

Dear Len,

Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee Meeting

Please find below a detailed response to the supplementary questions you requested on 25th March 2011 and written details confirming the transfer of the LDA funded skills and employment programmes to the GLA.

1. What effect will the introduction of the Single Work Programme, in June 2011, have on the mechanism available to get long-term unemployed Londoners into Games time paid and voluntary opportunities?

The six successful Prime Contractors announced across the East and West Contract Package Areas in London will all have a role in providing job ready candidates for Games time paid and voluntary opportunities. The Single Work Programme will be a valuable additional resource to the programmes of activity underway across the Host Boroughs and pan-London through the Construction Employer Accord and the 2012 Employment Legacy programme. The voluntary opportunities available throughout the Games will have the potential to provide Londoners with valuable experience in many employment related skillsets and act as a springboard to sustainable employment. The pan-London nature of the Work Programme will also help to ensure that Londoners from across the capital will be able to benefit from the legacy of the Games, which remains a particular focus of the 2012 Employment Legacy programme.

The GLA will seek dialogue with the Prime Contractors to ensure that relationships with LOCOG, the Host Borough Unit, Jobcentre Plus and organisations delivering the Olympic Skills and Employment projects are effective and that they maximise the support available.

2. What role will the GLA and the Mayor have in managing the transition to the Single Work Programme in London?

The Work Programme seeks to consolidate the range of programmes of support available to Londoners, including Local Employment Zones and the Flexible New Deal offers. The transition from previous programmes to the Single Work Programme remains the responsibility of the DWP. However, as the Work Programme commences delivery in June the GLA will engage directly with the Prime Contractors to identify areas of collaboration and to develop working arrangements centred around the joint Mayoral, LDA and London Skills and Employment Board asks of the Prime Contractors published in December, 2010 on www.lseo.org.uk/workprogramme.

The GLA will also set out to establish an effective performance management framework for the Work Programme in London which will set out to ensure that the Mayor and partners are able to establish how effective the Work Programme is in moving London's long-term unemployed back into work.

LDA 2012 Skills & Employment programmes

Below is a brief outline of the three 2012 skills and employment programmes that are being transferred from the LDA to the GLA. Final discussions are ongoing about the details of the transfer process, but we are working towards a completion date in June when all three programmes will be managed from within the GLA.

2012 Employment Legacy programme – confirmed funding £3.5 million (previously £3.5 million)

This programme will work in partnership with LOCOG, their contractors and Jobcentre Plus to support workless Londoners into jobs, through job preparation activities such as CV writing, interview skills or pre-employment training. The objective is to harness the benefits of the Games for workless Londoners and establish the foundations for a long-term employment legacy.

2012 Host Borough programme (east London) – confirmed funding £9 million (previously £10 million)

Securing Olympic jobs for local residents remains a top priority for the 2012 Host Boroughs. The Boroughs are working with partners to ensure continuity of employment and skills services given the changes to the funding regimes of the SFA and JCP. The reduction in the budget here reflects the current performance of the programme in the Host boroughs and we are confident that the revised allocation will enable the Host boroughs to maximise the benefits of this programme to their local communities.

Construction Employer Accord – confirmed funding £1.5 million (previously £1.5 million)

This project will increase the job and training opportunities associated with major construction projects for workless Londoners through a site-based, embedded approach with contractors and developers. The approach will be demonstrated on a minimum of 10 sites at any one time, including the Olympic Park, and 15 sites over the 3-year lifetime of the project (achieving a reasonable spread across London with a minimum of 2 sites expected in each sub-region).

LDA General Skills and Employment Programmes

The LDA has, over the past two years, shifted its employment project commissioning to focus on sustained jobs for targeted groups least well supported by the mainstream system, particularly long-term Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS) claimants. The LDA has developed 13 projects totalling a commitment across LDA and European Social Fund monies of £17.6m. The programme in the 16 months of activity so far has helped:

- 12,000 Londoners with employability support and this is expected to rise to 15,000 by the end of the programme; and
- 4,500 Londoners into work and it is anticipated that 2,500 of these jobs will be sustained to 6 months.

For a more detailed analysis of the LDA's employment and skills projects tackling London's employment challenge more information can be found at:

http://www.lda.gov.uk/Documents/Assessing_LDAs_Labour_Market_Programme_Performance_Final_Report_DOC_11132.doc