



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	London 2012 Cultural Olympiad
Date:	14 May 2008
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Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council has received details of plans for a Cultural Olympiad (see **Appendix 1**) to be staged leading up to and during the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic games. As part of the original ethos Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Movement mirrored the classical Greeks in maintaining that the purpose of the Olympic Games was to celebrate mind, body and spirit.

From this a Cultural Olympiad was established to include all cultural events of the Olympic Movement. This Olympiad is a period when artists from around the world showcase their work in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympics Games. Up until 1948 medals were awarded for sculpture, music, literature and art. The modern Cultural Olympiad will focus on the following themes:

- Bringing together culture and sport
- Encouraging audiences to take part
- Animating public spaces – through street theatre, public art, circus skills, live big screen sites
- Using culture and sport to raise issues of environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing
- Honouring and sharing the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Encouraging collaborations and innovation between communities and cultural sectors
- Enhancing the learning, skills and personal development of young people by linking with education programmes

Key Issues

Belfast City Council has been asked to consider contributing to the regional plans for the Cultural Olympiad. This element of the programme is being coordinated by the Offices of DCAL on behalf of LOCOG 2012. The programme also has backing from the DCAL Minister Edwin Poots MLS and OFM and ODFM.

The Council will be asked to develop and deliver a series of events from the hand over of status of Olympic City from Beijing to London on 24 August 2008 through to the opening and closing ceremonies for both the Olympic and Paralympic games in 2012.

This input would be organised locally but linked to national events focused in London. An additional element would be the creation of 'live sites'. These "live sites" would be similar to many major towns and cities around the UK where large outdoor video screens would link regional performance spaces, thus providing a platform for a wide range of cultural events and performances in regional cities. The final concept and delivery of both the "live sites" and programme are still to be confirmed but LOCOG 2012 has entered into discussion with DSD, DCAL and BCC on these matters at Officer level. It would be the intention of the Council's Officers to provide a detailed report once LOCOG and DCAL provide specific details on resources and the structure of the four year programme of events.

Resource Implications

Financial

The Council would be requested to provide a variety of financial and personnel to progress the regional Cultural Olympiad and "live sites" concept. To date this information has not been received from LOCOG 2012 and DCAL. However Members are asked to note that on receipt of such information that a further report will be brought for the Committee's consideration.

Recommendations

Members are requested to note the above report.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Cultural Olympiad briefing pack March 2008

Abbreviations

BCC – Belfast City Council
DCAL – Department of Cultural, Arts and Leisure
LOCOG 2012 – London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2012
DSD – Department of Social Development
OFM – Office of the First Minister
ODFM – Office of the Deputy First Minister