

Subject: The Environmental Legacy of the Olympic Park

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 23 June 2011

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the background to the environmental benefits and impacts of the Olympic Park in the years after the Games, for a discussion with representatives from the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) and other relevant organisations.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes this report as background to hearing from and putting questions to invited guests.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The London 2012 programme is divided into three phases:
- Preparation – building the venues and facilities;
 - Staging – putting on the Games and events; and
 - Legacy – the lasting benefits of London 2012.

The period between staging and legacy, and the work in that period to secure the legacy, is known as the 'legacy transition'.

- 3.2 London's 2012 Games bid spoke of 'a legacy that will set new standards for sustainable development'. Among the legacy promises were 'to deliver a sustainable Games and to develop sustainable communities' and 'to make the Olympic Park a blueprint for sustainable living'.
- 3.3 The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is completing its work of construction and landscaping on the Olympic Park site. The work has been done with the legacy in mind, and much of the fitting out specifically for the Games has been done on a temporary basis.
- 3.4 The Olympic Park Legacy Company is the public sector, not-for-profit organisation responsible for the long-term planning, development, management and maintenance of the Olympic Park and its facilities after the London 2012 Games. The Mayor is currently consulting on his plans, under the Localism Bill, to create a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC), for that area.

- 3.5 After the Games, the Olympic Park will become the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, a new neighbourhood of over 10,000 homes, with businesses providing 8 to 10,000 jobs, plus community and sporting facilities. The transition process will take many years, with its three phases set to begin in 2013, 2020 and 2030. Setting measurable sustainability targets and securing the infrastructure to achieve sustainability goals are priorities for the OPLC in the first five years.
- 3.6 Many private companies and developers are and will be involved in the delivery of the Olympic Park and its legacy conversion and use. Contractors delivering crucial parts of the infrastructure include Sustainability Partners such as BT, EDF and Cisco.

Other work by this Committee

- 3.7 The investigation of the environmental legacy of the Olympic Park follows two previous reports by this Committee on the Olympics. In 2008, the report *The environmental sustainability of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games* largely examined the preparation phase. In 2010, the report *Going for Green* examined progress towards a sustainable staging phase. The current investigation is therefore directed at the legacy phase. Another aspect of the legacy, the realisation of carbon savings through wider take-up of London 2012's low-carbon ways of working, is being evaluated as part of the follow-up to the *Going for Green* report.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will have environmental impacts through its energy use and generation, its biodiverse and other green space, its generation and handling of waste, and its use of water.

Energy and carbon emissions

- 4.2 The Olympic venues and facilities have been constructed to energy-efficiency standards – there is a further opportunity to ensure energy efficiency as they are converted to legacy use. Also, the carbon emissions and other environmental effects of the legacy energy demand will be affected by the amount and type of on-site energy generation.

Green space

- 4.3 It is currently a planning condition of the Olympic Park that it has 45 hectares of biodiverse green space, and there are also plans for a further 102 hectares of Metropolitan Open Land. Under the MDC proposals, the Olympic Park Legacy Company is to have its own planning powers.

Air quality

- 4.4 Transport to and around the park, on-site energy generation, and construction work during the transition years will be among the potential sources of air pollutants.

Waste and water

- 4.5 The homes, businesses and community facilities in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will require substantial amounts of water and materials, which will need to be managed after use.

Function of this meeting

- 4.6 The Committee's 23 June meeting is an opportunity for the Committee to hear from the Olympic Park Legacy Company and the Olympic Delivery Authority about the development of plans to make the Olympic Park a 'blueprint for sustainable living'. There will also be an opportunity for Members to hear from partner organisations and experts including BT, the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 and the London Wildlife Trust.

- 4.7 Guests invited to attend the meeting to answer the Committee's questions include the following:
- Olympic Park Legacy Company – Andrew Altman, Chief Executive;
 - Olympic Delivery Authority – Simon Wright, Director of Infrastructure and Utilities;
 - Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 – Shaun McCarthy, Chair; and
 - Representatives from BT and the London Wildlife Trust.
- 4.8 Following this meeting, the Committee will consider a report outlining its findings and potentially making recommendations to improve the environmental legacy of the Olympic Park.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
Contact Officer: Ian Williamson Telephone: 020 7983 6541 E-mail: ian.williamson@london.gov.uk