



## Damian Hinds

MP for East Hampshire

### News release

10 January 2012  
For immediate release

#### **“2012 is our Moment to Shine” says Damian Hinds**

Damian Hinds has spoken of his anticipation of a year of national celebration following confirmation by the Department for Culture Media and Sport that the Olympic Torch would arrive in Britain on 18 May following its lighting in Greece earlier in the month.

As one of the MPs representing a constituency that will host the torch relay, Damian recently got a chance to see and hold the iconic 2012 Torch (pictured).



*“2012 is set to be a year we never forget. The Olympic Games and the Diamond Jubilee are both events of historic significance. For us to see them both in a year makes this truly a Jubilee year for the whole country. The Torch passing through East Hampshire on the way to London will be a fantastic highlight for us.*

*“This really is a ‘moment to shine’ both for Britain as a whole and for the places that will host the Torch relay. There is a great opportunity to showcase our country and our area, and to our bolster our tourism sector and the jobs it supports.*

*“The Games, and the carrying of the Torch through Petersfield, are a proud event for us as a nation and a local community. I am really looking forward to what will be a memorable year, both in East Hampshire and across the UK.”*

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Notes to editors:

Picture to follow by email

The Olympic Flame will be carried across the UK by 8,000 inspirational Torchbearers each of whom will have a story of personal achievement and/or contribution to the local community. Final Torchbearer places will start to be confirmed from February 2012 onwards.

On the final day of the Olympic Torch Relay, it is LOCOG's intention that the Olympic Flame will travel down the River Thames as it makes its way to the Olympic Stadium on 27 July 2012 for the lighting of the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony, signifying the official start of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

To keep up-to-date with the East Hampshire's celebration plans visit EHDC's website [www.easthants.gov.uk/2012](http://www.easthants.gov.uk/2012).

The London 2012 Olympic Torch was designed by east Londoners Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, who won the opportunity through a competitive tender run by the London 2012 Organising Committee and the Design Council. The design, engineering and manufacture celebrate the best of British talent. Barber and Osgerby worked closely with Basildon-based product engineers Tecosim and Coventry manufacturers Premier Sheet Metal to develop the prototypes for the Torch.

The Torch is made up of an inner and an outer aluminium alloy skin, held in place by a cast top piece and base, perforated by 8,000 circles. Representing the inspirational stories of the 8,000 Torchbearers who will carry the Olympic Flame, the circles which run the length of the body of the Torch also offer a unique level of transparency. You can see right to the heart of the Torch and view the burner system which will keep the Olympic Flame alive on its journey around the UK.

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