

**COUNCIL
23 JUNE 2004**

**OLYMPICS 2012: SWINLEY FOREST
(Chief Executive)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Swinley Forest has been chosen as the venue for mountain biking in the London bid for the 2012 Olympics bid. The Crown Estate owns the land. Bracknell Forest Borough Council is being asked to express its support for London's bid. London 2012 Limited is also asking for guarantees from Bracknell Forest Borough Council. Guarantees are an executive function and a separate report looking at these issues will be considered by the Executive Member for Corporate Services.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Council expresses its support for the 2012 London Olympics bid.**

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 There are no legal issues in giving an expression of support for London's Olympic bid. The question of guarantees would fall within Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. These will form part of a separate report to be considered by the Executive Member for Corporate Services.

Borough Finance Officer

- 3.2 There are no financial implications involved in giving an expression of support for London's Olympic bid.

Access Implications

- 3.3.1 If London is successful the Council will be discussing with the organisers access implications for spectators. Part of the Games will also be the Paralympic Games which will celebrate the achievements of athletes with disabilities.

Environment and Leisure

- 3.4 Holding part of the Games at Swinley Forest will raise the profile of leisure facilities within the borough.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council has worked closely with the Crown Estate, Forestry Commission and biking organisations to establish mountain biking, trail building and races in Swinley Forest over many years. It is now a venue that attracts many riders for races during the year. Surveys show that 19% of visitors who come to Swinley Forest come for mountain biking.
- 4.2 The staging of the Olympic Games in London would give an enormous boost to sport throughout the United Kingdom. Holding an event in Bracknell Forest would give the Council an opportunity to promote a positive image of the borough and our sporting and cultural heritage to an international audience.
- 4.3 The proposed dates for the games are 27 July to 12 August 2012. It is proposed that the Paralympic games would take place between 29 August and 9 September 2012.
- 4.4 The issue of potential guarantees is an important one and it will be essential to ensure that, in the event of a successful London bid, the Council is not exposed to an unacceptable financial or other risk. However, at this stage, the Council is simply being asked to express its general support for the London bid and particularly for the mountain biking events to take place within the Borough. This would provide important background context when the Executive Member considers the issue further.

Background Papers

Correspondence from London 2012 Limited

Contact for further information

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