

**Committee:** COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 18 JANUARY 2007

**4**

**Title:** OLYMPIC TASK GROUP

**Author:** Gaynor Bradley, Leisure & Community  
Development Manager 01799 510348

Item for decision

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### Summary

1. This report seeks the establishment of an Olympic Task Group and for approval of the terms of reference. That Members approve:
  - a) the establishment of a councillor and officer Olympic Task Group
  - b) the draft terms of reference (attached at Appendix 1)

### Background Papers

2. Notes of an informal meeting with interested Members held on 15 November 2006.

### Impact

3.

Communication/Consultation	Members, officers local partners will need to be consulted and kept informed of progress.
Community Safety	None specifically relating to this report but future developments may have an impact and will be considered during planning process.
Equalities	None specifically relating to this report but future developments will have an impact and will be considered during planning process.
Finance	None specifically relating to this report but future developments will have an impact and will be considered during planning process.
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	Where power to make decisions is delegated to officers, whilst the officers may consult with members it is the officers who are responsible for the decision and they must exercise their judgement independently before deciding on a course of action.

Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

## Situation

4. An informal meeting has been held between councillors who expressed an interest in contributing towards establishing an action plan for developments in the run up to the Olympics. However, the Community Committee is requested to formally establish a Task Group comprising Members of this Committee. The purpose of the Task Group will be to consider and advise the Community Committee on matters relating to developments to maximise benefits from the Olympics for Uttlesford (see Appendix 1).
5. As a result of the Essex-wide work being undertaken it is likely that decisions may need to be taken within a fairly short timescale and the process may not comply with the committee cycle in Uttlesford. Therefore, it may be necessary for officers to take action should timescales dictate that decisions are taken outside of the Committee cycle.
  - a. For example, a key piece of work at the moment is for districts to decide if they wish to submit an application to be considered to host an Olympic or Paralympic preparation camp. The submission has to be made by 31 January 2006. Discussions are being undertaken with Leisure Connection Ltd, other partners and districts i.e. Brentwood and Harlow to establish how Uttlesford might best participate in the Olympics, following the outcome a decision will be required regarding making a submission.
  - b. However, Members recognise that the main involvement within this district is likely to be through encouraging support for young people's involvement, delivery of a cultural programme and, in particular, tourism development. Officers are, therefore, pursuing these areas and two key possibilities are currently being investigated:
    - i. development of a Cultural Festival in the district in 2008 to support the Beijing Olympics and allied to the Saffron Walden Museum's participation in a cultural touring exhibition around the County containing Chinese costumes, and
    - ii. the possibility of expanding existing school links with a Chinese twin town.

## Risk Analysis

6.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Task Group may wish to pursue actions that the majority of Councillors may not agree with.	Medium	High	That the Chief Executive be required to consult with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee (if possible) before exercising any delegated powers.

## **Olympics Planning Task Group Meeting**

### **Purpose/Terms of Reference**

To consider and, as appropriate, recommend to the Council action to be taken on potential opportunities and developments associated with the Olympics 2012 in order to maximise the benefit for the district of Uttlesford.

To act as ambassadors during the run up to the Olympics 2012 by

- ~ Enlisting support of members, local authorities and other agencies
- ~ Promoting the agreed project(s)
- ~ Providing advice and guidance
- ~ Ensuring appropriate related funding is identified.

To meet on an ad hoc basis, as required.

To review its Terms of Reference and membership on an annual basis.

The Task Group to comprise the appropriate number of councillors to ensure a political balance.