

Title of Report:	Update on preparations for the Olympic Games
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	29 May 2012

Purpose of Report: To update the Commission on the preparations being made in West Berkshire to celebrate the Olympics.

Recommended Action: To note the report.

Health Scrutiny Panel Chairman	
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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting of 21 February 2012 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (OSMC) received a presentation from the Head of Cultural Services (David Appleton) on the preparations underway to celebrate the 2012 London Olympics. It was agreed that a further update be provided to the Commission in May 2012.
- 1.2 At the meeting of 29 May 2012 Chris Jones (Arts and Leisure Manager) will update the Commission on progress since February.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 21 February 2012

- 2.1 The minutes of the OSMC meeting of 21 February 2012 record that:

The Commission considered a report updating them on the preparations being made in West Berkshire to celebrate the Olympics. Further information was presented by David Appleton and Councillor Carol Jackson-Doege.

David Appleton explained to the Commission that some updates remain outstanding until further information is received from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). Councillor Carol Jackson-Doege informed the Commission of how the media was being utilised to inform the public of the upcoming activities in the area including several press releases, 9 radio interviews, and the use of Twitter. The 'Seeds of Inspiration' initiative had been launched within the last week; and on Saturday 11 February, Park Runs launched at Greenham Common. This resulted in 317 participants which had been recognised as the largest inaugural Park Run nationally. Councillor Carol Jackson-Doege went on to inform the Commission that information would be presented at the District Parish Conference.

David Appleton explained the Olympic Games timetable over the coming months and noted in particular that the Olympic torch route would be announced in March, and would be carried through West Berkshire on July 11 2012 prior to the games starting in July.

David Appleton informed the Commission that there were likely to be some local torchbearers, however they may not be able to carry the torch through their own communities. This would become clear once the route and timetable became available on 21 March 2012.

David Appleton went on to demonstrate the information available through the West Berkshire *Enjoy!* website (www.westberksenjoy.org.uk) to communities who might wish to organise their own celebratory events. Useful information such as how to organise a road closure, and how to obtain relevant licenses was available through these pages. There was also a news section to allow people to keep up to date with events, and a section to see what other organisations were doing to celebrate.

Councillor Tony Vickers asked what progress had been made in assessing the viability of a recognition event. David Appleton responded that although teams had not yet been selected for the Olympics and Paralympics, it would be expected that some athletes would be local. He also mentioned others involved in the Games

such as volunteers and torchbearers who could also be included in any recognition event. He informed the Commission that LOCOG were encouraging community involvement at all stages of the games.

Councillor Jeff Beck noted that David Appleton would soon be leaving the Council and thanked him for his contribution.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and that the Arts & Leisure Services Manager return to provide a further update in May 2012.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members of the Commission note the update and consider any further action as appropriate.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.