

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES



This factsheet answers some common questions about Tower Hamlets and the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

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Q1 What will be in Tower Hamlets?

- There will be a temporary arena on Fish Island (in Bow) for basketball, which will be converted to other uses after the Games
- Victoria Park may be used for training facilities for athletics and archery and Mile End Stadium may be used for training facilities for athletics that could result in improvements to these sites
- Victoria Park may be used to watch events on big screens and cultural events
- The marathon and road walk will go through the borough
- There will be improvements to the Jubilee, Central and East London lines and the DLR, with more trains and stations. Also the North London line will be improved and Stratford International Station will open in 2007. There will be more river crossings over the river Lea
- The borough will benefit from major regeneration in the area. This includes new jobs, hundreds of new homes in the borough and east London, a boost to sport, culture and tourism, and a large new park along the river Lea. The borough will be next to the main Olympic sports venues, which after the Games will be open for use by residents. The Games are also an opportunity to improve health and education in the borough.

Q2 How do I get work because of the 2012 Games?

The Games will create thousands of permanent jobs and construction jobs in East London, and education and skills training, to build the new venues and to look after the 17,000 athletes and officials, the 20,000 journalists and broadcasters, and the hundreds of thousands of spectators and visitors. Most jobs and business opportunities will be created after these contracts start, which is 2007 onwards. The two main Olympic organisations – the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) – have been set up and are based at Canary Wharf. The ODA will give the main tenders for the Games. Tower Hamlets council is working with the Games' organisers to ensure we get our share of these jobs and business opportunities. For news about business opportunities and to register for updates, go to www.london2012.com/business. For information about local business support services, go to www.open4business.info/towerhamlets.



Q3 How do I become a volunteer?

70,000 volunteers will be needed for the Games. To register, go to the website for London 2012 – www.london2012.com.

Q4 I live nearby – how will I be affected?

The most affected area in Tower Hamlets is in and around Bow Industrial Park on Carpenters Road. This will be the venue for basketball and will be converted to other uses after the Games. Plans to use the area around Wick Lane, Bow for a coach park are not going forward. Most building work will start in 2007 onwards.

Before this date there will be clearance work. The council is seeking to minimise the effect of this work on local residents and businesses. During the Games there will be no car parking for spectators, except disabled spectators. There will be free public travel in London for all ticket holders.

Q5 When can I buy tickets and how much will they cost?

Tickets will go on sale in 2011. There will be 8 million tickets, with free public travel in London for all ticket holders. 1.5 million tickets will cost £15; it is expected that 75 per cent of all tickets will cost less than £50. There will be 20,000 £10 tickets available to watch events on big screens around the Olympic Park, and free events such as the marathon and road walk (both will go through Tower Hamlets), road cycling and the triathlon. (All figures are at 2004 prices.)

Q6 What about my council tax?

The part of council tax that goes straight to the Mayor of London has increased by £20 per year for band D properties; band A-C properties pay less, band E-H properties pay more. This is for up to 12 years from April 2006. It will fund up to £625 million, or about one-eighth, of the £4.85 billion cost of hosting the Games. It is estimated that for every pound Londoners contribute to the Olympics, we will receive £3 worth of investment in jobs, affordable housing, transport, and sports facilities.

Q7 What is the London 2012 lottery?

The London 2012 lottery scratchcard was launched in July 2005, the same month that we won the Games. It is like other lottery scratchcards, and appropriately has a top prize of £2,012. There is also a London 2012 lottery draw. The scratchcard – called Go For Gold – and lottery tickets are available from usual outlets. The money raised will go towards half of the £1.5 billion contribution by the National Lottery to the cost of the Games.

Q8 How can I get more information?

- For information about the Games, go to www.london2012.com
- For information about the Games and Tower Hamlets, go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/olympics or, or contact the Tower Hamlets Olympics Co-ordinator (John Thorne), 020 7364 4912, john.thorne@towerhamlets.gov.uk. For a walking guide to the venues and existing attractions (called Walk the Olympic Park), a newsletter about business opportunities, or to be placed on a mailing list for updates about the Games and Tower Hamlets, contact the Olympics Co-ordinator.
- For news about business opportunities and to register for updates, go to www.london2012.com/business. For information about local business support services, go to www.open4business.info/towerhamlets.