Appendix 1

A Sporting Legacy for London?

Response of the Mayor to the recommendations set out in the London Assembly's Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee's report, A Sporting Legacy for London?

Recommendation 1

We recommend that the Sports Commissioner and London Community Sports Board develop their partnership approach to incorporate the local health and education sectors. We ask the Sports Commissioner reports back to the Committee by May 2011 on how she plans to ensure the state and independent educations sectors, and local and regional health providers, can contribute to the Mayor's strategic aims for sports participation; and what the timescale is for this work.

Response

We are already working closely with both sectors.

We have a dedicated 'Health' strand as part of our Skills Programme and are working with the Royal Society for Public Health and Primary Care Trusts to deliver training opportunities; and we have encouraged applicants seeking funding from the Sports Participation Programme to forge partnerships with health organisations such as Primary Care Trusts.

NHS London is a member of the Development and Implementation Group (DIG), a working group comprising key stakeholders that co-ordinates sport and physical activity in London. The DIG reports regularly on its work to the London Community Sports Board. There are also regular meetings between staff in GLA Sport Unit and NHS London to ensure close liaison with the work being undertaken to deliver a health legacy for London from the 2012 Games.

In respect of the education sector, we are funding a number of sports projects that link with schools and have helped to promote and support the work of the Youth Sport Trust and the London Youth Games. Where we are funding sports facilities in schools, we ensure that community use is part of the funding conditions.

We do think there remains further scope to make better use of sports facilities in the independent and state educations sectors and will pursue this with the relevant organisations.

Recommendation 2

We recommend that the Sports Commissioner and the London Community Sports Board negotiate with LOCOG to broaden the way the Olympic brand could be used to raise the profile of the work being done to achieve a sports participation legacy. We ask that the Sport Commissioner reports back to the Committee in May 2011.

Response

I recognise the power of the Olympic brand to generate interest and excitement in sport. It is vital that as much as possible is done to harness the benefits that being associated with the Games can bring. We are in discussions with LOCOG about how we might make better use of the 'Inspire Mark' as we would like to see more sports projects being officially recognised through that initiative.

Recommendation 3

We recommend that after the announcement of the second round of successful bids for the facilities fund in May 2011, the Mayor's Sports Commissioner report to the Committee on how the Mayor's funding is adding to the supply of sports facilities in areas where demand exceeds supply.

Response

I should be happy to report back as requested.

Recommendation 4

We recommend that the Sport's Commissioner evaluate the costs and benefits of the different approaches that have been taken to managing and allocating the Mayor's funds. We ask that she report back to the Committee in May 2011 on the outcome of this review and how they will be taken into account in future funding rounds.

Response

We considered the benefits of managing the Sports Participation Fund 'in-house' at the GLA as part of our business planning process in 2009. The main rationale for the approach we have taken is that the Skills and Facilities Funds require high levels of specialist expertise, for example technical and architectural in the case of facilities

We believe that this remains the most effective and efficient way of working.

Recommendation 5

We recommend that in December 2011 the Mayor's Sport's Commissioner report to the Committee on the outcomes from the grants awarded from the Mayor's sports funds. This should include details of the numbers of additional people who have started taking part in sport and progress against other social objectives set out for the funds.

Response

I should be happy to report back as requested.

Recommendation 6

We recommend that the Mayor commit to retaining a role for his Sport Commissioner and the London Community Sport Board after 2012. We ask that in a response to this report in May 2011 he set out his plans for delivering a sporting legacy beyond 2012 and the extent to which seed funding might be available to ensure the GLA role is retained.

Response

I should very much like to see the London Community Sports Board and the role of Sport Commissioner carrying on after 2012.

In respect of continued funding, we will make decisions about the budget as part of the GLA budget planning process that will be undertaken later this year.

Recommendation 7

We recommend that by May 2012 the Mayor set out to the Committee: whether he remains committed to a 90 per cent target for community use of the Olympic Park facilities; and how he proposes to meet any target, with key milestones and a timetable for achieving it. In doing so, he should address the question of what alternative mechanism he proposes to ensure community access is central to decisions about the Park after the Games.

We further recommend that the Olympic Park Legacy Company ensures targets for community access are included in its ongoing discussions with potential future tenants or owners of sporting facilities on the Olympic Park.

Response

My Sports Commissioner and I are committed to doing everything we can to work with the OPLC to maximise community use of the Park and its facilities. By July 2011, the OPLC will agree its Sport and Healthy Living policy with the boroughs and other stakeholders, which will balance the role of the Park as an important London visitor destination with its status as an important community asset. I am confident that through working with the boroughs and other partners, the OPLC will encourage community use of the venues by local people, clubs and organisations.

Nick Bitel, an OPLC Board member, currently sits on the London Community Sports Board and he will continue to update my Sports Commissioner and the Board on the Company's progress in securing a sports legacy from the Games for London.