

minutes



Meeting OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 11 June 2007 (commencing at 10.30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Yvonne Davidson (Chair)
Councillor Brian Wombwell (Vice-Chair)

M Brandon-Bravo
John Carter
Sybil Fielding
Keith Girling

A

Pat Lally
Lynn Sykes
The Hon Joan Taylor

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The appointment by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 May 2007 of Councillor Yvonne Davidson as Chair and Councillor Brian Wombwell as Vice Chair of the Select Committee was noted.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The membership of the Select Committee was noted.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lynn Sykes.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

SUPPORT FOR OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS - SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

Councillor Davidson welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Olympics and Paralympics Select Committee. Members were referred to the scoping report before them which set the scene for the scrutiny review. In addition, members had received a copy of a consultation document for the East Midlands Strategy which was aimed at maximising the benefits of the Games, upon which comments were being sought by 15th June 2007. Members were asked to consider any comments they wished to make as Tracy Croft, East Midlands Coordinator, was present at the meeting.

Councillor Davidson added that they may wish to agree any issues around the future work programme following the presentation that followed.

PRESENTATION BY TRACY CROFT, EAST MIDLANDS COORDINATOR FOR THE 2012 GAMES

Tracy Croft, East Midlands Coordinator for the 2012 Games and Simon Starr, Director for Sport Nottinghamshire had been invited to provide members with a scene setting presentation. The East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) had joined forces with Sport England to fund the coordinator post, which was responsible for ensuring that the region was best placed to benefit from and offer support to London 2012. Ms Croft gave some background information on the early development work that had taken place. Members were brought up to date with the current and planned work in support of the Olympics and Paralympics by the County Council and across the region as a whole. Members heard of the partnership work currently being undertaken in the County and about the eight key themes that had been determined by the outcomes from the "Towards 2012" event held in February 2006, which were being led by a number of organisations.

Simon Starr, Director for Sport Nottinghamshire said that work at the moment was mostly focused on the pre-games at the highest level. He explained that they were looking at providing a host of activities for Nottinghamshire that included looking at its own links and the production of a brochure. He also said that smaller countries would be looking to train here in the UK and that the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) would be giving grants. Simon referred to the process involved in identifying facilities for competing nations to train and prepare for the games. He explained that applications had been assessed by EMDA which had determined which best met the stringent criteria to host a training camp. The East Midlands final shortlist had been presented to London 2012 organisers who would continue their own assessment. This was expected to be completed by the end of January 2008. It was hoped to host at least five visiting teams or countries in the region. Councillor Girling asked if there was funding available to those whose facilities did not meet the criteria. Mr Starr said that this area of work had been looked into a while back now and that a seminar had taken place to ensure that consideration was given to those who were undergoing improvement work at the time.

Councillor Brandon Bravo asked about National Watersports Centre, Holme Pierrepont's position with regard to the Games, in light of its funding being withdrawn from Sport England. Mr Starr pointed out that discussions had re-opened regarding Holme Pierrepont since the appointment of Sport England's new Chairman. Mr Starr anticipated that it would go through as a major sports facility and be included in the final brochure. It was expected that LOCOG would circulate a brochure on those facilities that met with the criteria after the Beijing Games in 2008.

In response to a question, Mr Starr said that the vast majority of funding for the East Midlands would be in the form of revenue not capital and that this had been the case for some time. Members asked for information to be provided to a future meeting on the sources and distribution of funding for the Games.

Mr Starr referred to a big piece of work that was being led by the Nottinghamshire Steering Group based on raising the profile and benefits of volunteering in the East

Midlands. Councillor Taylor hoped that this would also include those who were no longer in employment. Councillor Brandon-Bravo asked about the role of volunteers. Although this was still in its infancy, Simon said that he suspected that the majority of volunteers would be required in London and that work would cover areas such as litter and car parking.

Work on the Tourism theme was being led by East Midlands Tourism (EMT) working closely with Destination Management Partnerships and other stakeholders at regional and sub-regional level. It aimed to build the regional tourism offer by developing closer links with sport and cultural events and take advantage of the raised profile of the UK that came with the Games. A vast majority of work had been done on getting information out and this was currently ongoing.

It was intended that work would commence on an action plan for the area once the national and regional strategies were in place. In terms of maximising the benefits to the people of Nottinghamshire, Mr Starr suggested ideas for member involvement. These included having a lead member and officer, senior members and officers getting people to sign up to it. The Select Committee asked for information to be provided on what other local authorities were doing.

In response to a question, Mr Starr explained that he was working on clubs and coaching across the County and said that there were potential athletes in the pipeline. He added that the local authority was usually the first place that Olympians come to for support. This was not happening at Paralympics level. It was felt important to ensure that they were included. Councillor Wombwell asked for a list of potential athletes to be provided.

It was agreed:-

- (1) That a senior person from Sport England be invited to attend a future meeting to talk about what their intentions were for Nottinghamshire's overall vision; the next meeting would concentrate on what Nottinghamshire County Council were doing/ planning in relation to the Games
- (2) That Tracy Croft, East Midlands Coordinator, report back to the Select Committee in the autumn on the findings of the East Midlands Strategy consultation results.
- (3) The Select Committee receive information at a later date on what other local authorities were doing in their role for the 2012 Games.
- (4) That an update also be provided on the work of the Nottinghamshire Steering Group.

The meeting closed at 12.05pm.

CHAIR

Ref: crime reduction/m_11 june07