

**Item 3**

**Olympics Resilience**

**Purpose of report**

For information

**Summary**

This report outlines the support being provided to councils to assist them in their emergency planning preparations for the London Olympics.

**Recommendation(s)**

Members are invited to note the work of the National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme.

**Action**

LG Group officers to incorporate members' comments into any further work on Olympic resilience planning.

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## **Olympics Resilience**

### **Background**

1. The summer of 2012 presents an unprecedented challenge for public services in the UK. The particular challenge for local authority emergency planners is to ensure that their authorities can still deliver their statutory and regulatory responsibilities under legislation such as the Civil Contingencies Act (2004), despite the additional burdens.

### **The Olympic Safety and Security Programme**

2. The scale, complexity and duration of events in 2012 and the consequences of the crowds and attention which they generate is significantly different to the usual 'context' in which public services are delivered.
3. The need to deliver Games which are both safe and secure led to the formation of the Olympic Safety and Security Programme, coordinated by the Olympic Security Directorate (OSD). The OSD forms part of the Home Office's Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) and in which local government is a key stakeholder.
4. The safety and security work is fully integrated with that of City and UK-wide Operations which are working to deliver the routine (as opposed to crisis) elements of planning as well as that of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG).
5. The objectives for the local authority element of the programme include:
  - 5.1 Ensuring that the local government family is represented in the planning process and strategic support is provided to the lead chief executive on all local authority aspects of resilience and security.
  - 5.2 Ensure local authorities are kept informed of all relevant developments relating to resilience and associated issues.
  - 5.3 Ensure local authorities are aware of what is expected of them
  - 5.4 Support a coordinated consistent approach from local government to Games-Time coordination and information sharing.
  - 5.5 Provide assurance to decision makers, the Olympic Safety and Security Programme and government of councils' emergency preparedness.
  - 5.6 Securing a lasting legacy for local government resilience and security activities.

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**Risk**

6. The work of the Olympic Safety and Security Programme is guided by the Olympic Safety and Security Strategic Risk Assessment which complements existing national and local assessments (such as Community Risk Registers) and covers the main areas of risk to venues and events:
  - 6.1 Serious Crime (including cyber-crime)
  - 6.2 Public Disorder
  - 6.3 Natural Hazards
  - 6.4 Terrorism

**Planning**

7. The approach adopted by government and responders to manage these risks is based firmly on existing mechanisms for resilience planning. As such, the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) has been put at the heart of planning through the Cabinet Office-led Olympic Resilience Project which aims to *“ensure comprehensive and validated plans for responding to the potential wider consequences of the risks to the safety and security of the Olympic and Paralympic Games are in place and fit for purpose”*.
8. Two broad types of planning are being undertaken in host-areas to deliver this aim; site-specific planning on the one hand, and generic capabilities on the other. With a few notable exceptions (including flooding and pandemic influenza), the focus of the work is on generating generic capabilities, arrangements which are applicable to a range of scenarios. These capabilities usually include arrangements for mass fatalities, mass casualties, evacuation, debris clearance etc and are part of an approach where consequence is usually of greater concern than the cause.
9. Site-specific plans are only developed when a location is judged to be of particular import, complexity or vulnerability that it requires its own set of pre-defined arrangements. Such contingency and emergency plans are ordinarily produced for most large sporting and public events and the same approach has been adopted for 2012, one which is centred on location-specific Safety Advisory Groups, usually chaired by the local authority or the event organiser, in this case LOCOG.

**The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme**

10. In order to support the emergency planning activities of all councils the National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme has been established.

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11. The Programme is funded by the Home Office, backed by the Local Government Association and London Councils and hosted by the London Fire Brigade. The Programme Team work to support the Lead Chief Executive for Olympic Resilience and Security, Mary Ney (Chief Executive, LB Greenwich) to deliver the Programme, the aim of which is:

*To support, enable and inform the work of local authorities in discharging their statutory and regulatory responsibilities during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, promoting a coordinated and consistent national approach.*

12. While the programme's objectives have been set out in paragraph 5, much of its work is in producing guidance, information and advice as well as common products and templates to save duplication of effort. Formally announced in November 2010, the Programme has produced the following:

- 12.1 Multi-Agency Guidance for the Development of Contingency and Emergency Plans for Olympic and Paralympic Venues and Events
- 12.2 A Local Authority Testing and Exercising Handbook for Emergency Planners
- 12.3 A Concept of Operations for Local Authority Games-Time National Representation, Coordination and Information Management
- 12.4 A National Local Authority Olympic Resilience and Security Assurance Framework
- 12.5 An off-the shelf introductory training pack on the Games for staff

**Governance and engagement**

13. The governance of the Programme is shown at Annex A but in summary, it ties in members from both the LGA and London Councils through a Members Steering Group, and Chief Executive from host-areas through a Programme Board. Engagement with practitioners is driven by a Coordination Group upon which emergency planners from all host areas sit.

**Current status of the programme**

14. In the six months since it was announced, the Programme has quickly established itself with practitioners and its monthly newsletter is now sent to over a thousand local government officers across the UK. Engagement in the governance structures remains strong and feedback on the products is positive. Current priorities are:

- 14.1 Developing formalised arrangements to ensure that local government is fully represented by COBR if required during the Games;

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- 14.2 Communications with Chief Executives and Members in host and non-host authorities;
- 14.3 Shaping multi-agency testing and exercising opportunities to make sure that they deliver for local government;
- 14.4 Promoting the guidance produced by the Programme and responding to ad-hoc requests for information and advice.

**Conclusion**

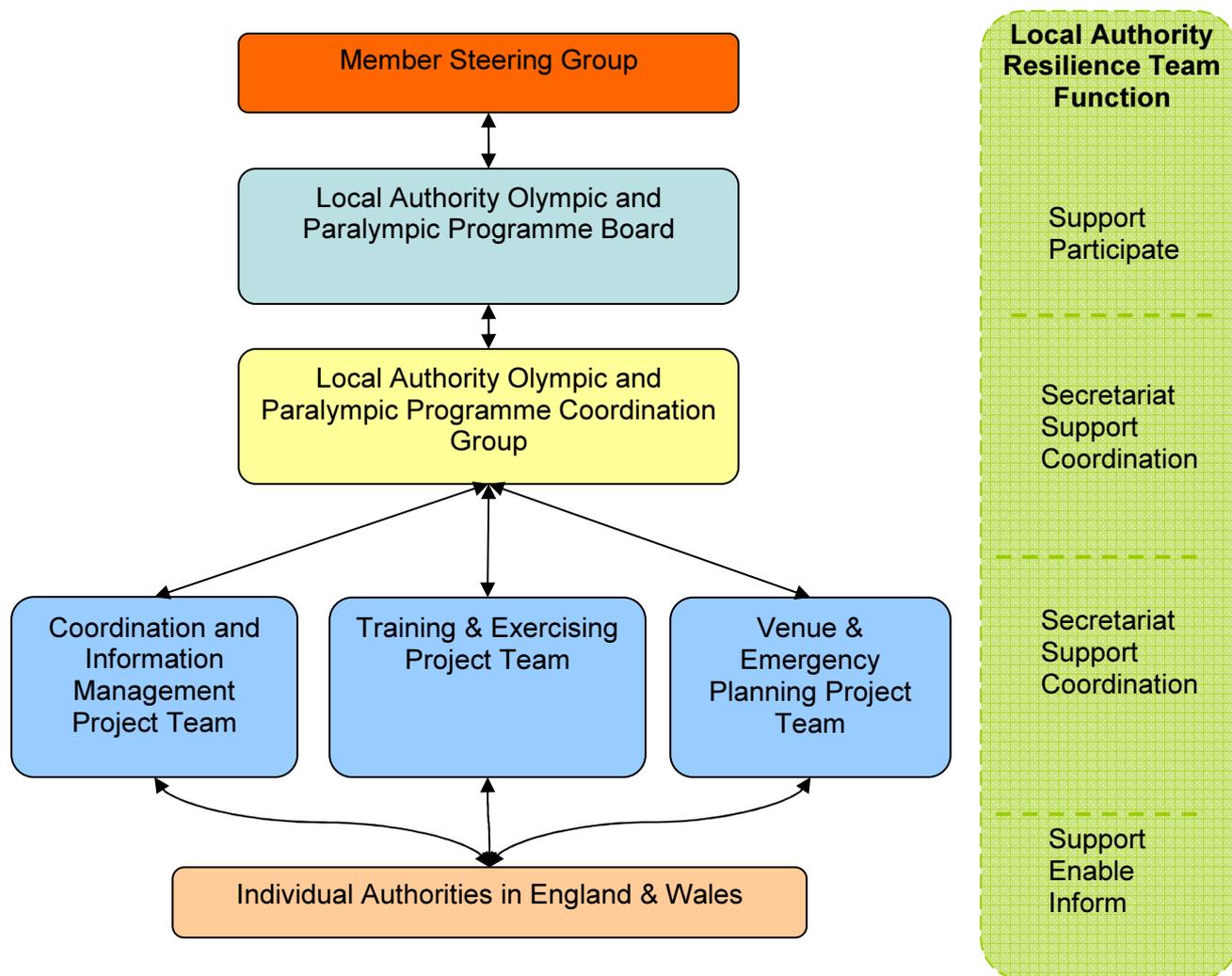
- 15. The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience Programme is designed to support, enable and inform the work local authorities so that they can meet their existing and Olympic-specific obligations, against the backdrop of a truly exceptional challenge. Working with government and host authorities, discussions continue to ensure that central government expectations are realistic given resource and time pressures and that Assurance processes remain proportionate and practical.

**Financial Implications**

- 16. There are no financial implications arising from this work for the Group.

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**Annex A – Governance Arrangements**



Group	Description and Meeting Frequency
Member Steering Group	Will meet quarterly to consider a report from the Programme Board and will ensure that the programme is progressing effectively. It will also provide updates to the established member structures of London Councils and the Local Government Association. The Group will be chaired alternately by LGA and London Councils.
Programme Board	Based on the membership of the London Local Authority Panel but including both the LGA and non-London host Chief Executives, the Programme Board will provide direct strategic direction and sign-off for the programme and will oversee the delivery of the programme's objectives. It will meet every 3-4 months and will be Chaired by the Lead Chief Executive for Resilience and Security.
Local Authority	<b>The Coordination Group will bring together all host authorities to oversee</b>

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Olympic Coordination Group	<b>the implementation of the programme across all relevant authorities. It will be chaired by the Lead Chief Executive or the Programme Manager.</b>
Project Team Meetings	<b>The 3 Project Teams involving all host authorities will meet monthly to develop their area of work. Meetings will be chaired and supported by the Programme Team.</b>