

**Committee: Scrutiny**

**Date: 6 October 2009**

**Title: Olympics**

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**Agenda Item**

**6**

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### Summary

- 1 This report outlines the present situation regarding planning for the Olympics.

### Recommendations

Members note the contents of this report and receive a further report to a future meeting of this Committee.

### Background Papers

Presentation made by the Olympic Working Group.

### Impact

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	None
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

### Situation

- 2 From the National Regional perspective Nations and Regions East has produced a strategy and business plan summary entitled The Power of

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Possibilities which outlines the work being undertaken in relation to Business, Culture, Tourism, Sport, Health & Wellbeing, Skills & Employment Volunteering and Communication.

- 3 In Essex the County Council is leading on Sport and Olympic Development and developing the Essex Legacy from the 2012 Games. The County Sports Partnership, Sportessex, is the key driver and delivery partner of the increasing physical activity and sports participation levels action plan. The Community Sports Networks (CSNs) deliver actions in local areas and the Schools Sports Co-ordinators play a considerable role in developing local activities. County wide initiatives to increase physical activity are:

- Production of an Essex Facilities Strategy 2007-2020
- Building schools for the Future Programme
- Development of a Physical Activity Plan
- Fit for Business Schemes
- Workforce Development Plan to support coaching capacity

The Active People Survey demonstrates that Uttlesford has quite high participation in physical activity rates as well as high numbers of volunteers.

There are 21 Pre-Games Training Camp venues in Essex and Hadleigh Farm will be the venue for the London 2012 Mountain Bike events.

Three funding schemes have been set up for Essex based Athletes: Sport:Exl, Sportsaid and the Team Essex Ambassador's Award. Additionally, the FANS scheme provides free access for National sports people. The 3 Uttlesford Leisure Facilities participate in the FANS scheme.

A Disability Sport Academy has been set up to encourage clubs to increase participation. A number of the Children and Young People who attend the Disability Multi-sports Club on Saturday Mornings at the Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre also attend the Harlow Athletics Academy and some have had considerable success in county and regional games.

The four year Cultural Olympiad programme was launched in 2008. Saffron Walden Museum is participating in showing exhibitions as part of the programme.

- 4 However, Members will be aware that the post of Sports Development Officer was deleted after the postholder left approximately two years ago. Subsequently, the post of Youth and Arts Development Officer

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was made redundant and the post of Leisure & Community Development Manager was changed to that of Community Partnerships Manager. This change was to reflect the loss of sports and arts officers and to incorporate the lead officer role for the local strategic partnership, and taking on responsibility for additional areas of work i.e. community safety, drugs and alcohol and anti-social behaviour. This was in addition to the existing areas of work - monitoring the PFI, play, grants, community forums etc.

- 5 Nonetheless, it was recognised that there was still a need for some of the sports development related work to be continued such as running the Saturday Multi-sports Club for children with disabilities, delivering the MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition and Do-it), HELP (Healthy Exercise Lifestyle Programme) and Bodycare (deliver sessions to school children to educate them about the importance of exercise and a nutritious diet). The Council has, therefore, entered into an agreement with Leisure Connection Ltd., to fund a joint post to continue the employment of the existing HELP co-ordinator to deliver the above and some additional areas of work which would include some involvement in Olympic related topics.
- 6 The joint post arrangements have not yet been concluded due to the need to comply with the Human Resource department's guidance. It is anticipated that this matter will be concluded soon and then a meeting of the existing Olympic Working Group will be convened. The working group had, prior to staffing changes, established five key themes to work on:
  - Tourism
  - Supporting young people
  - Transport
  - Culture & Festivals
  - Supporting volunteers
- 7 It should be noted that as the new post is a shared post there will not be the full-time sports development capacity available to deliver new initiatives as would have previously been the case. Also, the Council is not currently undertaking work on tourism or economic development. Therefore, the Olympic Working Group will need to address this issue and review the original aims.
- 8 Tentative discussions have taken place regarding holding another Diversity Festival in 2011 but this will depend on the availability of resources and staff. The venue for the previous Diversity Festival held in 2005 was Audley End House and English Heritage have recently expressed an interest in working with the Council and the Saffron

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Walden Initiative again in the future and a meeting is being arranged to explore this possibility.

- 7 At the present moment in time it is not possible to identify specific initiatives for Uttlesford to pursue in relation to the Olympics or the level of involvement in County wide initiatives. It would, therefore, be more appropriate to report to the Scrutiny Committee at a later date when the issues outlined in this report have been resolved.

## Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1	1	1	<b>Further work to be undertaken to establish possible areas of work.</b>

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.