

# **Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee**

## **June 18th 2012**

### **OLYMPIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS FOR OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **Report by Chief Fire Officer**

#### **Introduction**

1. Oxfordshire County Council is taking a lead role across the county in respect to Olympic Torch Relay and Olympic / Paralympic Games planning - both as a Local Authority in its own right and as part of the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum (which requires full engagement from its Fire and Rescue Service, its Emergency Planning Unit, its Trading Standards Unit and the Highways function of the Environment and Economy Directorate as well as the County Council Management Team.
2. OCC Services and teams are performing a number of key roles in relation to the Olympic / Paralympic event preparations from a civil contingencies perspective - with the overarching aim of providing a safe and secure Oxfordshire (and wider Thames Valley) both in the run up to and throughout the Games.
3. The Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum (TVLRF) is required to ensure that a multi-agency approach is planned, tested and provided throughout all of the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays and the Olympics and the Paralympic events.
4. Oxfordshire hosts the Thames Valley Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG - formerly Gold Command) in Thames Valley Police HQ, Kidlington from which strategic command and control will be undertaken in response to a significant event (e.g. flooding/drought or any protest, disruption or terrorist act).
5. There is a requirement that command structures including the SCG and the necessary Tactical Co-ordinating Group(s) (TCG's) will be in place for the entirety of the event. This encompasses a period of 77 days and is already requiring significant activity to be undertaken on a daily basis.

#### **Olympic Torch Relay**

6. The Olympic Torch Relay will pass through Oxfordshire on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July.
7. Multi-agency planning for 2012 has been on-going for at least 2 years, with a range of multi-agency sub-groups of TVLRF meeting to consider risk assessments, undertake gap analyses and consider response capability – as well as the various District Council Safety Advisory Groups (SAG's) requesting

specialist advice and guidance in respect to the associated celebrations being held in their areas as the Torch Relay passes through. These groups (which contain an emergency planning officer from OCC on most) have also considered the impact of events other than the Olympics in 2012 (e.g. Queen's Diamond Jubilee, etc.) - making the period from May to October exceptionally busy with both events and increased tourism in the Oxfordshire area. The overall picture has also been considered by a Thames Valley-wide SAG, to ensure resources and public safety is effectively managed from one event and location to the next.

8. This wider view has resulted in an initiative across Thames Valley to record all large-scale events being organised to ensure that there are sufficient resources available (particularly amongst the emergency services) and the events are appropriately regulated as detailed above via the Safety Advisory Group process.

#### Involvement of Fire and Rescue and Emergency Planning

9. Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (OFRS) and OCC Emergency Planning will provide key National Assets and Command and Control structures throughout the lead up to the games, the Olympic Torch Relay, the Olympic Games themselves and the Paralympics, together with the effective monitoring of associated events such as the concert in South Parks on the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> July.
10. Specialist OFRS officers will accompany the torch relay from Luton to Reading as part of National Resilience Arrangements with OFRS supporting Thames Valley Police and South Central Ambulance Service in securing the safety and security of the participants and crowds both along the route and at associated events. Emergency Planning are working alongside Highways to ensure that the route is effectively maintained, appropriate road closures are put in place, and working with other licensing authorities and the Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that planned events are effectively licensed and risk assessed.

#### Involvement of Trading Standards

11. Trading Standards are anticipating that the Torch Relay and associated events may attract street vending and potentially the sale of counterfeit goods. There is a potential reputational risk for the authority if this is not addressed in a way that is effective in preventing the sale of illegal goods but also does not distract from the occasion. The arrangements for addressing this issue are set out below.
12. Trading Standards is also aware of a potential risk that accommodation during the Olympic period will be in short supply and this may present opportunities for miss-selling and "scams". Again, the service is planning a pro-active approach that should identify whether this risk is significant.

## **Olympic and Paralympic Games**

13. The only Olympic / Paralympic events in Thames Valley are rowing / sprint canoeing which are being held in Buckinghamshire (Eton Dornay Lake).
14. However, Oxfordshire County Council still has an extensive involvement. This includes the mutual aid protocols operated by the Emergency Planning Unit and the Fire and Rescue Service (attending any short notice physical SCG meetings on behalf of other Local Authorities) and operation by OFRS of a number of the key national operational assets required to be on close proximity standby. These include:-
  1. Detection Identification and Monitoring (equipment and specialists) - capable of determining any hazardous materials
  2. Interagency Liaison Officers – these security cleared officers are trained to liaise and make tactical decisions in conjunction with other emergency services such as the Police in the event of a terrorist / major incident
  3. Incident Response Unit - for the decontamination of large numbers of people following any contamination event

## **Financial and Staff Implications (before and during the games)**

### OFRS and Emergency Planning

15. The build up to the Games / Torch Relay has involved significant preparatory work both in respect to exercises, scenario planning and the provision of specialist operational cover in relation to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. To this end a senior manager has been tasked specifically with ensuring effective liaison and planning with colleagues in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services, Thames Valley Police, South Central Ambulance, and Emergency Planning, (who in turn are liaising with OCC Highways and District Councils).
16. Specialist Fire and Rescue Service Detection Identification and Monitoring (DIM) response to any chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive (collectively known as CBRNe) incident is being resourced throughout the Olympics by OFRS and Bucks FRS using 11 officers drawn from both Services. Additionally, throughout the Torch Relay, OFRS and BFRS will be crewing an additional DIM vehicle provided as part of National Resilience arrangements, with OFRS Officers accompanying the Torch from Luton through to Reading.
17. Throughout the Olympic period OFRS will also be providing security cleared Interagency Liaison Officers (ILOs) – OFRS currently have four officers trained in this role (e.g. Counter Terrorism trained and able to advise Police Counter Terrorism Officers and Ambulance ILOs regarding any Fire Service-specific operations including CBRNe that may impact on simultaneous Police/Ambulance operations). These officers work in conjunction with their Thames Valley colleagues with sixteen Fire Service ILO's being available across Thames Valley to ensure 24/7 duty cover.

18. In the lead up to the Games, OFRS and OCC Emergency Planning have also been heavily involved in training and exercising all levels of their response. This has involved prolonged exercises extending over a number of days and resourced 24/7 with Gold, Silver, Bronze and tactical responses being tested for resilience. Additionally, throughout the Games the SCG will sit, headed by ACC John Campbell supported by Gold Command Officers from the Fire Service and Fire Service ILOs (with the potential for Emergency Planning Officers to provide mutual aid to host local authorities). A structure for command and control arrangements throughout both the Torch Relay and the Games has now been agreed within TV LRF.
19. The leave arrangements of key personnel throughout the period has been carefully managed to ensure resilience and to maintain business as usual. Furthermore, additional capacity has been identified (e.g. suspension of centralised FRS training throughout the Games period) so that officers are available to crew additional Fire Appliance(s) or specialist units, if required.
20. As a consequence of these additional work activities in the run-up to the Olympics, the attendance at any pre-arranged multi-agency group meetings or the responding to unplanned events will place further demands upon staff. For example, at this current time, staff from OCC Emergency Planning unit attend the TVLRF Olympic sub group; the Oxfordshire 2012 Steering Group; a group assessing the Impact of Olympics 2012 on Oxford and Oxfordshire Road Network and the Safety Advisory Groups in each District council area - as well as considering generic response capability through its normal work programme.
21. Emergency Planning are also working alongside OCC Highways as part of the Oxfordshire Road Network Group, to ensure that the Torch Relay route is effectively maintained, appropriate road closures are put in place, as well as working with other licensing authorities and the Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that planned events are effectively licensed and risk assessed.
22. Because of this resourcing burden and the potential reputational risk associated with helping to deliver a "Safe & Secure Olympic Games" – whilst maintaining business as usual - the Olympics and other major summer 2012 events (e.g. Diamond Jubilee) have been included on the OFRS risk register and the Olympics are also included in the 2012/13 Integrated Risk Management Action Plan.

### Trading Standards

23. Trading Standards anticipate that the Torch Relay events will attract numerous street vendors. Commonly, large scale public events involving music or sport appeal to sellers of counterfeit goods. There is also the risk that cheap and potentially unsafe novelty items will be sold.
24. Trading Standards have discussed planned enforcement activity both in respect of the Torch Relay and advertising of accommodation with relevant

District Councils through the Oxfordshire Better Regulation Group. The Service is also involved with the relevant Safety Advisory Groups to ensure that operational plans link into the management plans for the events.

25. A national network is being established to share intelligence on problems arising with the Torch Relay as it progresses through the country. This will enable Oxfordshire Trading Standards to prepare for the arrival of the Torch in the county and the local events with knowledge of any issues arising at earlier events and the effectiveness of operational strategies that have been deployed.
26. Surveys of Olympics related accommodation advertising are planned in advance of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. These tie into work being undertaken in London.

### Financial effects

27. Overall there is a notable but as yet quantified financial effect in meeting the challenges identified above. No additional staff have been provided and all activity is being managed from within current resource levels. Reprioritisation of certain activities has also taken place to minimise some of the avoidable effects of the additional workload.

### Communications and Training

28. Effective channels of communication are being maintained through existing national, regional and local networks and TVLRF is leading in this area to ensure a common communications framework is delivered.
29. All relevant emergency personnel have received training, appropriate to the role they would undertake in the event of a significant incident, as required by the Civil Contingencies Act. All Category One responders (blue light services and emergency planning on behalf of the local authority) are working together to ensure a consistent approach through the LRF and sharing resources whenever possible.
30. The public and key stakeholders are also being engaged through District and Town councils, particularly with regard to the Olympic Torch Relay. Furthermore, local OCC members are being kept fully informed of arrangements, particularly if the torch passes through their constituency area.

### **Conclusion**

- 31 The Olympics, Paralympics and other events this summer are providing significant workload for a range of OCC officers. Effective preplanning, exercising and training have been undertaken and extensive arrangements are in place for ensuring strategic coordination of the events with other multi agency partners.

32. Whilst the extensive preplanning in part minimises the effects on staff, some unquantifiable financial effects can be anticipated.

33. It is considered that, as far as is possible, Oxfordshire has provided for a “Safe and Secure Games.”

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