

# Subject: The Sporting Legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Report Number: 5

**Report to: Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee**

**Date: 14 October 2008**

**Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat**

## 1. Recommendations

- 1.1 **That the Committee notes the findings on the provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities in London as set out in the appendix to this report. This work has been undertaken in conjunction with London Swimming and Colin Brown, its Director, will be present to give a brief presentation on the findings.**
- 1.2 **That the Committee puts questions to Kate Hoey MP, the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport, about the findings on public swimming pools and diving facilities in London and her wider work to secure a sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games including the development of the London Legacy Plan for Sport.**
- 1.3 **That the Committee recommends that the Mayor and the Commissioner for Sport incorporate the findings on the provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities in London in the evidence base for the London Legacy Plan for the Sport and use the findings to help identify and develop specific actions to improve the provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities in London.**
- 1.4 **That the Committee agrees to delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with Members, to agree the Committee's report on the 2012 sporting legacy for young Londoners for publication.**

## 2. Background

- 2.1 On 3 September 2008, the Committee agreed to undertake a preliminary investigation into two areas relating to the 2012 sporting legacy. They are:
  1. To explore what is being done, and identify what more needs to be done, to ensure a 2012 sporting legacy for young Londoners; and
  2. To map the provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities in London to identify any gaps in current provision and what will be required to ensure adequate provision for 2012 and beyond.
- 2.2 As part of its investigation, the Committee also agreed to hear from Kate Hoey MP, the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport, at this meeting. She is overseeing the production and implementation of the Mayor's London Legacy Plan for Sport which is being developed by the London Development (LDA). This is due to be published later in the autumn.

- 2.3 Appended to this report is a report setting out the Committee's findings on the provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities in London. This work has been undertaken in conjunction with London Swimming, part of the Amateur Swimming Association, which is the national governing body for the sport. Colin Brown, Director of London Swimming, who has provided expert advice and data for this work, will attend the meeting to give a brief presentation on the findings.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the Committee note this report and use the findings as a basis for some questions to the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport. Subject to the discussion, it is also proposed that the Committee recommend the Mayor and the Commissioner for Sport incorporate the findings in the evidence base for the London Legacy Plan for the Sport and use the findings to help identify and develop specific actions to improve the provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities in London.
- 2.5 This meeting will also provide an opportunity for a wider discussion with the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport about her work to realise a 2012 sporting legacy in the capital. It is proposed that during this wider discussion the Committee draws on its findings so far about what is being done, and what more could be done, to ensure a 2012 sporting legacy for young Londoners. After the meeting any relevant points arising from the discussion could be taken into account in the Committee's report on this topic. It is proposed that the Committee agree to delegate authority to the Chair to agree, in consultation with other Members, the report so it can be published after the meeting.

### **3. Issues for Consideration**

#### **Committee's report on public swimming pools and diving facilities in London**

- 3.1 The report appended to this report sets out findings on the provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities in London. The Committee is recommended to note the findings, receive a short presentation about them from the Director of London Swimming and then discuss them with the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport.
- 3.2 In summary, the main findings are:
- The number of public swimming pools in London is unlikely to grow significantly by 2012 despite the focus on swimming as part of the 2012 sporting legacy;
  - Over one-third of Londoners live more than 20 minutes walk away from a public swimming pool and this will not change by 2012;
  - Some Londoners who live more than 20 minutes walk from a public swimming pool also live in areas with low access to public transport;
  - No region in London meets the Amateur Swimming Association's target for 13 metres<sup>2</sup> of public water area per 1,000 of the population; and
  - Twenty-four London Boroughs do not have accessible diving facilities.
- 3.3 Subject to discussing the findings with the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport, it is proposed that the Committee recommend that the Mayor and the Commissioner for Sport incorporate these findings into the evidence base for the London Legacy Plan for Sport and use the findings to develop specific actions that will help to ensure the adequate provision of public swimming pools and diving facilities for 2012 and beyond.

#### **Discussion with Kate Hoey MP, the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport**

- 3.4 In addition to discussing findings on public swimming pools and diving facilities in London, Members will be able to discuss other issues with the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport about her role and activities to realise a 2012 sporting legacy in the capital.

- 3.5 The Mayor announced Kate Hoey MP would be his Commissioner for Sport on 15 May 2008. This is a special appointment which is unpaid.<sup>1</sup> The Commissioner for Sport's main task is to drive up participation in sport in London and use the 2012 Games as a catalyst to do so. In particular, to:
- Oversee the production of the London Legacy Plan for Sport, on which the LDA has begun work. The Commissioner for Sport is to challenge the ambition of the plan and work with partners to strengthen this where possible;
  - Oversee the implementation of that plan once it is published;
  - Develop proposals for how to drive up sports participation across London in a range of different age groups; and
  - Interrogate Government's plans for sports participation legacy with reference to their impact on London.<sup>2</sup>

- 3.6 The following background information about Kate Hoey MP has been published by the Mayor's Office:
- "Kate Hoey MP was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office from 1998 to 1999, and Minister for Sport in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport from 1999 to 2001. She was North Ireland High Jump Champion and prior to entering parliament she was educational adviser to Arsenal Football Club from 1985 to 1989. She is an honorary Vice President of Surrey County Cricket Club and the Honorary President of British Wheelchair Basketball."<sup>3</sup>

### **Committee's report on the 2012 sporting legacy for young Londoners**

- 3.7 The discussion with the Mayor's Commissioner for Sport will provide an opportunity for the Committee to explore its findings so far on the 2012 sporting legacy for young Londoners.
- 3.8 The Committee has focused on what is being done and what more could be done to ensure a 2012 sporting legacy for young Londoners particularly those at risk of exclusion, outside mainstream education or at risk of underachieving. It has heard from young people (and the staff working with them) at visits to the Newham Sports Academy and to the Daniel House Pupil Referral Unit and the Fairbridge Centre for young people in the London Borough of Hackney. It has also received some written views and information from various organisations. This information will be made available to Members prior to the meeting to inform the discussion.
- 3.9 Following this meeting, it is proposed that the Committee's report on the 2012 sporting legacy for young Londoners would be agreed and published. This will provide an opportunity to incorporate within the report any relevant points that arise at this meeting. It is proposed that the Chair be given delegated authority to agree the report in consultation with other Members so that it may be published after the meeting with a view to informing the London Legacy Plan for Sport.

## **4. Legal implications**

- 4.1 Under s59 Greater London Authority Act 1999 the Assembly has the power to keep under review the exercise by the Mayor of his statutory functions. The powers of the Assembly include the power to investigate and prepare reports about:
- any actions and decisions of the Mayor;
  - any actions and decisions of any member of staff of the Authority;
  - matters relating to the principal purposes of the Authority;
  - matters in relation to which statutory functions are exercisable by the Mayor, and

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<sup>1</sup> Further details on the GLA [web site](#)

<sup>2</sup> Mayoral press release, 15 May 2008

<sup>3</sup> Mayoral press release, 15 May 2008

- any other matters which the Assembly considers to be of importance to Greater London.

4.2 Section 54(1) GLA Act enables the Assembly to arrange for any of its functions to be discharged by a committee or sub-committee of the Assembly or by a single member of the Assembly.

## **5. Financial implications**

5.1 There are no direct GLA financial implications arising from this report. Financial implications for individual programmes of work in 2008-09 to be dealt with separately in the relevant report to the committee.

Background Papers: None

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