

Southwark Labour's 4 point plan for Olympic opportunities

1. Training and supporting volunteers – There will be 70,000 volunteers at the Games in 2012. That might sound like a lot, but those volunteers aren't just going to come from London or England or the UK, but from around the world. And they aren't going to be decided on a first-come first-serve basis either. The organisers have already agreed that when recruitment for volunteers begins in 2010 one of the biggest factors will be volunteering experience. So we need to give Southwark residents who want to be volunteers the best possible chances of success by helping them find valuable volunteering opportunities. We can do this through our schools, website and other information services.

We don't want a situation to arise in five years time where our residents are eager to volunteer but are turned away because they don't have the experience.

2. Supporting businesses and promoting employment opportunities – The organisers are making the 2012 Games a bigger opportunity for small businesses than any held before. They are advertising every contract and sub-contract well in advance and making sure that there is a level playing field for all tenders. We want the council to do more to pass this information down to Southwark businesses and to give them the support that they need to take full advantage of the huge opportunities the Games offer them.

At the same time the Games are going to offer significant employment opportunities in a whole range of different sectors, from construction to hospitality. But the people who want to take advantage of those opportunities fully are going to need education and training, and maybe even qualifications. We want the council to do more to help people into education and training so that we can take this chance to help many people in Southwark pull themselves out of poverty and unemployment.

3. Promoting *all* of Southwark in the Cultural Olympiad – While the Games themselves won't start for another five years, the Cultural Olympiad begins next summer and will be a four year long celebration of culture, arts and education throughout the UK. It represents a unique opportunity for everyone in Southwark to enrich their lives by developing new talents and having new experiences. Southwark is already celebrated as a cultural hub, but that celebration has often focused on the far north of the borough. We want the Cultural Olympiad to be used to promote arts and culture throughout the borough and to promote the vibrancy of every part of the place in which we live. We want a strategy that outlines how the council can work with other bodies to promote *the whole borough*, and a calendar of exciting events so that we don't let this opportunity pass us by.

All the other boroughs are doing it, Southwark can't just rest on its laurels in the North; we have to get proactive.

4. Improving sporting opportunities for all – Over 200 teams take part in the Olympic Games. Many of them will want training facilities in Britain before and during the event. We have the chance to improve our sporting facilities and to attract a team to Southwark, in close proximity to where the Games are taking place. But that's just one of the infrastructural changes that we can benefit from. We want the council to use the Games as the springboard for getting *everybody* more involved in sport, not just the young and not just the able-bodied. That's why we want the council to extend the Southwark Community Games beyond the age of 16, for the council to ensure that all sports facilities are accessible to people with a disability and that it supports potential paralympians in equal terms their able bodied counterparts