

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 29 March 2007

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** Olympics 2012

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek approval to establish an ‘Olympic Fund’ to support sports persons in the Borough to aspire to high level performance.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) An Olympic Fund be established within existing resources to support young people in the Borough to get involved in the Olympic Games and Para-Olympic Games.
- ii) Details of the Fund be agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Leisure and Sport and the Strategic Director for Health and Community.
- iii) That further reports be presented to the Board outlining progress.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 London will stage the Olympic Games in 2012. There is a strong desire to maximise the effect of the Games across the country, indeed the Department of Culture, Media and Sport intend to introduce a performance measure for all authorities to judge their contributions to the 2012 legacy.

3.2 Already local authorities have been asked to register any facilities they could offer for training camps for visiting countries. Halton has registered the Stadium and the St Peter and Paul/Wade Deacon site. There are opportunities with the regional table-tennis centre at the Stadium, and contacts have been made with China and Tongling to test their potential interest. Halton is also part of a pan-Merseyside registration and is working with Cheshire on a range of common issues.

3.3 A visit has been made to Newham Borough Council, the authority that will host the major part of the Games. A number of initiatives have been discussed, not least the opportunity of exchanges with young people, and Halton’s sports persons attending the Newham academy.

3.4 There has been strong support in Halton to promote young talent and there are a significant number of young people who could properly aspire to representing their country at the Olympic and Para-Olympic. Even if young people do not ultimately achieve such representation 2012 offers them the opportunity to aspire, to improve and to adapt healthy lifestyles through sport. There are also opportunities for volunteers to get involved in the Olympics and Para-Olympics.

3.5 With all this in mind it is proposed to set up an Olympic Fund. The fund could be used in a variety of ways for example to bring coaches and practice partners into the Borough to improve our sports people, to bring role models into the Borough to inspire young people to participate in sport, to support training opportunities or provide kit.

3.6 The intention would be to set up a fund using existing budgets that could roll forward each year, but could be used to attract further external/match funding and sponsorship. Initially, using monies from the enhanced sporting opportunities budget, and contributions from the Sports Partnership a fund of £50k could be achieved. Clear criteria would be established about the management of the fund and awards of grants.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Culture and Leisure Services already support local sport through its grants scheme, and the principal of sports contributions to healthy lifestyles is firmly embedded in Halton's Corporate Priorities. Establishing the Olympic Fund would seek to build on all this.

4.2 Consideration needs to be given to transport issues, both regionally and nationally if the Games are to be truly accessible to the whole country.

4.3 Many of the initiatives and issues raised in this report are still in the embryonic stages of development and further reports to the Board will be presented over the next few years.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The fund would be set up using existing resources.

#### 6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 The Olympics offers the opportunity to raise the profile of sport in the Borough which in turn contributes to the Council's priorities in respect of health and self-development. By not taking a lead the Council could miss an opportunity to attract further funding into the Borough and to develop sport within the Borough.

7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 Both the Olympics and the Para-Olympics will be staged in London in 2012. In setting up the fund it will give opportunities for all to participate.

8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

8.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>