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**CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL**  
Record of Executive Decision

London Olympics 2012
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**Decision of:** The Leader, Councillor Sian Reid

**Reference:** 11/URGENCY/S&R/01

**Date of decision:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011      **Recorded on:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011

**Decision Type:** Non-Key

**Matter for Decision:** To agree that an Olympic Torch Relay event is hosted in Cambridge in July 2012.

**Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options):** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2012 requires the council to sign a non-disclosure agreement prior to issuing the formal invitation to host the event. It requires this decision prior to going public with the information in March 2011. It has made it clear public release of the information before the embargo is lifted may result in the invitation to host the relay being withdrawn.

**The Executive Councillor's decision(s):** 1) To instruct the Chief Executive to enter into an agreement with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2012 (LOCOG) to host the Olympic torch relay and associated celebration event in Cambridge in July 2012.  
2) Once the information is released to the public, to report to the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee explaining the decision, the reasons for it, why it was treated as urgent and the resource implications

**Reasons for the decision:** As outlined in the briefing paper attached.

**Scrutiny consideration:** The Chair and Spokesperson of the Scrutiny Committee were advised of the proposal.

**Report:** Briefing paper from the Chief Executive attached

**Conflicts of interest:** None

**Comments:** This report is confidential. LOCOG does not wish the information disclosed prior to the announcement of the full national torch relay route in March 2011, as it believes some of the information is valuable and if released may jeopardise the route of the relay. They have made it clear public release of the information

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before the embargo is lifted may result in the invitation to host the relay being withdrawn. It is the intention to make the information publicly available as soon as the council is permitted to do so.

**Confidential - London Olympics 2012**

**This report is confidential.** LOCOG requires the council to sign a non-disclosure agreement prior to issuing the formal invitation to host the event. They do not wish the information disclosed prior to the announcement of the full national torch relay route in March 2011, as they believe some of the information is valuable and if released may jeopardise the route of the relay. They have made it clear public release of the information before the embargo is lifted may result in the invitation to host the relay being withdrawn.

The Council has been approached by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2012 (LOCOG) and asked to host part of the Olympic Torch relay in the summer of 2012 as it progresses round the country prior to the start of the Olympic Games in London. LOCOG's goal is that across the whole of the UK 95% of the population will be within a one-hour journey, on public transport, of the Olympic Flame at some point on its route. They will not be able to visit every community, but hope to give most people the opportunity to visit the Torch Relay as it passes a location to them.

The proposal is that the torch would enter Cambridge on Saturday 7 July 2012 and there would be a celebration event that evening on Parkers Piece. The torch would then depart on Sunday morning. The weekend of 7/8 July 2012 coincides with the Big Weekend and so the celebration event would be able to use much of the infrastructure for the event.

LOCOG is co-ordinating a route around the country and at this stage cannot confirm much of the detail of how the torch would enter the city and at what times. They are asking all locations on the proposed route to enter into agreement with them to host their particular part of the route. The agreement outlines the responsibilities that LOCOG would assume and those it would expect the local authority to assume. For the local authority, the responsibilities would include traffic management and stewarding crowds along the route and the infrastructure at the celebration site, including litter picking and toilet provision. LOCOG and the Metropolitan Police will take responsibility for the safety of the torch and the national liaison process.

The Council has significant experience in organising major events and will be able to use much of the infrastructure already planned for the Big Weekend. It is difficult to cost the full implications for the council at this stage because so many details are unknown. Officers have been in discussion with the county council who will share costs with the City such as those relating to traffic. The Constabulary have also indicated that they would pick up the policing costs associated with the torch route. Initial estimates suggest managing the relay through Cambridge and the celebration event could cost a maximum worst-case cost of £150,000 across the agencies involved but the total cost is likely to be much less than this depending on the route used. This would not be a total cost to the council as there will be opportunities to

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offset some of these costs by engaging local sponsors (as long as these do not cut across the national sponsorship LOCOG itself has secured) and partner agencies will also contribute to these costs in cash or in kind payments. We would seek to agree with the County Council that both councils underwrite half of the maximum cost of £75,000 should this be needed.

This is a unique opportunity for the City to take part in this major international event and it is likely to generate huge popular support and enthusiasm. The Council has already been exploring how it can use the Olympic year to foster community engagement and create a lasting sporting legacy in the city. There will be opportunities to work with local communities (both in the City and in the county more widely) leading up to July 2012 to engage them in the celebrations. The City will also have the opportunity to nominate two torchbearers to take part in the relay

#### Budget provision

The detail of the proposals and costs will need to be reported to the Leader once LOCOG can discuss the route with the council in more detail. This is not likely to be before Spring 2010. There is no identified budget provision for this expenditure. It is anticipated that formal provision will be made as part of setting the detailed budget for 2012/13 once we have a better understanding of the detailed costs. If it is not possible to use revenue funding for this event, the Director of Resources advises that it would be possible to meet this one-off cost from Council reserves.

As there is no identified budget, or other identified source from which this could be funded by virement, the decision that the Leader is being asked to make is not in accordance with approved budgets. In ordinary circumstances the Council's approval would therefore be sought. However, LOCOG has been pressing for a decision as a matter of utmost urgency and had expected the Council to enter into the agreement this week.

The Leader is asked endorse the principle of hosting the event and to authorise the Chief Executive to enter into an agreement with LOCOG confirming we will host the relay and celebration in event in July 2010. This decision also departs from the current agreed budgetary framework and will require Council approval via Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee once the information can be made public.

#### **Recommendation**

The Leader is recommended to authorise the Chief Executive

- a) to enter into an agreement with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2012 (LOCOG) to host the Olympic torch relay and associated celebration event in Cambridge in July 2012.
- b) Once the information is released to the public, to report to the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee explaining the decision, the reasons for it, why it was treated as urgent and the resource implications..

Antoinette Jackson  
Chief Executive  
24 January 2011.