

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision meeting
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	23 March 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	Celebrating the London 2012 Games in Portsmouth
<b>Report by:</b>	Head of Cultural Services
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

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## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to confirm that £30,000 has been set aside as part of the 2012/13 contingency budget as approved at the Cabinet meeting of 13 September 2010 to support the activities relating to the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay. The additional £15,000 required will be funded from existing Culture, Leisure and Sport revenue budgets.
- 1.2** The report also seeks to advise Members on the current preparations for hosting the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay, the programme of activity and events for the Big Screen and update all Members on progress in attracting teams to base themselves in Portsmouth ahead of the Games.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** That the costs of the Olympic Torch Relay are incurred and reimbursed from contingency up to the value of £30,000 held in the 2012/13 contingency budget which was set aside for the hosting of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay in the event that Portsmouth was selected as a host venue. All additional costs, up to a value of £15,000, will be met by existing revenue budgets.
- 2.2** That the additional funding of £17,000 required to support the programme of activity at the Big Screen during 2012/13 be funded from the Community Support budget within the Culture, Leisure and Sport portfolio.
- 2.3** To continue our efforts in attracting Pre Games Training Camps (PGTCs) to Portsmouth.

## **3. Background**

### **3.1 London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay**

On day 58 as part of a 70 day nationwide journey around the UK, Portsmouth will be the host community for the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay as we welcome the Olympic Flame to the city on Sunday 15 July.

To welcome the Olympic Flame to the city an arrival celebration is currently being planned. Torchbearers will then carry the Olympic Flame through the heart of the city passing local communities en route to an evening celebration event on Southsea Common.

As one of 66 places invited to hold an evening celebration, Southsea Common will host a free two hour event giving the opportunity for thousands of local people to share in the experience and excitement of the Olympics. A programme showcasing local talent alongside entertainment provided by London 2012 and its 3 Presenting Partners: Samsung, Coca-Cola and Lloyds TSB, will welcome the Olympic Flame. A key part of this will be a headline UK act – details to be announced.

On Monday 16 July, day 59 of the Torch Relay, the Olympic Flame will leave Portsmouth following an exclusive morning celebration event aimed at local schools. We are currently developing a programme of activity for this event to ensure that the Olympic Flame has a rapturous farewell from Portsmouth.

Street level plans and details surrounding the Torch Relay are currently under wraps but will be announced in the coming weeks. Details of who will carry the Olympic Flame will also be announced in the coming weeks.

The Torch Relay will connect Portsmouth with the rest of the UK as the Olympic Flame passes through our community on route to the Olympic Stadium. This presents us with a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase the local community and what the city has to offer as part of our 'moment to shine' to the world.

To coordinate the hosting of the Torch Relay in Portsmouth, a working group made up of key representatives from agencies, organisations and stakeholders from across the city has been established. Known as the Portsmouth Community Task Force, this will develop opportunities for the local community to become involved and look into how the story, heritage and culture of Portsmouth can be showcased to the world.

As a legacy, the ability for Portsmouth to make an impact and be remembered for its Torch Relay celebrations will not only instil civic pride, but will ultimately lead to an enhanced profile of the city and an increase in the number of visitors.

### **3.2 Big Screen**

As part of a nationwide network of 22 sites, the Big Screen in Guildhall Square will become a 'Live Site of the Olympic and Paralympic Games' from the start of May to the end September 2012 and Portsmouth will be a 'London 2012 Live Site City' for

the Games. For the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Big Screen will be *the* place to experience the Games locally featuring full coverage of the Games with additional cultural and sporting activities to help energise the Live Site and create a unique festival atmosphere. A package of exclusive content, competitions and coverage reflecting the local community will be shown.

Through working closely with the Big Screen partners – the BBC and London 2012, a programme of events has been developed including key countdown events to the start of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, live coverage of the Games, key cultural events and other highlights.

We are also exploring opportunities to work in partnership with the Portsmouth Cultural Trust on various roles such as catering, stewarding, technical support and storage facilities. It is anticipated that this would build a good working relationship between the Big Screen and the Portsmouth Cultural Trust and as a new model of working.

### **3.3 Pre Games Training Camps (PGTC)**

Portsmouth is listed in the London 2012 PGTC Guide as a potential training camp for National Olympic and Paralympic teams train in the UK as part of their preparations ahead of the London 2012 Games. A £25,000 grant is being offered by London 2012 to encourage teams hold a PGTC.

To date, we have hosted site visits from 6 National Olympic and Paralympic teams and continue to receive enquiries. We are currently awaiting the outcome of negotiations with an African team to use local facilities in June.

There are potential benefits to Portsmouth through hosting a PGTC such as improved profile of the city and recognition as being a venue for sporting excellence. Additional benefits to the local community could include: local residents having the opportunity to watch visiting teams train, local athletes training alongside visiting athletes, projects and events with schools to interact with the visiting teams, opportunities for shared learning and cultural exchanges.

It should be noted, that there are no guarantees that we will sign a team to use Portsmouth as a PGTC. The requirements of each team differs greatly with some teams coming on mass so looking for PGTC which can cater for a wide range of Olympic or Paralympic sports, whilst other smaller teams, are looking at holding sports specific PGTCs.

## **4. Reasons for recommendations**

### **4.1 London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay**

In successfully attracting the Torch Relay to Portsmouth we have made a commitment to the hosting of this prestigious event.

At present there is no allocated budget to support the event infrastructure and hosting of the evening celebration event on Southsea Common or the related activities for communities to become involved in and celebrate the Torch Relay. The request to release the £30,000 set aside in the 2011/2012 Annual Budget would therefore contribute towards the cost of hosting the Torch Relay here in Portsmouth.

#### **4.2 Big Screen**

As part of our ongoing commitment to the hosting of a Big Screen (funded by London 2012), we are required to host a number of events and activities at the Big Screen. A programme of events reflecting this is currently being developed.

This will animate the Big Screen and Guildhall Square for the Olympic and Paralympic Games creating a festival atmosphere, and a key focus for the local community to come together and share the experience and celebrations.

The Guildhall Square event's budget for the activity taking place at the Big Screen is currently £2,208 per annum. In order to support the proposed programme of activity at the Big Screen during 2012/13, £17,000 has been identified in the Community Support budget.

In previous years the level of activity, scale of event and success of the events at the Big Screen have been restricted due to the limited budget available. Given the number of key high profile events, the expectation from the local community and our commitment to London 2012, it is important that this additional funding is available.

#### **4.3 Pre Games Training Camps**

Approximately one third of all National Olympic and Paralympic teams have currently signed agreements to hold a PGTC in the UK. This means that there are still opportunities for Portsmouth to potentially sign a team.

The deadline to sign National Olympic teams is the end of February 2012 and Paralympic teams by the end of March 2012, so now is our last opportunity to capitalise on this. Enquiries to use local facilities are ongoing and we anticipate a last minute flurry of enquiries.

Many teams have still to have their athletes qualify for the London 2012 Games so we can still expect enquiries after the funding deadline. This would mean any visiting team covering the costs themselves.

With several of the multi sport facilities across the country now full, Portsmouth with the refurbished Mountbatten Centre facility and swimming pool would be an ideal base for teams to use.

It is also noted that the legacy of hosting a team here in Portsmouth could develop further as many teams will use the venue they chose as their European base or training camp prior to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

**5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

5.1 A preliminary EIA will be submitted for these events.

**6. Head of Legal, Licensing & Registrars' comments**

6.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

**7. Head of Finance's comments**

The total funding needed for the Torch Relay is estimated at £45,000. This is funded by £30,000 currently held in contingency and a further £15,000 that has been set aside from the 2011/12 budgets specifically for the overnight event. This amount has been carried forward into the 2012/13 cash limited budgets.

The additional funding required for the Big Screen events in 2012/13 has been identified within the Community Support budgets held within the Culture, Leisure and Sport Portfolio.

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 Signed by:  
**Stephen Baily**  
**Head of Cultural Services**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>
Minutes of the Full Council meeting – 12 October 2010	<a href="http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/coun20101012m.pdf">http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/coun20101012m.pdf</a>
Recommendations from Cabinet from its meeting held on 13 September 2010	<a href="http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/coun20101012rec9.pdf">http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/coun20101012rec9.pdf</a>
Portsmouth 2012 report	<a href="http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/cab20100913r10.pdf">http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/cab20100913r10.pdf</a>
Big Screen programme of events from April 2012	<a href="http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/Schedule_for_the_Big_Screen_2012.pdf">http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/Schedule_for_the_Big_Screen_2012.pdf</a>

PGTC agreements across the UK	<a href="http://www.london2012.com/documents/venue-documents/pre-games-training-camps-agreements.pdf">http://www.london2012.com/documents/venue-documents/pre-games-training-camps-agreements.pdf</a>
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The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on 23 March 2012.

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Signed by:  
**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport**