

*County Council Meeting – 11 October 2011*

**Statement / Updates by Cabinet Members**

There are now less than 300 days to the start of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Surrey. Our vision for the 2012 Games has always been to maximise the benefits to Surrey business and residents and I can tell you, Surrey has been extremely successful and nationally, is one of the leading Authorities for 2012 success.

- Our Surrey businesses (by value) have won the majority of Games related contracts in the South East providing hundreds of millions of pounds into the local economy during these difficult times
- Our Surrey venues are hosting more foreign teams than authorities in either London or the South East, and our efforts have been praised by the Secretary for State for Culture, the Olympics, Media and Sport
- Our Surrey Schools this summer completed the most ambitious School Games competition in the country
- On 14 August this year, we successfully delivered the London-Surrey Cycle Classic test event, which was one of the biggest sporting events ever held in the UK, and provided excellent preparation for the Olympic Road Cycling events next year.

I hope you will agree that this has been an Olympian effort, and we now look forward to the excitement of the 2012 Games themselves and how long term benefits will be created through their legacy. The tourism sector will be one of the biggest beneficiaries from the Games, and we are currently working to ensure an excellent visitor experience during the summer of 2012.

As we move towards next year, we want to generate excitement for the Olympic events and supporting community activities, which will be taking place in the County next year to celebrate the Games and Surrey's involvement.

We have been working closely with the Government Olympic Executive and London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to give the County the same "Look and Feel" as London during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The London 2012 'Look Book' was launched this summer, which contains everything from bunting for small village communities to large 2012 logos that can be projected onto sides of buildings. The 2012 team has secured some funding to dress the County during Games Time. The package will include some 'spectaculars', which I will inform you of over the coming months. The Strategic Director for Customers and Communities is working with Districts and Boroughs to plan this and link with Members, and will be providing regular updates as soon as they are available.

Looking forward, next year will be a historic chapter for Surrey, this will enable us to generate excitement and civic pride from the Games, showcase the County to the world and bring about Economic, Cultural and Sporting benefits to Surrey. I hope you will all join me in supporting the programme across the County, in what will be a very exciting year.

**Denise Saliagopoulos**

**Cabinet Member for Community Services and 2012 Games**

**11 October 2011**