

Draft Terms of Reference

NW Business Forum (2012 Games)

Background

The 2012 Games have the potential to generate a wide range of business opportunities. The Olympic Board and government have stated a strong commitment to ensuring that the benefits and in particular an 'Olympic legacy' are felt outside of London – across the whole of the UK. Competition for commercial opportunities, in particular, will be fierce with interest coming from UK companies and other global companies.

It is accepted that if the North West is to maximise the potential business benefits, the region will need to be proactive and seek to promote its unique assets. The engagement of the business community in the Northwest will be essential to ensure that initiatives developed to maximise business opportunity take account of the context and needs of the business community in the Northwest.

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) will ensure the engagement of the business community through the development of a NW Business Forum (2012 Games). This Forum will be linked to the wider NW Steering Group (2012 Games) that is responsible for overall coordination of activities that maximise the legacy of the 2012 Games in the Northwest.

Aims of the Group:

To coordinate a business-led Forum that facilitates maximum engagement and development of business opportunities in the Northwest generated by the 2012 Games.

Objectives:

- To, in conjunction with the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), develop a regional strategy to help Northwest businesses maximise the opportunities generated from the 2012 Games, whilst also managing expectations;
- To develop a collaborative approach to future support in alignment with existing activities and programmes;
- To provide a 'sounding board' for business opportunities on behalf on the NW Steering Group (2012 Games);
- To provide input, to both the NW Steering Group and NW Business Forum, on the views and feedback from the business community on activities being developed to support the 2012 Games;
- To act as an advocate and champion for best practice that maximises business opportunities from the 2012 Games;
- To actively communicate, through existing networks and organised event, information on the business opportunities from the 2012 Games.

Composition of the Group:

The Group will comprise of nominated representatives from the business community of the Northwest to ensure appropriate representation from organisations that represent regional-wide business organisations and sectoral bodies.

Membership includes:-

- Geoffrey Piper, Director, NW BLT
- Anne Thompson, Sector Leader – Sport, NWDA
- Martin Toomey, Supply Chain Manager – Regional, NWDA
- Colin Daniels, NW Chamber of Commerce
- Brian Richardson, Business Link Northwest
- Laura Wolfe, Regional Director, IOD (and representing Private Sector Partners)
- Mike Eccelshall, Deputy International Trade Director, UKTI (NW)
- Peter Davys, Federation of Small Businesses
- Simon Caunt, CBI
- Nick Storer, Chief Executive, Envirolink
- Pat Foreman, Chief Executive, Food NW
- Alan Bury, The Manufacturing Institute
- David Ost, Engineering and Employers Federation (EEF)
- David Higham, GONW

The meetings will be chaired by Geoffrey Piper, Director of the NWBLT.

NWDA will provide secretariat support to this group.

Other partner organisations can be invited to attend meetings as appropriate for specific agenda items.

Frequency of Meetings:

The Group will meet quarterly at venues to be confirmed.