

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
Subject:	Harrow Olympics Task Force
Responsible Officer:	Executive Director (People First) and Director of Strategic Planning
Contact Officer:	Claire Codling
Portfolio Holder:	Education and Lifelong Learning
Key Decision:	Yes
Status:	Public

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

To approve the plans for establishing a Harrow Olympics Task Force.  
To decide how to nominate Members for the Harrow Olympics Task Force.

### **Reason for report**

Facilitate Cabinet input into the terms of reference and structure of the Harrow Olympics Task Force.

Working towards the 2012 Olympics will link with the following corporate priorities:

- Strengthening Harrow Communities
- Putting Harrow on the map

- Impacting through Harrow Partnerships
- Harrow – a true learning community

### **Benefits**

Establishing a clear structure, reporting lines, terms of reference for the group and at a later date, a plan, as to both how Harrow makes the most of the Olympic opportunity, locally and what Harrow is seeking to achieve from the Olympics will enable Harrow officers, members and partners to have a clear remit in taking forward this work, locally, sub-regionally and regionally.

### **Cost of Proposals**

Facilitating the Board will be absorbed within existing department costs. Further elements of the work programme will need to be returned to when West London and Harrow plans are further advanced

### **Risks**

1. Possible tensions between demands to support sub-regional activity in addition to developing Harrow wide activity
2. Increased demand for sporting facilities which may lead to:-
3. Raised expectations that the Olympics and Paralympics will bring additional funding to boroughs to upgrade existing sporting facilities and develop others. In reality funding will be limited and access to it highly competitive, this may mean that there are expectations that the Council identifies funding from its own resources for improvements.
4. Council tax payers will start paying the Olympic precept in April 2006, this will increase expectation that there should be tangible benefits materialising in Harrow.
5. Maintaining momentum and significant interest in the Games over the next six years will be difficult. It will be necessary to phase activity to take account of this issue

### **Implications if recommendations rejected**

Harrow residents and businesses don't have the opportunity to make the most of London 2012 Olympic Games or the spin off benefits in terms of sport, culture, volunteering, community cohesion, business development and tourism

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2.1 Brief History and purpose**

At the December 2005 Cabinet meeting a report was presented recommending that a Harrow Olympics Group should be set up. This short report provides more information on the structure, the terms of reference for the board and

suggestions for the range of partners to be asked to join the group and or the related working parties. The Portfolio Holder has asked that this information is brought back to Cabinet for formal approval, before partners are approached.

It is suggested that the group is called the Harrow Olympic<sup>1</sup> Task Force in the short term and has two working parties reporting to it. One focussing on Infrastructure and Support, the other on Delivery and Participation.

## **2.2 Terms of Reference**

### **Aim**

To use the Olympics and Paralympics to inspire young people, residents and businesses, using this as a vehicle to encourage greater participation in sport, culture, volunteering, community involvement, and provide opportunities for tourism and business development.

And also

To use interest in and involvement in the Olympics and Paralympics to bring about improvements to well-being, health, education and the quality of life for residents and businesses in Harrow

### **Purpose of the Task Force**

1. To act as the main forum in the borough of Harrow for planning on all Olympic related issues
2. To develop comprehensive and inclusive plans that enable the whole borough of Harrow to benefit from the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics initiatives in the years preceding the games and afterwards, as well as enjoying the Games and the Paralympics themselves.

### **Objectives**

To enable appropriate involvement of all the relevant voluntary, community, sports, business and statutory organisations, including schools and colleges in the borough.

To ensure that there is community ownership of and strong involvement in the Task Force, particularly by young people and sports organisations in the borough

To play a central role in providing strategic guidance to those involved in developing infrastructure and delivery, seeking synergy, avoiding duplication and co-ordinating activity

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<sup>1</sup> In the long term the use of the word Olympics is going to be heavily controlled by LOCOG- the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games. It is expected that only sponsor organizations will be entitled to use the name Olympics, so the name of the group will need to be adjusted accordingly.

To monitor progress of the 'plan' and resolve any implementation difficulties that arise

To lobby on behalf of Harrow for resources and opportunities to sub-regional, regional and Olympic organisations

To develop a phased plan, which takes forward the initial ideas presented in the December Cabinet report

To gain positive publicity for all related Olympic activity and campaigns taking place in the borough.

### **Work Programme**

This will initially be based on the areas mentioned in the December Cabinet report. It is expected that there will be preparatory work focussing on developing long term and short term plans involving:

- Looking into opportunities for Harrow to adopt a visiting team, building on Harrow schools, cultural and twinning links
- Encouraging Volunteering in the local area and later as part of the Olympics
- Encouraging sports participation for all working with the School Sports Partnerships and local sports organisations ensuring that activity also encompasses health improvement as well as targeted coaching and other activity for talented sports persons
- Identifying possible sports venues that can be used to provide a resource for possible training camp activity and encourage more participation in sport in the area
- Working with local businesses to ensure they are ready to be involved in Olympic supply chain and other initiatives
- Developing Harrow's tourism offer, particularly for the 'Family and Friends' market
- Working with young people to ensure they are involved in both the planning and implementation
- Identifying Harrow's cultural offer including building the capacity of local organisations to be involved in the Olympic and Paralympic cultural offer as well as local delivery in the years building up to the Games and the Games itself

### **Administration**

This will initially be undertaken by Strategic Planning. This will be reviewed at the end of 2006.

### **Membership**

Would be members of the Task Group will be formally approached by letter to identify what they can contribute to the Task Force.

Approaches will be made to:-

Sporting Partnerships and in particular Harrow Sports Council  
Educational Sector (including private, public, primary, secondary, tertiary and university, as well as the LSC)  
Business community, particularly BAME<sup>2</sup> businesses  
Representatives from umbrella community and disability organisations  
In addition there will be two Councillors nominated for each Working Party who will also attend the Task Force, as well as two young people representing the Young People's Forum  
**(see appendix 1 structure chart)**

The current officer group lead by the Executive Director for People First will act as a Shadow Task Force until the Task Force is fully established in Summer/Autumn 2006 when the chair will also be formally elected. Working Parties will involve appropriate directors, group managers and service managers and professional staff.

### **Accountability and Status**

The Harrow Olympic Task Force will advise Cabinet and not have any independent decision making powers. The Harrow Olympic Task Force will report progress directly to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. Once Cabinet has approved each report, it will be made available to Harrow Strategic Partnership Executive Board.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

Meetings will be a minimum of one a quarter. Working party meetings will be held as needed, but it is expected that these will become more frequent after the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

### **2.3 Consultation**

No consultation has yet been carried out. Ideas expressed are in outline form only. It will be important to use consultation to develop wider plans.

### **Financial Implications**

The cost of facilitating the Harrow Olympics Task Force will be contained within existing budgets. The costs of further proposals are not known at this stage but should become clearer as plans are advanced. These costs will form part of a further report to Cabinet for approval.

### **Legal Implications**

The status of the Harrow Olympics Task Force will be that of an advisory body making recommendations to Cabinet.

### **Equalities Impact**

All activity that results from the Harrow plans will contribute to equality and social inclusion targets.

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<sup>2</sup> Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic

### **Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations**

Improved sports provision and facilities provide diversion for youth.  
Sports activities and cultural events and exchanges will help to improve community cohesion.

### **Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents**

Appendix 1 Structure of Harrow Olympic Task Force

Appendix 2 Summary of West London Alliance Olympic activity Nov 2005 – March 2006

#### **Background Documents:**

Cabinet report December 2005

#### **West London and London 2012:**

Part 1 West London's offer to London 2012 to contribute to the bid and to the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London

Part 2 The benefits for West London of contributing to the bid and to holding the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8420 9399