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## **MARTIN HAVENHAND APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE CHAIR OF YORKSHIRE 2012**

Martin Havenhand has today been appointed to chair the Yorkshire Committee for the 2012 Games. The former Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward will lead the regional steering group for the Games which aims to maximise the benefits of the London 2012 Olympics to the region.

The Committee's members include Yorkshire Culture, Yorkshire Forward, Yorkshire Tourist Board, Sport England Yorkshire and the city regions of Leeds, Sheffield and Hull. Martin will also represent the region on the LOCOG (London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games) Nations and Regions group.

Commenting on his appointment Mr Havenhand said "I am delighted to have been given the chance to spearhead Yorkshire's support for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is a great region with fantastic cultural facilities and a proud sporting tradition. Yorkshire's support can be hugely beneficial to the London 2012 Games and the region can also massively benefit from the wide ranging economic, social and cultural benefits of the Games."

Clive Leach CBE, Chair of Yorkshire Culture who will head up the team supporting Mr Havenhand in his role said "This is a high profile post and a very important job. To have someone of Martin's calibre and experience on board will be invaluable to the region in terms of bringing together the private and public sectors and securing a lasting legacy from the Games."

Research has demonstrated that the Yorkshire and Humber region's business community could benefit to the tune of £600million\* from a combination of construction, manufacturing, service sector and tourism services required for the Games. In his recent visit to the region Lord Coe, Chair of LOCOG, reinforced the region's strong position stating "You are ahead of the game here. Yorkshire was the only area to have completed an audit of facilities before the vote on staging 2012 was taken last summer in Singapore. This region has a strong economy in manufacturing and service industries, and there will be thousands of contracts to be won across a whole range of business opportunities." An audit of the sporting infrastructure and training facilities\*\* in the region carried out last year stated that Yorkshire and Humber could already meet the needs of world class athletes in almost 75% of the 38 Olympic disciplines, and 80% of the 20 Paralympic disciplines.

**\*\*ENDS\*\***





## **Notes to Editors:**

### **Martin Havenhand**

Martin Havenhand was the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward from 1999 to 2006. In his time at Yorkshire Forward he took a number of national lead roles for the English Regions, including HM Treasury, CBI and TUC. Before joining Yorkshire Forward, Martin worked for over 20 years in Local Government starting his career in Sheffield and working for South Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council, Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council and then working for Bassetlaw in North Nottinghamshire. He has been working at Executive Director level for over 20 years and has been a Chief Executive for 12 years. The majority of his time has been spent on Regeneration and bringing together the best of the public sector with the best of the private sector.

### **Yorkshire Culture**

Yorkshire Culture, the regional cultural consortium, is a public-private partnership set up in 1999 to promote the region's culture. It works by bringing together a wide range of individuals and organisations which are active in the region's cultural life. Yorkshire Culture acts as a unifying strategic voice for the complex and diverse cultural sector. As the region's cultural champion it promotes the value of the cultural sector to the economy. Yorkshire Culture also provides a vehicle for developing partnerships at different levels and across different sectors.

\* The figure of £600m is based on statistics from the Sydney 2000 Olympics and projected figures of 2,500 extra overseas athletes and officials being based in Yorkshire for pre-Olympic preparation and training camps. From 2008 onwards Yorkshire and Humber could potentially benefit from an extra monthly revenue of approximately £13.4 million. It is forecasted that Sheffield (£2.8m), Leeds (£3.45m), York (£2.84m) and Hull (£2.73m) will receive significant additional monthly revenues.

\*\* The Yorkshire Forward/Sport England 'Sports Technical Audit' was completed in April 2005. The audit concluded that 63 facilities in the region's cities and towns already comprise a strong portfolio of venues to host athletes competing in major events, like the Olympic Games, judging the region's sporting infrastructure against an "international standard" agreed in conjunction with the British Olympic Association. Recognised centres of sporting excellence included Leeds and Sheffield, but the audit also identified thirteen other areas throughout North, West, South Yorkshire and the Humber that meet the stringent requirements.

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