

11 April 2008

London Olympic Planning – LFEPA paper

Introduction & Background

- 1. The Fire & Rescue Service's work in planning for and responding to the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympics has been underway now for two years, and will continue for the next four years. The work itself will coordinate the London and national Fire & Rescue Service response, both operationally (including safety, security and resilience issues) and from a fire safety perspective with the design and development of the Olympic venues, the running of events in 2012 and the longer term legacy issues.*
- 2. This work involves the provision of legislative advice and guidance through the design and construction phases of the Olympic developments, contingency planning for all phases of the project and providing an operational response and operational event plans for the duration of the Olympic Games and Paralympics. This is both within the London area but also includes co-ordination of the nine other UK Fire & Rescue Services hosting Olympic venues to ensure a commonality of approach to all Olympic issues both within the Service and with partner agencies.*
- 3. FRS officers have been embedded within the Olympic Delivery Authority Design Team to advise on the fire engineering and fire safety aspects of the Olympic Park development, and within the Metropolitan Police Service led multi-agency Olympic Security Directorate (OSD), to ensure that consequence management planning from a Fire Service perspective is a major consideration alongside the Olympic security issues.*
- 4. This early close involvement has been in place since 2006 to allow time for the necessary pre-planning and ensure that the Fire & Rescue Services involved are fully engaged at the planning assumption stage to consider the wider issues that may affect the UK Fire Service in the development and implementation of the 2012 Olympics. This approach is in line with lessons learned from the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and the Manchester and Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2002 and 2006, in which the need to start planning early and to have sufficient resources in place to facilitate this, were identified as critical factors.*
- 5. The FRS is also fully involved in the governance of the overall multi agency Olympic Project with representation on the Olympic Safety, Security and Resilience Strategic Committee (OSSRSC).*
- 6. Despite extensive experience in dealing with large scale events in both London and elsewhere in the UK, notably the Commonwealth Games held in Manchester, the Olympic Games and Paralympics 2012 are on a completely different scale and complexity to anything previously experienced. The Olympics is the world's biggest sporting event and will involve 318 days of sporting competition at thirty three venues nationally spread across 26 sports compressed into a 16 day period. Also, following ten days later comes the Paralympics which is the third biggest sporting event in the world with 133 days of competition across 20 sports compacted into an 11 day period.*
- 7. The Olympic Games period as defined from a security perspective will run for approximately 60 days. Within this time the population will increase significantly. There*

will be 77,000 members of the Olympic family visiting, including heads of state, royalty and various dignitaries from the competing 208 nations, and 800,000 people per day will attend the Olympic Park in various sessions as well as those attending the other venues. The Olympics attracts enormous media coverage and will bring with it an unprecedented level of scrutiny of the activities in and around the Olympics and the organisations involved.

UK Fire and Rescue Service Coordination

8. *The London Fire Brigade (LFB) has taken the lead on coordination of the nine other UK Fire & Rescue Services (FRS) hosting Olympic events. The aim of this approach is to provide a joined up methodology for Olympic planning issues, and encourage the sharing of information, development of common risk assessment and risk management methodologies to progress national planning issues around the Olympics and provide a consistent approach to the development of local and national plans.*
9. *There will be a number of unique challenges within the Olympic planning process which, together with the scale of the event, will set it apart from other work within the FRS. The aim of the FRS Olympics planning is to ensure that all FRS matters both locally and nationally are managed, co-ordinated and implemented to effectively balance the response to identified risk, within agreed timescales and budgets whilst still maintaining normal service delivery to the communities we serve.*
10. *The 2012 Olympics will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the professionalism of the FRS as a whole through its full engagement and involvement in the diverse, multi functional, international environment necessary to plan and facilitate the delivery of the Games. Whilst accepting that event contingency planning is a well practised function within the service, the Olympics will bring a whole host of separate and very complex issues that make it different to the provision of normal service delivery.*
11. *The primary aim of the FRS Olympics project is the provision of a safe Olympic Games and Paralympics through to 2012. This will be achieved by:-*
 - *The implementation of regulatory fire safety and appropriate fire engineering measures in the development of all Olympic venues*
 - *A co-ordinated community safety programme to reflect the numbers and diversity of the population growth and the consequent risk for the Olympic period.*
 - *The delivery of a planned response to manage safety and risk at all venues throughout the development and operational phases of the project.*
12. *Significant work is currently being progressed both in London and elsewhere in support of these aims*

Funding

13. *All participating agencies have been instructed to discuss funding arrangements relating to work for the Olympics with their individual Government departments. Therefore the provision of funding for the FRS to carry out necessary additional work will need to be agreed with CLG. A number of discussions have taken place with CLG on this issue with LFB representing the wider service. These discussions have centred around the key issue of what is being called 'Olympic additionality' i.e. the difference between what we do now and are funded for and what additional requirement and therefore funding, is imposed by the Olympics*

14. *As a result of these discussions bids have now been put to CLG by all the participating Fire and Rescue services. London Fire Brigade officers continue to have discussions with CLG in relation to these bids. At the date of writing (4th April 2008) we are still awaiting confirmation from CLG with regard to the funding that will be made available. A further oral update will be supplied at the LGA Fire Services Forum on 11th April 2008.*