

**To:** Communities Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**By:** Mike Hill, Cabinet Member and Amanda Honey,  
Managing Director, Communities

**Date:** 6th April 2010

**Subject:** Kent School Games

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** This paper brings Members up to date with the progress of the Kent School Games heats, trials and area competitions for the 2010 Games. It also outlines preparations that are in place for the Finals in June and July 2010.

## **FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT**

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### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Kent School Games involves boys and girls at both primary and secondary level and there is both special provision and integrated involvement for disabled school children. The principle aim of the Games is to increase the amount of inter school sports competition. This was achieved through the 2008 Games, but what was equally significant was that the Games resulted in more intra-school competition being held in Kent and the identification of talented young people for County squads. A further benefit was that the Games brought together for the first time governing bodies of sport and school sport structures, working together to create a streamlined structure.
- 1.2 The Kent School Games is organised by KCC in partnership with a large number of organisations including governing bodies of sport, Specialist Sports Colleges, venues, School Sport Partnerships and School Sport Competition Managers. The work is overseen by a Kent School Games Executive Group, which is chaired by the Head of Sport, Leisure and Olympics and is delivered through the Kent School Games Coordinator, who is within the Sport, Leisure and Olympics service. Work on the Games is a priority of both Communities Directorate and CFE Directorate.

### **2 The First Kent School Games (2008)**

- 2.1 The inaugural Kent School Games was held in 2008 and involved 30,000 participants from 500 schools, competing in 515 area competitions in 23 sports held throughout the County. The Finals were

held in June and July 2008 at nine venues, involving 4,400 young people and resulting in 1,200 medallists. The Kent School Games were the biggest school games in the UK and probably in Europe. Kent County Council has pledged that there will be a Kent School Games every two years and be seen as legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- 2.2 Following the success of the 2008 Kent School Games, Dame Kelly Holmes issued a challenge to any future government that the equivalent of the Kent School Games be run in each County throughout the UK, resulting in a National Schools Olympics. Nationally, the Conservative Party has pledged to do so “based on the highly successful Kent School Games model”, should they get into power at the forthcoming general election.

### **3 Kent School Games 2010**

- 3.1 The 2010 Kent School Games were launched on 1 October 2009 by Paul Carter, Dame Kelly Holmes and Hugh Robertson MP, the Shadow Sports and Olympics Minister. The launch took place at three schools and involved 1,000 pupils. Every Kent school was sent a pack containing a launch DVD to be shown in school assemblies, a letter of encouragement to run celebratory sports events to mark the launch of the Games and a series of posters to be used within the school. Since then, heats, trials and area competitions have been held, and these will continue to the Finals which will take place in June and July 2010.
- 3.2 The 2010 Games will be bigger than the 2008 Games. There will be more young people taking part, there will be greater involvement of the arts and significantly more media coverage of the Games and its participant individuals and schools.
- 3.3 The key elements of the 2010 Kent School Games to note are as follows:
- The Finals events will begin in the week commencing 7 June 2010 and run through until 4 July 2010
  - There will be 38 sports activities, including disability sports, in the Games. This is a significant increase from the 23 in the 2008 Games
  - Thirteen venues will be used in the Finals
  - The Finals will comprise of 10 days of competition, compared with the eight days in 2008
  - The age of participants has been widened to 4 to 16 years, as opposed to the 7 to 16 age group in the 2008 Games
  - The Finals will have 6,000 participants, compared to the 4,400 in the 2008 Games
  - Primary events have been run in each of the 13 school sport partnerships, organised by the Partnership Development Managers working alongside county governing bodies of sport

- The majority of secondary school events have been led by Competition Managers in regional competitions around the County
- Finals events will have a greater concentration on art and cultural aspects than in the 2008 Games
- The KM Group has been appointed as the official media partner for the Kent School Games and has given significant coverage to the Games, including establishing a web site on Kent Online.

#### **4 Elected Member Involvement**

- 4.1 Both the Sport, Leisure and Olympics service and the Cabinet Member for Communities have written to KCC Members inviting them to attend area competitions and also Finals events.

#### **5 Further Details**

- 5.1 Details of the sports included in the Kent School Games 2010, the venues to be used in the Finals and the Finals schedule are presented in the Appendices to this report.

#### **6 Recommendation**

- 6.1 Communities Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to NOTE the progress made and comment on the preparations for the Kent School Games 2010.

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