



COUNCILLOR IAN WARD
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
 COUNCIL HOUSE
 VICTORIA SQUARE
 BIRMINGHAM
 B1 1BB
 TEL NO: 0121-464 4000

Email: Ian.Ward@birmingham.gov.uk

Our Ref: IW/480tr

12 January 2018

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Dear Colleague

Commonwealth Games 2022

I am writing to update you on the next steps in relation to the preparation for the Commonwealth Games 2022 following the award of the Games to Birmingham and the region on 21st December 2017. This is a hugely exciting opportunity and I look forward to working with regional colleagues to deliver an outstanding event that benefits as many citizens and stakeholders in the Midlands as possible.

Key Context

Important to the context of this is the way the Games is now set up, which is different to previous years. The main body which is responsible for the delivery of the Games including the Cultural Programme and Business Expo is the Organising Committee, which, in contrast to previous years will be a public body rather than a company structure. The Organising Committee is made up of representatives from BCC (Cllr Ian Ward , WMCA (Andy Street), UK Government (DCMS), Commonwealth Games England and the Commonwealth Games Federation and the Commonwealth Games Federation itself. The Organising Committee will be chaired and vice –chaired independently and there will be some other independent representatives on the Committee. It is the Organising Committee which will recruit the Chief Executive/Director of the Commonwealth games overall.

However of course the City Council and a whole range of organisations in the region, will have a key role to play in the delivery of the games. The City Council will also need to deliver normal day to day services as well as City Operations (the key services that will make the Games environment and travelling round the city a success). As you know from previous discussions we also have every intention of engaging as widely as possible with as many local authority, public sector and business partners as possible.

Next Steps – Governance and Practicalities

The first meetings of the Council with the UK Government, Federation etc, talking about set up of the arrangements including practicalities like early staffing, are taking place now – the first was yesterday (11th January 2018). The Council is going out to recruit a Project Director Commonwealth Games to co-ordinate and manage its input to the Games. This is

a completely different post to the Chief Executive of the whole Games who will be recruited by the Organising Committee.

Internally at the Council there will be a politically balanced Members Advisory Group who will be kept up to speed on all the ins and outs of the Games and make recommendations on them to Cabinet. There is more discussion due to take place with our national partners about the overall governance structures and we need to make sure that what we do in Birmingham and the Midlands bears this in mind. There will of course be countless operational groups which I am not listing here but they will cover issues such as security, venues, transport etc, plus specific structures for the Cultural Programme and the Business Expo. However, broadly we are thinking along the following lines. We will set up some key groups as quickly as we can (bearing in mind the Organising Committee is unlikely to be fully set up before April). They are likely to be as follows:

Funders Group (subject to any final discussions)

WMCA Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Aston University, Birmingham University, Birmingham City University, Midlands Engine, Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Stakeholders Group

A wide variety of bodies will be part of this, but to give you examples - Warwickshire County Cricket Club, colleges and universities, representatives of schools etc etc

Venue Host Local Authorities

Birmingham, Coventry, Cannock Chase, Sandwell, Solihull, Staffordshire, Warwick, Warwickshire.

In addition to these specific groups (and no doubt others) we will of course be using the normal mechanisms of the WMCA, Midlands Engine and other regional bodies to enable partners to have an input and keep the information flow going. We just need to sort out the sequencing

Commercial Issues

At the Council we are already being approached by commercial organisations about how they can get access to commercial opportunities in relation to the Games. It is important to understand that most commercial opportunities relating to the Games are being handled through the Commonwealth Games Federation's own arms length company Commonwealth Games Federation Partnerships and we need to hear more about the practicalities of how that will work. We do know however that we will get some opportunity to influence that.

Generating revenue

I know there is considerable political and public interest in the revenue generating options that we are looking at and what the implications of those are, and how likely they are to be used. This is something on which we are engaging with a number of Government Departments including the Treasury and we are just setting up those discussions. We will of course feed back on that and discuss these issues as they progress.

Immediate actions

My intention is to ask for an item on the Commonwealth Games to be put on the WMCA and Midlands Engine agendas as soon as possible, by which time we will have more information about expectations and sequencing of planning and activity from the Commonwealth Games Federation to enable everyone to have a thorough discussion about it.

I know there will be a great deal of interest and questions, so we are setting up emails and contact points of various sorts which we will brief you on in due course. I would ask for some breathing space before we are completely inundated, as we need some set up time and of course we will be managing a handover between our outgoing Interim Chief Executive Stella Manzie and our incoming Chief Executive Dawn Baxendale who arrives on 1st April, as well as a handover from the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games taking place in April to us – all by the end of April!

I look forward to sharing with you all the exciting opportunities the Games will bring to this region over the next four years.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ian Ward
Leader of Birmingham City Council