

**International Youth Games 2012/2013
7th June 2011**

Report of Head of Community Engagement

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report has been prepared in order to seek members views regarding hosting of the International Youth Games in 2013

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Cabinet Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Date Included in Forward Plan

This report is public.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Members' views are sought on whether the Council should attend the International Youth Games in Rendsberg 2012 and act as host city to the Games in 2013.**
- 2. That, should it be agreed to continue participation in the Youth Games, consideration be given to the future role of the accompanying civic delegation in order to more strongly support the Council's priorities.**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council coordinates the district's involvement in the International Youth Games and successfully sent a team out last year to take part in Almere (Netherlands), having previously withdrawn from the games in 2009 when we were scheduled to host them.
- 1.2 The decision of Council to take part in the games in 2010 is set out in Appendix A to this report. The second part of the minute, in particular, signified a long term commitment to the Council's participation in the International Youth Games, in particular the hosting of the Games in 2013.

- 1.3 In accordance with the decision of Council, a party of 32 young people travelled to Almere in July 2010 to take part in the International Youth Games with teams in the following sports:
- Athletics,
 - Badminton
 - Rowing
 - Tennis
 - Swimming

All the children involved were asked to contribute £200 toward the cost of attending.

Accompanying them was a civic party, comprising the Mayor and Mayoress, a Councillor (chosen by ballot, who also contributed £200) and the Head of Democratic Services.

- 1.4 The Games were very successful with children competing at a high standard. Feedback from parents after the event was extremely positive.
- 1.5 This years event in Aalborg (Denmark) will take place 2-7th August. For the first time, in addition to sporting activities there is a team entering the competition for children and young people with disabilities and teams representing cultural activity – musicians and dancers.
- 1.6 The cost of taking part in year varies, mainly as a result of varying travel costs. At the present time the following costs have been budgeted for but confirmation of this budget is still subject to the annual budget process:

2011/12 – Aalborg – £15,400
2012/13 - Rendsberg – £5,200
2013/14 – Lancaster - £53,100

The cost of £53,100 in 2013/14 reflects the fact that Lancaster is scheduled to host the games in that year and is only an estimate at this stage.

2 Proposal Details

- 2.1 It is clear that having withdrawn from hosting the games in 2009 and subsequently accepted the invitation last year to visit Almere and Aalborg this year, there is an expectation that Lancaster will continue its involvement, including hosting the Games in 2013.
- 2.2 Following the Games last year a meeting was hosted by Almere on the future of the Games and in particular whether all parties wished them to continue and how they could be developed further. The conclusions reached can be summarised as:
- There is a desire to see the youth games continue
 - Participation in cultural activity should be included – drama, music, art
 - Costs should continue to be kept to a minimum
 - There should be greater contact between the towns between the Games
 - Explore potential business and tourism benefits
 - Make the Games more environmentally sustainable.
- 2.3 The detailed planning which took place last year has led to improvements in sports activity and Lancaster district is well placed to include cultural elements both in a travelling team and as part of any future hosting.
- 2.4 A second meeting was also held at the request of Vaxjo, Sweden (who are not part of the four Youth Games organising towns) to discuss with Almere and Lancaster (the two towns

with whom they are twinned) how or if the association between the three towns could be furthered outside of the Youth Games.

2.5 It was explained that that Lancaster City Council was not in a position to extend its twinning participation at the present time but would be willing to act as a conduit to local businesses, cultural and educational organisations if requested.

1. Options and Options Analysis

	Option 1 To send teams to Rendsberg 2012 and to host the International Youth Games in 2013	Option 2 To send teams to Rendsberg in 2012 and not to host in 2013.	Option 3 To withdraw from both Rendsberg 2012 and the hosting opportunity in 2013
Advantages	<p>Continue to shape the benefits of the Games beyond those of sport and more strongly align with corporate priorities as referred to within this report.</p> <p>Exploration of tourism opportunities that may exist between the countries.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for partners to become involved particularly with the hosting – maximising the diverse and unique offer the district provides.</p> <p>Opportunities to develop the role of the civic delegation.</p>	<p>Financial savings to the Council in 2013/14 – in the region of £53k.</p>	<p>Financial savings to the Council in 2012/13 in the region of £5k and £53k in 2013/14.</p>
Disadvantages	<p>In order to host the games staff resources will need to be maximised and work commence as soon as possible in order to put arrangements in place.</p> <p>Significant cost to the Council</p>	<p>Missed opportunity to showcase the district to the region on a sporting and cultural front.</p> <p>Missed opportunities to further develop other potential (as yet unexplored) benefits taking part in the games might provide.</p> <p>Potential negative impact upon the Council's reputation</p>	<p>Missed opportunity to showcase the district to the region on a sporting and cultural front.</p> <p>Missed opportunities to further develop other potential (as yet unexplored) benefits taking part in the games might provide.</p> <p>Potential negative impact upon the Council's reputation</p>

Risks	An early decision is required with respect to attendance at Rendsberg and also hosting. Delay could increase the risk of venues not being available nearer the time.	There is a risk that the invitation to Rendsberg may be withdrawn. There is a possibility (although unlikely) that the invitation to Aalborg this year could be withdrawn.	Unlikely that any future invitation to participate in the Games would be received.

2. Officer Preferred Option

2.1. Following the recent elections, this report provides an opportunity for the new Cabinet to reaffirm (or otherwise) its commitment to continue to take part in the International Youth Games in the light of the ongoing difficult financial climate and the Council's current priorities.

3.2 The Officer preferred option is Option 1. Taking part in future International Youth Games provides an opportunity to showcase the district to the region on a sporting and cultural front. It offers other potential benefits which could be developed to offer more support to the Council's corporate priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Attendance and hosting of the International Youth Games helps support Council priorities including visitor economy and partnership working.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

No negative impacts.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Although attendance at Rendsberg and the future hosting opportunity have been included in the 2012/13 and 2013/04 budget forecasts as part of the 2011/12 budget process, there is still the opportunity of reviewing future attendance and involvement. An early decision is sought prior to the main budget process, however, as this will provide sufficient time to plan and organise far more effectively.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Council is still in the position that it needs to make substantial ongoing revenue budget savings – back in March these were projected at around £1M in next year and £1.6M in 2013/14. Whilst it is expected that some savings will be identified as a result of last year's outturn as reported elsewhere on the agenda, it is also considered likely that additional savings pressures may arise as a result of the ongoing Local Government Resources Review.

Cabinet is advised to consider future involvement in of the Youth Games in this context, and what is affordable in terms of priorities. If involvement and attendance is to continue, then savings will have to be identified from other areas. Furthermore, arrangements will be developed to help smooth out future years' budgeting; this would be reported in future budget and Financial Strategy updates.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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APPENDIX A

Council 18 November 2009

Min No. 60

Resolved:

(1) That the 2010/11 revenue budget be updated by including a sum of £7,000 for participation in the 2010 International Youth Games in Almere, on the basis of:

(a) A civic delegation comprising the Mayor and Mayoress (or consort), a Member chosen by ballot (and contributing £200 to costs to match the contribution requested of participating athletes) and an officer; and

(b) A sporting and cultural delegation to be led by the Head of Cultural Services, or his representative in conjunction with local volunteer individual sports leaders, the size of the party to be determined to a maximum of 68 subject to the net cost of travel being contained within a 2010/11 budget allocation of £7,000 and taking into account availability of volunteer leaders and suitable transport.

(c) This being a final decision and not subject to further debate as part of the current budget process.

(2) In agreeing that the Council should accept the invitation to attend the 2010 games Council accept that this signifies a long term commitment to the Council's participation in the International Youth Games, in particular the hosting of the Games in 2013 and the associated revenue growth bids for 2011/12 be further considered as part of the Cabinet's budget proposals in March 2010.