

County Council Meeting – 17 July 2012

## **CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT**

### **Olympics**

This morning, the Olympic Torch made its second visit to Surrey. We can all be proud that Malcolm Styles, a Surrey County Council employee from the Fire and Rescue Service was one of today's Torchbearers. I'm sure we are looking forward to the Olympic Torch relay as it passes through our county on Friday, making its final procession before it travels through London.

In 10 days time, the nation will be enthralled by the Opening Ceremony of the greatest sporting event for the world. In this momentous year, we should reflect on some of the gold medal performances that have already been achieved in the county.

The P&G Surrey School Games came to an end this year, with the next generation of young people inspired to take part in a range of top quality sporting and cultural events. The programme that has been delivered was truly superb.

- Over 50 county finals;
- Truly inclusive competitions bringing together state, independent and special schools;
- A blend of top sports events, and excellent cultural events including a fabulous Surrey Schools Have Talent final at GLive. The winner Annie Rose Chapman will be performing live at the evening celebration as part of the Torch celebration event on 20th July in Stoke Park;
- And a second world record, 2012 young people making the biggest Olympic logo. In total just under 10,000 participants took part in the P&G Surrey School Games this year.

I am immensely proud of what we have achieved and how we have been able to grow and develop what is regarded in many respects as the most ambitious and wide-reaching School Games in the country.

On Saturday 28 July 2012, Surrey will host the biggest sporting event ever to take place in the UK. Whatever the weather, we look forward to welcoming hundreds of thousands of people to the county and a worldwide television audience of billions. We will hopefully witness Team GB's first gold medal being won on our roads. I am confident and reassured that we have done all the preparation possible to make sure that Surrey's three days of challenging events will go to plan. Most importantly, my project team has worked tirelessly to prepare the county's residents and businesses for these enormous events and the impact that they will have on the county.

We look forward to an unprecedented summer of sport. We have done our part in celebrating the Games, and the figures speak for themselves:

- More than 400 extra volunteers becoming Surrey Ambassadors to provide a world class welcome to visitors,
- More Local Leaders organising community events than anywhere in the south east,
- More teams from overseas training in Surrey than anywhere in the south east,
- And of course more Games related contracts than anywhere in the region, now worth nearly a billion pounds to local business.

With our track record, it won't be a surprise that we are looking ahead to our share of the £13 billion legacy that the Prime Minister is predicting. For example the final stage of the Tour of Britain has been offered to our county, and we will host this event on Sunday 16 September 2012.

The Olympic Games starts in ten days, but I do not consider it to be the finish line – it is the starting line for the broad, successful and sustained legacy that we will build.

**Helyn Clack**

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

**24 July 2012**