

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2012

CABINET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement from Councillor Veronica Ward, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport, the Olympics and Regeneration (South)

London Youth Games Successes

I hope everyone was able to take the opportunity before assembly to celebrate the achievements of Southwark young people in the London Youth Games (LYG), which includes disability sport, earlier this year at Crystal Palace. All the London boroughs compete. This year Southwark came in 15th position against stiff competition. The best result for many years.

There were 18 individual medals, four first place team victories, and 21 sports entered - six more than in 2011. 333 young people participated in the finals and over 1,000 young people in the preliminary competition. 15 community clubs were involved. Over 70,000 young people from London took part this year including 4,000 with disabilities. Volunteering has long been a part of LYG.

Congratulations to all the young people and all in the community sports team who worked so hard to achieve this result.

Just to note, London Youth Games is a training ground for future sporting successes. London 2012 saw 14 medals won by sports people who had started with London Youth Games and many in the past. London Youth Games alumni include Bradley Wiggins, Mo Farah and Christine Ohuruogu.

Southwark 2012

I think everyone agrees that Southwark has had a wonderful Olympics. We all remember the strong community spirit and festive atmosphere of the Torch Relay with over 160,000 people out on the streets. There were also many activities promoted for and by our communities enjoyed by hundreds and thousands of people over the Summer.

The main purpose of this announcement is to thank everyone involved. Firstly the delivery board partners, Tony Doyle, Bridget Edwards of the Arts Forum, Donald Hyslop from Tate Modern and Clive Pankhurst, director of the volunteer centre: the legacy board partners, Dame Tessa Jowell and regeneration partners. Also to thank our own Torch Relay volunteers, the 200 staff who trained as 2012 hosts organised by community engagement, our events team, communications team, the youth service, the primary care trust, public realm team, the operations team and community sports team. The extra time, effort and sheer enthusiasm put in to ensure a successful Olympics for Southwark were second to none.

The Olympic Delivery Board we set up in 2010 had a vision to maximise the unique opportunity we had in 2012 - to enthuse and motivate young people (an estimated 24,000 participants), to promote sport and physical activity for everyone, to ensure access to all with disabilities to all activities and opportunities, to showcase Southwark and the many places of interest and significance and to support residents interested in volunteering and encourage many more people to volunteer. We also had to ensure that the streets were dressed and that the council was ready to receive Olympic visitors, especially on the river bank. We have the capital legacy fund, providing new sports facilities for the borough. Our aim is not just for a lasting sporting legacy, but to ensure we retain the interest and enthusiasm the Olympics generated. It is proposed that a legacy board be set up to keep track of the work still in progress and how the many legacies of 2012 are continuing to benefit our residents.