

minutes



Meeting OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 17 September 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		Pat Lally
A	John Carter	A	Lynn Sykes
A	Sybil Fielding		The Hon Joan Taylor
A	Keith Girling		

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Chris Baron
Councillor Steve Carroll

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Carter and Sybil Fielding.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Martin Brandon-Bravo declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No. 4 – 2012 Olympics and Paralympics – Nottinghamshire's Contribution due to him being a Non Executive Member of the Amateur Rowing Association.

2012 OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS – NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S CONTRIBUTION

Mick Burrows, Strategic Director (Communities) and Steve Bradley, Head of Service, Sports, Arts and Tourism (Communities) gave a presentation to the Select Committee on the local perspective on the key outcomes around the 2012 Games. It was explained at the outset that underpinning all of this was the intention to ensure that Nottinghamshire accessed the benefits from the London Olympics and Paralympics and that the event left a legacy.

The Cabinet Members for Culture and Regeneration and Finance and Property had been invited to take part in the discussion.

Work was underway between Leaders of the District Councils to move forward with a vision and ambition for the future strategy. The 3 areas being looked at were Sporting Excellence, Richness of Cultural Heritage and Raising the Profile of Sporting Achievements. It was seen as a six year window of opportunity for Nottinghamshire to access the benefits, three years leading up to the event and the three years after. He referred to a Cultural Partnership Event that was being held on 24th September between the City and County to discuss the merits of forming a cultural partnership for the City and County. Stakeholders from across the cultural sector in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire would be attending with representation at executive and senior level from statutory, independent, business and voluntary organisations.

In terms of sport, Mr Bradley explained that the County Council had a grant aid programme for talented individuals which offered small scale financial support to one hundred individuals. The basic grant was up to £350 with an addition of £100 for athletes who were in the top 3 in their sport nationally. The budget had been steadily reduced over the last few years in response to budget pressures on the Council which had led to the policy being adapted. It was pointed out that most of the elite athletes who would participate in the 2012 Olympics were already in the system and were known to and supported by the relevant sporting organisations. There was a countywide initiative called FANS (Free Access to National Sports People) that allowed national athletes from either the City or County free access to training facilities in district owned sports centres.

In terms of the support for coaches, he said that there was insufficient investment into developing sports coaches in the County. He referred to the Notts Talented Coaches Programme, launched this year that was aimed at coaches identified by their national governing body as having potential to coach at a higher level. Given that it only funded and supported ten coaches for one year, increased future funding was needed to expand and improve the scheme.

Councillor Steve Carroll, Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration acknowledged that a lack of resources was a big issue. He also had concerns regarding school facilities and venues not being available for use and the challenging PFI contracts with schools. It was acknowledged that the use and cost of school facilities was an important area to be looked into. Councillor Brandon-Bravo commented that it was important to remove as many barriers as possible.

Councillor Baron, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property commented that grant aid had been given to those Olympians and Paralympians identified and that this must continue. It was suggested to seek to lure the National Team to Nottinghamshire and he referred to the recent positive developments concerning the future of the National Watersports Centre.

Councillor The Hon Joan Taylor commented on the challenge that lay ahead in terms of the limited resources available and said that in the unlikely event of resources being earmarked for the region it would be necessary to use other resources.

There was discussion around the marketing and branding of the Games. Councillor Carroll referred to the promotional opportunities to encourage people to come to Nottinghamshire and the need to get all Departments on board. It was explained that Experience Nottinghamshire had responsibility for encouraging tourism and that

the County Council will expect to see focus on key areas of the County. Councillor Baron said that grant aid must be given to any identified Olympians and Paralympians. He also said that it was important for the East Midlands to present a package with a view to drawing people out of London. It was noted that there were tight deadlines and criteria around local branding for the event.

In terms of the potential facilities identified in Nottinghamshire, it was pointed out that teams might want to use these camps in the years before the Games and that there was scope for negotiations with teams using the pre-training camps. It was noted that the County Council had no capital fund to support the development of community sports facilities, outside the joint-use resources.

Councillor Brandon-Bravo asked how the County might respond to an expression of interest at this moment in time. It was pointed out that a detailed assessment was carried out before a name went on the list of potential venues. This had just been offered for the Beijing Games. It was suggested that EMDA (East Midlands Development Agency) might be able to pursue the list of criteria.

Recruitment and maintaining volunteers was also an area that presented challenges for the County. The Council's arts and sports services currently headed a partnership bid for a development programme addressing volunteering for 14-19 year olds.

Mr Bradley referred to the very mixed dynamics between north and south of county and EMDA's position in relation to business support on a regional basis. The sub-regional review would give principal local authorities a clear responsibility in this regard.

It was concluded that there were a number of potential emergency planning issues both before and after the Games. The Olympics would assist in driving forward the Council's own agenda on the health and well-being of local people.

The meeting closed at 3.10pm.

CHAIR

Ref: Olympics/m_17 sept 07