

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Social & Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

### **London 2012 Olympics Update**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1 Development work for the Olympic Torch Relay and a series of initiatives to celebrate the Olympic year have been underway for some time. This discussion paper is intended to bring members up to date on these plans.

#### **2. Summary of the Issue**

- 2.1 The London 2012 Olympics will take place between July 27<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>, with the Paralympics following from August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first time the Olympics has been held in the UK since 1948, and only the third time ever, and represents an opportunity to inspire current and future generations to take part in sport and physical activity.
- 2.2 Ahead of the Games, a 70 day Torch Relay will travel around the length and breadth of the UK, and will visit Cheltenham on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with a major celebration event being held at Cheltenham Racecourse.

#### **3. Summary of evidence/information**

##### **3.1 Torch Relay**

Planning for the Torch Relay has been underway for some time, both at a county level and local level, although it has been hampered by restrictions placed upon local authorities by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) in respect of not being able to announce detailed information to the general public. This has prevented us from being able to speak openly to organisations and community groups about celebrating the passing of the Flame. It is now understood that the street level detail and timings for the route are likely to be announced in late March.

- 3.2 LOCOG announced publicly in November 2011, that on the afternoon of Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May the Olympic Torch Relay will travel from Swindon, via Cirencester, Stroud, Painswick, Brockworth and Shurdington before reaching Cheltenham, where it will eventually arrive at Cheltenham Racecourse for the culmination of the Evening Celebration stage show event, which runs from 5pm – 7.30pm. Throughout the entire section of its journey through Cheltenham the Torch will be carried on foot, by nominated Torchbearers who have been selected by LOCOG.

- 3.3** We are currently working closely with the Police, GCC and Gloucestershire Highways to develop a Transport Management Plan, which is likely to include a series of rolling road blocks, road closures and parking restrictions to enable to secure passing of the Torch Relay. Once the route is publicly announced and the Transport Management Plan is finalised, we will work closely with schools, businesses and media colleagues to ensure that the general public are given as much information as possible to help them plan ahead and to limit the inevitable disruption that individuals and services may face as the Torch arrives and passes.
- 3.4** It is also envisaged, and positively welcomed, that local community groups and geographical communities will wish to organise road side celebrations to mark the occasion as the Torch passes. Despite the restriction on releasing details we are already starting discussions with potential community groups to help build a picture of local activities that may be organised along the route, so that both CBC and the police can develop robust Event Management Plans and ensure the public safety of people lining the route. This safety planning process will be greatly aided once the restriction on sharing the detail of the route has been lifted.
- 3.5 Celebration Event – Cheltenham Racecourse**
- The Evening Celebration Event will feature a 2½ hour stage show provided by LOCOG which will feature entertainment acts provided by the 3 national sponsors Samsung, Lloyds TSB and Coca Cola who will supply a live music act. Based on information supplied by Coca Cola and LOCOG, and the operational plans being developed by Cheltenham racecourse, it is currently agreed with the police that the event will be non ticketed. The event must also be free of charge to attend.
- 3.6** Immediately before and after the LOCOG stage show, the event at Cheltenham Racecourse will include an extended event showcasing artistic talent, local performers and an interactive Sports Village. In its entirety the Racecourse event will therefore run from approximately 3pm to 9pm.
- 3.7** Invitations have been sent to each of Cheltenham’s twin towns across the world, inviting representatives from each town to visit Cheltenham to coincide with the Celebration Event. To date a number have already indicated a desire to attend, with two towns also planning to bring dance groups to perform at the evening event.
- 3.8 Other Related Development Initiatives**
- 3.9** The **Summer of Sport** programme will again run during the summer school holidays with an extended programme of coaching courses being delivered in conjunction with local clubs, and a series of informal Sport In The Park events taking place in communities across the Borough. The programme has been successfully recognised by the InspireMark scheme, which enables all related publicity materials to carry the Olympic logo.
- 3.10** In January the Sports Development Team organised a disability sports festival event at Leisure@, in conjunction with the **Cheltenham & District Sports Association for the Disabled** and a number of local sporting organisations. The event was well attended and received extensive media coverage. The C&DSAD organisation will now continue to oversee the running of a ten week programme of weekly sessions, and a further celebration event linked to the Paralympic games in August/September.

- 3.11** The Sports Development Team are working closely with the county sports partnership and the local School Sport network to support the **School Games** programme which is a national initiative that forms part of the governments Olympic Legacy programme. The culmination of the county programme will see a multi sport competitive sports festival take place from a number of venues on June 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 3.12 Gloucestershire NHS** have recently confirmed that match funding will again be provided to enable a small grants scheme to support a range of community projects. The NHS have stipulated that this years money should be focused on projects that help to deliver the Olympic Legacy of encouraging more people to lead healthy active lifestyles. Discussions are underway to develop the funding criteria and process.
- 3.13 Malawi Training Camp** – we are awaiting confirmation from the University of Gloucestershire regarding the arrival dates and specific training requirements of the Malawi athletes, but it is still envisaged that a number of athletes will be using local training facilities to prepare for the Games. A working group is looking at a number of ways to links the athletes in with local clubs, schools and community organisations to raise the profile of their stay, raise funding to support them, and to help build local links.

#### **4. Next Steps**

- 4.1** Significant work will continue to take place over the coming weeks and months with a wide range of partners including LOCOG, Police, Cheltenham Racecourse and local community groups to prepare for the Torch Relay celebrations. We will also work closely with the local media to prepare for the release of key information to support the planning processes.
- 4.2** The Sport, Play & Healthy Lifestyles Team will also continue to explore available opportunities to develop and support a wide range of local initiatives that seek to engage people in healthy active lifestyles, and make the most of the opportunity the Olympics present to encourage a more active and inclusive society.

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<b>Background Papers</b>	Social & Community O&S report, 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
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<b>Scrutiny Function</b>	Social & Community Overview & Scrutiny