

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)**

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 2006

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. QUESTION FROM MR. PATRICK YORKE TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT

What input, if any, will the community have alongside Southwark Council in the London Olympic Games 2012, and what structures and policies are being put in place to secure jobs for Southwark residents?

RESPONSE

Southwark is taking all the measures it can to ensure that people in Southwark gain maximum benefit from the 2012 London Olympic Games. Although none of the sporting venues in the borough have been identified in the training camp programme, Southwark is at the heart of the cultural Olympics (based around the river) and is well placed to ensure that Southwark residents take full part in the celebrations and the economic opportunities that these will offer. As the mechanisms for the structures of delivering the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games have developed, officers have been assessing the opportunities and how Southwark Council can maximise the opportunities. In particular, opportunities have been identified with regard to the cultural Olympiad, tourism, volunteering, health, education and young people.

At a recent meeting of the cultural Quarter, Bill Morris, described LOCOG's remit regarding the Cultural Olympiad, the mandatory ceremonial events, the bid projects and signature events and a UK cultural festival that will take place over the four years leading up to the Olympic games and continue after the games. The issue of how councils and cultural organisations can become involved in the Olympic programmes was raised. Bill Morris explained that LOCOG is undertaking a review, expected to take 3 to 4 months, after which it would offer specific projects to the public for expressions of interest to become involved in the Mandatory ceremonial events and bid projects and signature events. For the UK cultural festival, it is anticipated that specific teams will be set up throughout the UK and they will act as the first receiving point for ideas and expressions of interest.

A community forum in Southwark will be set up in January 2007 to ensure that Southwark's communities have awareness of and input into the games and that opportunities are maximised. This will be chaired by the portfolio holder for culture, leisure and sport.

Although funding opportunities and branding opportunities for community sport are not clear as yet, Southwark is taking the initiative to ensure that the Southwark community games and the youth of Southwark gain as much from these opportunities as any other London borough. While the detailed delivery plans are being developed, we have identified opportunities for jobs in the cultural and creative industries and the tourism and hospitality industry. This is in line with our existing strategies and action plans for both culture and tourism. We will ensure that all job opportunities are identified and will be widening the officer

steering group that currently exists, looking at culture and sport, to a wider group including elected members and officers from across all relevant services which will include, but will not be limited to, youth services, children's' services, economic development, health and community engagement.

Economic Development

With regard to the promotion of local employment, the structures and policies that the Economic development team has already put in place and will utilise in order to maximise the benefits from the 2012 Olympic games are:

- Strong partnerships i.e. Southwark Alliance and Cross River Partnership
- Southwark employment and enterprise strategies
- The Southwark works programme, which helps people from disadvantaged groups to access employment and training and supports them during the first few months of employment;
- The START- Arts & culture workplace coordinator project, which is a mature and successful project aiming to support unemployed people to get employment in the arts and culture sector;
- The building London creating futures programme, which funds five workplace coordinators and helps unemployed people to gain qualifications and in the construction sector;
- The workplace coordinators in the tourism and hospitality sector

As opportunities emerge from LOCOG's work, we will explore the potential for promoting local employment.