

**Olympic Working Group  
Council, February 15, 2007**

**Committee: COUNCIL**  
**Date: 15 FEBRUARY 2007**  
**Title: OLYMPIC WORKING GROUP**  
**Author: Gaynor Bradley, Leisure & Community  
Development Manager 01799 510348**

**Agenda Item**

**19**

Item for  
decision

---

**Summary**

1. This report seeks the establishment of an Olympic Working Group, for approval of the terms of reference and for approval, in principle, to the Essex Action Plan.

**Recommendations**

2. That members approve
  - a) the establishment of a councillor and officer Olympic Working Group
  - b) the draft terms of reference (attached at Appendix 1)
  - c) approval, in principle, of the Action Plan – Essex Legacy from the 2012 Games, subject to inclusion of the amendments made at the “Essex Ahead of the Games Conference” (Circulated separately to Members)

**Background Papers**

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

**Impact**

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	<b>Members, officers and local partners will need to be consulted and kept informed of progress.</b>
Community Safety	<b>None specifically relating to this report but future developments may have an impact and will be considered during planning process.</b>
Equalities	<b>None specifically relating to this report but future developments will have an impact and will be considered during planning process.</b>
Finance	<b>None specifically relating to this report but</b>

**Olympic Working Group  
Council, February 15, 2007**

	<b>future developments will have an impact and will be considered during planning process.</b>
Human Rights	<b>None</b>
Legal implications	<b>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.</b>
Sustainability	<b>Setting up a member and officer Olympic Working Group will enable issues to be addressed that affect the future sustainability of sports provision and facilities in the district to enable young people to have the best chance to compete in the 2012 Olympics.</b>
Ward-specific impacts	<b>None</b>
Workforce/Workplace	<b>None</b>

**Situation**

- 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 Council is requested to formally establish a Working Group. The purpose of the Working Group will be to consider and advise the Council on matters relating to developments to maximise benefits from the Olympics for Uttlesford (see Appendix 1).

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.

For example, a key piece of work was for districts to decide if they wished to submit an application to be considered to host an Olympic or Paralympic preparation camp. The submission had to be made by 31 January 2006.

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, transport improvements and, in particular, tourism development. Officers are, therefore, pursuing these areas and two key possibilities are currently being investigated:

## Olympic Working Group

Council, February 15, 2007

- a) 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
- b) the possibility of expanding existing school links with a Chinese twin town.

An action plan has been produced by Essex County Council and members and officers were invited to attend a Conference recently to discuss the plan and suggest amendments. Currently, the plan does not contain the amendments suggested at the Conference. Essex Leisure & Cultural Officers have made the point to the Head of Olympic and Sport Development at Essex County Council that unconditional approval cannot be given to the plan at this stage until the amendments are included. However, members are requested to approve the plan in principle subject to future inclusion of the suggested amendments. The amended version will be submitted to members for final approval at a later date.

## Risk Analysis

6.

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