitions and planned parallel events will affect the surrounding areas. Competition venues are spread across the UK - with sailing in Weymouth and Portland, rowing in Eton Dorney; canoe slalom in Hertfordshire, mountain biking in Essex and paralympic road cycling at Brands Hatch. The football competition is taking place in Cardiff, Coventry, Glasgow, Manchester and Newcastle, as well as London.
3. With 10.8 million ticketholders (8.8 million Olympic, 2 million Paralympic) travelling to Games events, there will be a significant impact on roads and rail services. There will also be a wide range of Games-related activity across the UK during 2012 including Olympic Torch Relay events, Live Sites and other cultural events. Around 80 per cent of spectators attending events in Greater London will travel by rail (including the London Underground and Docklands Light Railway), placing extra demand on an already very busy network. 800,000 ticketed spectators are expected to use public transport on the busiest day. There will be significant capacity issues for public transport operators, particularly in outer London and surrounding areas which will be used as transport hubs and

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there is likely to be a big impact on the travelling public. This could also have major implications for councils, for example in addressing any resulting parking issues.

4. The Task Group discussed the likelihood that day-time freight deliveries to London during Games time would be restricted, particularly near venues and on the Olympic Route Network. This could have a potential impact on businesses anywhere in the UK that do business and make deliveries in London. The importance of getting the message across to business is crucial and the Task Group recommended that this issue should be discussed at the next meeting of the LGA Economy and Transport Board. Since the Task Group met, officers who support the Economy and Transport Board have been working with contacts at the British Chambers of Commerce to get the message out to local businesses wherever they are located.

**Workforce guidance**

5. The Task Group also discussed LGA workforce guidance for councils for local government employees and a checklist that had been drawn up by London Councils. The guidance and checklist include a range of issues for councils to consider, including planning travel to work, annual leave, volunteering and business continuity plans to sustain priority services during Games time. The guidance and checklist have now been endorsed by LGA Workforce Board and published on the LGA website. The Task Group suggested that this guidance would also be useful for businesses and a version of the guidance has been tailored for a business audience and this has also been distributed through the British Chamber of Commerce.
6. The LGA Workforce and Community Wellbeing Boards are also spearheading a 'Get Fit for the Olympics' initiative for local government employees on getting fit and increasing activity as part of the build-up to the 2012 Games and beyond. The resource is web-based and will provide tips for a healthy lifestyle which in turn should improve employee well-being and engagement. Those who log onto the site every month will benefit from updated fitness tips and will be able to link into the NHS Active site in order to participate in team events and promote public sector health. The NHS has set a challenge to increase physical activity amongst its staff.
7. A table of LGA Boards' activity is attached at **Appendix A**.

**Policing and Security**

8. The main item for discussion at the Task Group meeting on 6 March, just before the CTS Board meeting, is Policing and Security. The Task Group will be having a presentation from a member of the ACPO/MPS Olympic and Paralympic

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Policing Co-ordination team delivering the safety and security of the Games, which will be one of the biggest security challenges the UK has ever faced and some areas, particularly London, will need more police officers than usual. This may mean that police from around the country will need to be deployed to London and to other locations hosting Olympic and Paralympic venues. Members will discuss the plans for maintaining policing throughout the country during the summer of 2012.

**Emergency Planning and Resilience**

9. The Task Group will also be receiving an update from The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme which is funded by the Home Office, supported by the LGA and London Councils and hosted by the London Fire Brigade. The programme is assisting local authorities to make sure that they have resilience and security arrangements in place for competition venues, the Torch Relay and other events. The programme will also support the national representation of local government in forthcoming national exercises and during Games time.

**Financial Implications**

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

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