

London networking for Olympic gold legacy



'The Olympic Park in 2005' courtesy of University of East London

London's universities, colleges and borough councils are working with support from network provider [LMN \(London Metropolitan Network\)](#) to achieve a permanent legacy for the community from the 2012 Olympic Games

"The Olympic Games are bringing huge opportunities for regeneration to London and our members are contributing expertise and facilities at every level, not only to the success of the events but also to the long-term benefits for the capital," explains Maria Iliu, Business Development Manager at LMN. "There are major opportunities for forging new partnerships, sharing knowledge and achieving technical developments that will benefit communities within the network."

For example, staff at the London Borough of Newham, associate members of LMN, are working on the IT infrastructure for the 2012 Games. Alf Raju, responsible for ICT Legacy and Business Planning at the Borough, aims to create a lasting legacy in Newham from the massive investment in new technology that underpins the Olympics.

"The key for us is using the LMN network and especially the backup services within it, working together to ensure that the benefits for education in Newham and the University of East London do not end with the end of the Games," says Alf. "We are

working with LMN to share information and approaches so that we can achieve a good backbone network between London's boroughs both during the Games and into the future."

"Our objective is to leverage a long-term legacy, a joined-up network, for London's boroughs, universities and colleges out of the infrastructure that is being installed for 2012," he explains. "Once this is done, it becomes feasible to deliver services over the legacy infrastructure, both existing services such as social care, benefits, telehealth and telecare and also new services for the future."

Universities and colleges are contributing energetically to general facilities for the Olympics. For example, St Mary's University College is leading the South West London cluster for 'Go South Go', the one-stop information guide to 2012 opportunities.

"We are also working on internet-based sports development projects for the local community and a 2012 drama project with local schools – reliant on the quality of our IT infrastructure," said Professor Dick Fisher of St Mary's.

The University of East London (UEL) is the nearest higher education institution to the Olympic Park. It has seen a dramatic increase in student applications due to increased dynamism in the area - which the Games will enhance.

"Together with other major projects currently under way in London, the Games will transform the character of the capital," says John Lock, Director of UEL's 2012 Office. "UEL and London's other universities and colleges are playing a key role in ensuring that there are education and technology as well as sports legacies for our communities."

One of UEL's principal academic research centres has Olympic and Paralympic Legacy as its main priority. UEL is working closely with the Newham Academy of Sport, led by Olympic medallist Tessa Sanderson, which aims to bring on potential champions.

Tower Hamlets College is working on training programmes to help potential volunteers at the Olympic Games to develop the skills they will need.

London Metropolitan Network, winner of the 'Best Shared Services Award' from London Connects, delivers cost effective and valued services to its community of over 100 education institutions and London boroughs. ●

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