

CABINET

International Youth Games 2009 3rd June 2008

Report of the Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks agreement for Lancaster to host the International Youth Games in the summer of 2009 and to delegate the arrangements to the Head of Democratic Services and the Head of Cultural Services within the allocated budget.

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Cabinet Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date Included in Forward Plan	April 2008				
This report is public					

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That the International Youth Games be held in the Lancaster District in the Summer of 2009 and that the arrangements for the Games be delegated to the Head of Democratic Services and the Head of Cultural Services within the budget allocated.
- (2) That an invitation for four civic delegates to attend from Twin Towns and two Civic Delegates from Associate Towns be extended on behalf of the City Council.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The International Youth Games originated in the 1970s when the Danish town of Aalborg held a sporting event to which Lancaster City Council was invited to send a small team. This has developed over the years and Lancaster now participates in a four yearly games cycle involving Almere (Holland), Aalborg (Denmark) and Rendsberg (Germany).
- 1.2 Lancaster District last hosted the Games in 2005 and has participated in the Games in Almere in 2006 and in Aalborg last year. The City Council is also committed to sending a delegation to Rendsburg in the summer of 2008.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 It is proposed to hold the Games at the end of July/early August 2009. Delegations will be invited from all Lancaster's Twin Towns (Aalborg, Lublin, Perpignan, Vaxjo and Rendsburg) and it is usual to invite a small number to participate from our Associate Towns of Viana do Castelo and Almere.

- 2.2 It is also usual to extend an invitation to a Civic Delegation from each Twin and Associate Town, and this has traditionally been four from our Twin Towns and two from our Associate Towns to attend for the duration of the Games.
- 2.3 When the Games were last held in Lancaster discussions were held with the other host nations which resulted in a general agreement that the 'civic' element of the event should be more closely integrated with the sporting elements and attempts were made to ensure that there was time available for visiting Mayors to view the Games rather than organising separate events. This has resulted in a scaling down of the civic component of the visits by Aalborg and Rendsburg and this is a pattern likely to be followed by Lancaster City Council in 2009.
- 2.4 The towns of Almere, Aalborg and Rendsburg have also attempted to widen participation to other cultural events and there have been some dancing and artistic aspects included over the past 3 years. This too will be considered during the planning of the Games provided suitable volunteers can be found to organise an event suitable for other countries to take part in.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The Sports Leaders participating in the Games in 2008 have been consulted and local sports clubs will be consulted over their possible participation in 2009. The Twinning Society will also be asked to contribute to the hosting of the civic element of the Games as in previous years.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 Option 1 is to hold the Games in the Lancaster District in the summer of 2009. This would enable the participation of young people from the District and would also maintain the four year cycle established for the Games, providing children of twinned towns the opportunity of visiting the Lancaster District and the experience of living with a local family.
- 4.2 There are risks associated with hosting in the Games in terms of the capacity of the Council to undertake such a resource intensive project and also in terms of the reliance on local sporting organisations and volunteers. However this was achieved in 2005 and making a decision at this stage enables the project to be well planned in advance and the workload spread as far as possible
- 4.3 Option 2 is not to host the Games in the Lancaster District in 2009.
- 4.4 The risk to the Council of not hosting the Games is in respect of its reputation both with other twinned cities and also with local children who will be expecting the opportunity to take part in Games in their home District.

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 The Officer preferred option is to host the International Youth Games in the Lancaster District in 2009. The City Council does not participate in many twinning events, and this provides an opportunity to showcase the District to our Twin and Associate Towns and maintain the cultural experience for young people of the area.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The International Youth Games are an important part of the City Council's continued commitment to twinning. Holding the Games in the Lancaster District provides an opportunity for the area to be showcased to our Twin and Associate Towns, and also allows the opportunity for us to meet with our Civic counterparts and maintain these important relationships. It also allows children from other countries to experience life in an England.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Objective 6.3 of the 2008/09 Corporate Plan is to work to maintain a cohesive community where respect for all is valued and celebrated which will include targets for celebrating Civic Pride.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

Should it be agreed to host the Games in 2009, all plans will take account of issues surrounding diversity, community safety and the welfare of children, and risk assessments will be carried out where necessary.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

£55,000 was included in the 2009/2010 Forecast budget as part of the 2008/09 budget process and this event can be delivered within that budget. Sponsorship will be sought to offset some costs, and a contribution from participants will be set at an appropriate level once plans are underway and costs are known; the revenue budget would then need to be grossed up accordingly. If Option 2 is preferred, however, a saving of £55,000 would be generated.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Although there are no direct legal implications in relation to this report, Legal Services will be consulted at all stages during the planning process.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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