

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny
Date:	22 nd November 2005
Subject:	Scrutiny and Preparing for the Olympics
Responsible Officer:	Director of People, Performance and Policy
Contact Officer:	Lynne McAdam, Scrutiny Service Manager
Portfolio Holders:	Strategic Overview and External Affairs Business Connections and Performance Planning, Development and Housing Education and Lifelong Learning
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

Section 1: Summary

This report summarises the potential opportunities that London's successful Olympic bid may deliver to Harrow residents and presents a number of options as to how Scrutiny might support the Council to deliver the best deal from the Olympics for local people.

Decision Required

Members are asked to:

- Note the potential benefits of the successful London Olympic bid.
- Request that the options report being considered by Cabinet in December is presented to the subsequent meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Request that any project plan for the implementation of the Council's Olympic objectives is considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis.
- Consider the proposals for supporting and monitoring the progress of the Council's preparation for the Olympics.
- Call for further reports in accordance with work programme/monitoring proposals.

Reason for report

To ensure that members are appraised of the benefits of London's successful bid to host the Olympics and that benefits for local people are maximised through the agreement of the use of targeted investigative, research and monitoring resources available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Benefits

A well prepared strategic approach to supporting and monitoring the Council's Olympic preparations will ensure that all opportunities to maximise the benefits for local people and local businesses are maximised. This is particularly crucial given the inevitable focus on the East of London as the major physical site for the Games. The objective challenge of O&S whether through regular progress reporting or through specifically targeted pieces of work, can only help to ensure the Council secures the best deal for local people.

Harrow residents will begin paying the precept to meet the cost of the Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2006. In these circumstances it is incumbent upon Overview and Scrutiny committee to ensure that the maximum benefit from this investment accrues to local people.

Cost of Proposals

The costs of any work resulting from the proposals in this report will be met from within existing resources

Risks

There are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Implications if recommendations rejected

If the Overview and Scrutiny committee decides against supporting and monitoring the Council's preparations for the Olympics, the Council may not maximise the opportunities for local people.

Section 2: Report

Brief History

The Context

On 6th July 2005 it was announced that London had successfully bid to host the Olympics and Paralympics Games, the greatest sporting and cultural event in the world, in 2012. This will see a huge social, environmental and physical transformation and regeneration of London. The Olympics and Paralympics Games will raise the profile of sport and leisure, inspire young people from all backgrounds and act as a catalyst for promoting healthy lifestyles across the borough.

The Council is in the process of developing long term plans to ensure that residents, especially young people and businesses in the borough are able to maximise the opportunities offered by the Olympics and Paralympics Games. A report outlining the Council's approach is currently being drafted and will be considered by Cabinet in December 2005. The Council's response will inevitably need to be seen in the context of

national, regional and local proposals and the report to Cabinet in December will discuss these proposals and the benefits that may accrue for Harrow in the context of the constraints of a development largely physically focused on East London.

In this context, in order to maximise benefits to West London, significant activity has been undertaken over the last 12 months including:

- Commissioning work detailing West London's offer to London 2012 and the benefits of being involved in the games;
- Development of a West London response to the London Assembly Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee which is already concerned to ensure that London firms will benefit from the London Olympics;
- Preparation of a business case for establishing a dedicated West London resource to ensure that all the West London boroughs benefit from the Games;
- Development of understanding as to the major work streams for securing the benefits set out in the initial West London document.

Potential areas of local opportunity for the Council to consider are expected to focus around the following:

- Adoption of a visiting team
- Community and volunteering activities
- Increased participation in sports
- Development of pre-Olympic training facilities
- Economic development opportunities
- Cultural and community cohesion opportunities
- Tourism opportunities
- Provision of accommodation
- Opportunities for young people

A conference to discuss these opportunities and a regional response to the Olympic challenge is planned for January 2006.

A Role for Scrutiny

There are a number of opportunities for the Overview and Scrutiny committee to contribute to Harrow's Olympic preparations and these are outlined at least in principle below. They will of course be dependent in the longer term on the specific proposals and associated project plan that is ultimately agreed by Cabinet.

Consideration of initial proposals paper as agreed by Cabinet – possibly in December

This paper will recommend the approach that the Council takes at a local level and how it will integrate Harrow's priorities with the wider regional and national priorities. The report may also recommend the appropriate local and regional structure that should be established. Scrutiny must have the opportunity to comment on this report to both challenge the proposals within it and to inform the committee's longer-term monitoring and support programme that is developed subsequently.

Ongoing monitoring of the development and delivery of the project

In the medium-term the Council will develop a project plan for the successful delivery of Harrow's involvement in the Olympics and Paralympics Games. This project plan will be the Council's long-term agenda for delivering the benefits from engagement with Olympics and Paralympics Games to local people. Again the Council will be offered increased confidence of the delivery of this agenda if it is regularly scrutinised and challenged via the Overview and Scrutiny committee. This has worked well with other long-term development projects such as the Business Transformation Partnership. Through ongoing monitoring scrutiny can also offer the Council further reassurance that any cross-cutting components of this inevitably diverse and complex programme do not fall between different departmental responsibilities.

Identification of discrete projects within the plan that would benefit from more detailed investigation

Scrutiny has developed a wealth of expertise and methodologies for investigating service performance. It is critical that the Council harnesses this expertise in order to secure maximum local benefits. The committee should work with appropriate officers to identify discrete pieces of work to be included in the Overview and Scrutiny committee's work programme during the life of the next administration. Committee may wish to include consideration of the impact of the Olympic Games as an additional criteria for inclusion of particular project in the scrutiny committees' work programmes.

The Overview and Scrutiny committee should also consider how and in what circumstances, if any, it might like to work on a sub regional basis if there are particular areas included in the Council's long-term project plan that extend beyond the immediate boundaries of Harrow.

Again the report to Cabinet and any associated work programme will identify potential opportunities for this project work and for inter-borough co-operation, though the committee may not wish to be restricted to this project plan.

Challenge to the London 2012 team

Either on an individual Harrow basis or with other boroughs in the West London Alliance, scrutiny Councillors may wish to invite London 2012 to appropriate sessions to challenge their proposals and to press the case for West London.

Ongoing monitoring of related project work – including the implementation of the recommendations from the Tourism and Parks reviews.

A number of reviews have been undertaken during recent years that may have an impact on the Council's preparations for the Olympics and Paralympics Games. Most recently these have been the Tourism and Parks reviews. The appropriate scrutiny sub committees (in this case Environment and Economy) should undertake ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of these reviews to ensure that all potential opportunities are being taken.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report is to place the issue of the Olympics and Paralympics Games on the agenda of Overview and Scrutiny committee and to open discussion at an early stage as to the contribution that the committee can make to the successful delivery of the games in Harrow. Further, more detailed reports will be submitted over the coming six months with the ultimate aim of ensuring the work programme of the scrutiny committees can deliver appropriate and constructive challenge to the Council's Olympic preparations.

Options considered

No relevant to this report.

Consultation

No consultation has been carried out in connection with this report. However consultation will be a central component of any work undertaken as a result of the report's recommendations being adopted.

Financial Implications

The costs of any work resulting from the proposals in this report will be met from within existing resources

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications in this report.

Equalities Impact

The critical challenge that scrutiny can bring to the Council's preparations for the Olympics can help ensure that benefits accruing from the Olympics are distributed equitably across the borough's population.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

None at this stage.

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

None