

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Agenda

Monday, 20 June 2016
1.00 pm

Conference Rooms A and B, The National Archives, Bessant Drive. Kew, Surrey, TW9 4DU

To: Members of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board
20 June 2016

There will be a meeting of the Culture, Tourism & Sport Board at **1.00 pm on Monday, 20 June 2016** The National Archives, Bessant Drive. Kew, Surrey, TW9 4DU.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 12:30.

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.group@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of The National Archives is printed at the back.

LGA Contact:

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Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.20 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Social Media

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgacts

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Membership 2015/2016

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
David Burbage (Deputy Chairman)	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
Greg Smith	Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council
Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Colin Organ	Gloucester City Council
Substitutes	
David Hall	Somerset County Council
Tom Killen	Mendip District Council
Paul Yallop	Worthing Borough Council
Geoffrey Theobald	Brighton & Hove City Council
Geraldine Carter	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (7)	
Simon Henig (Vice-Chair)	Durham County Council
Terry O'Neill	Warrington Council
Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Faye Abbott	Coventry City Council
Alice Perry	Islington Council
Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Substitutes	
Muhammed Butt	Brent Council
David Christie	Newham London Borough Council
Independent (2)	
Ian Stephens (Chair)	Isle of Wight Council
Geoff Knight	Lancaster City Council
Substitutes	
Robert Dutton	Wrexham County Borough Council
Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Mike Bell (Deputy Chair)	North Somerset Council
Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
Substitutes	
Flick Rea	Camden Council

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board - Attendance 2015-2016

Councillors	14/09/15	1/12/15	25/02/16	
Conservative Group				
David Burbage MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Tom Fitzpatrick	Yes	No	Yes	
Peter Golds CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Blake Pain	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Greg Smith	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Barry Lewis	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Colin Organ	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Labour Group				
Simon Henig CBE	No	Yes	Yes	
Terry O'Neill	No	Yes	Yes	
Barrie Grunewald	No	No	No	
Timothy Swift	No	Yes	No	
Faye Abbott	Yes	No	Yes	
Alice Perry	Yes	Yes	No	
Independent				
Ian Stephens	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Geoff Knight	Yes	Yes	No	
Lib Dem Group				
Mike Bell	Yes	Yes	No	
Stewart Golton	Yes	Yes	No	
Substitutes/Observer				
Richard Henry	Yes			
Tom Killen		Yes		
Geraldine Carter		Yes	Yes	
James Lewis		Yes		
Richard Henry		Yes		

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Monday 20 June 2016

1.00 pm

Conference Rooms A and B, The National Archives, Bessant Drive. Kew, Surrey, TW9 4DU

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Date of the Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th September
2016, 1:00pm, Smith Square Rooms 1 and 2, Local
Government House



The Archive Sector: Challenges and Opportunities

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The National Archives (TNA) is a non-ministerial government department, whose parent department is the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The National Archives leads over 2,500 archives in England – over 200 of which are places of deposit; and supports over 100 local authority archives in England.

TNA and LGA are strategic partners who work together to share good practice approaches and to support archive services in finding ways to adapt to the mutual challenges that they face: digital transformation, workforce capabilities and financial resilience. This includes supporting their contribution to the achievement of local educational, economic and wellbeing outcomes.

Jeff James, Chief Executive of The National Archives, will present to the Board. The attached TNA briefing paper sets out background information, summarises latest delivery models in the archive sector and suggests shared priorities for LGA and TNA to take forward.

Ahead of DCMS formally launching a consultation on the government policy for archives, this Board meeting is an early opportunity for Members to give a steer on how TNA can best work with the LGA and local government to support the archive sector.

Recommendation

Members are invited to discuss the issues raised in The National Archives' briefing paper and to offer an early steer on shared priorities for TNA's new strategy.

Action

To be taken forward by officers, as directed by Members.

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The Archive Sector: Challenges and Opportunities

The role of the National Archives

1. The National Archives is the official archive and publisher for UK government and for England & Wales. We are a non-ministerial government department that sits within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport family. The DCMS minister responsible for The National Archives is Baroness Neville-Rolfe.
2. The National Archives is the custodian of the government record and iconic historical documents. We collect and preserve both digital and physical records, and make them accessible and available. We lead the archive sector in England and perform the Historical Manuscripts Commission functions in relation to records in private (independent) ownership. We also develop and promote standards and best practice in all aspects of archive management.
3. *Archives Inspire*, our ambitious four-year strategy launched in 2015, sets out what The National Archives will do to meet the needs of each of our major audiences: government, the public, the archive sector, and research and academics, and tackling our biggest challenge – digital. For the archive sector, we are actively supporting archives to face mutual challenges – in securing the best possible long-term future for their collections and services and in identifying sustainable solutions for the long-term.
4. The National Archives aims to lead the sector in finding the capacity to build new digital skills and infrastructure. In 2015, we were the major funder of the [Digital Preservation Handbook](#) and ran a workshop for the sector to share learning and best practice. Despite the challenges, we are leading a sector that is innovative and keen to seize opportunities in relation to digital transformation and innovation.

The Archive sector

5. The archive sector in the UK is a rich variety of national, regional and local archives. There are over 2,500 archives in England – over 200 of these are Places of Deposit (repositories that hold certain classes of public records which are not held at The National Archives), and 75 are university collections.
6. Archives form an important part of the wider cultural landscape often within the context of a museum, university or library offer. This diverse landscape is managed through a number of networks: local authorities; museums; libraries; private individuals; charitable and commercial bodies.

7. In 2015, the Local Government Association (LGA) and The National Archives published [Transforming Local Archive Services](#), showcasing 13 local authority archives, it aimed to demonstrate the contribution local archives make to the local authorities' agendas of financial resilience, community engagement, local transparency and accountability.
8. The National Archives and the LGA are key strategic partners. We work in partnership to support the preservation of the public record, to develop essential tools in delivering local transparency and accountability, and to develop community cohesion. The importance of the public record has been highlighted by matters of significant public interest, for example, the findings of [Hillsborough Independent Panel](#).
9. Many of the nation's archives are of national and international significance, such as the [Lincolnshire Archives](#), [Norfolk Records Office](#), [Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums](#), and the [Liverpool Records Office](#). These archives form an important part of the local cultural offer and contribute to the visitor economy through cultural, heritage, ancestral and educational tourism.

Local councils and the archive sector

10. Local councils have been at the forefront of supporting, conserving and promoting the nation's archives. The National Archives supports over 100 local authority archives in England. Throughout the UK in recent years, many local councils have supported the creation of landmark buildings that have showcased important collections, offered new facilities and activities to benefit the whole community e.g. [Archives+](#) in Manchester and [Kent History and Library Centre](#), Maidstone, Kent. Archives can be part of a wider council-led regeneration and play an important role in helping communities embrace change by firmly locating history, heritage and community identity at the heart of urban regeneration. These developments have also supported the visitor economy and created a strong sense of place and a focus for the positive expressions of local identities.
11. Many local council archives are relatively small services that do not therefore benefit from economies of scale. Over the recent period some archive services will have seen reduced opening hours, changes to their cultural education and outreach offers and in some cases, the loss of essential specialist posts such as conservators.

The National Archives support for the sector

12. The National Archives supports the archive sector – including local authority archives – in a range of ways:
 - 12.1 [Fundraising for Archives \(2015\)](#) A HLF-funded project. This two-year programme provides tailored training and mentoring to 96 archives and a further 450 places on day sessions. The programme addresses key fundraising skills and mentors participants to apply them to their real challenges. Many of the skills addressed will be of value beyond fundraising i.e. business planning, advocacy. We had a very strong response to the programme, 23 places were allocated to Local Authority archives, with another 15 due to participate through our open call application process.

- 12.2 [Income Generation Guidance \(2016\)](#) This publication details how archives can use their collections, spaces and expertise to generate earned income, explores areas including licensing, image sales, events, storage space, and specialist services such as conservation. The guidance has been co-created with the sector, to showcase good practice examples – while striking a realistic note on the constraints on income generation, so as to support managers to create achievable plans for the future.
- 12.3 [Commissioning](#): a pilot programme (2015) explored the opportunities of commissioning for archives. This guidance aimed to set out the work needed to engage commissioners (to develop an ‘offer’) and generated practical guidance and case studies. The guidance illustrated that commissioning is a time-intensive process that may not bring immediate financial returns. However, the process of engaging with commissioners can be valuable to profile-raising for archives and in helping key stakeholders understand the role archives can play in meeting key local and community objectives. As a result of the pilot project, Wigan Archives service was commissioned to provide volunteering opportunities to people recovering from addiction.

The way ahead for local authority archives

13. Local authorities are increasingly open to new partnerships and ways of delivering services. The National Archives has provided advice and support so that each council can find the best solution for its local circumstances, and one that takes account of the specific needs of an archive service. Our work includes:
- 13.1 [Governance](#): Many councils are moving archive services into third party arrangements such as trusts and mutuals. The National Archives’ published guidance [In a Spin](#) (2014), to support archives in their decision making and planning, ran masterclasses and provided tailored advice and support. The guidance has met with very positive feedback from senior managers of cultural services (not just archives) as it addresses broad and fundamental issues of relevance to all type of services.
- 13.2 [Collaborative service networks](#): The National Archives has invested in the development of regional networks of archives. We currently support networks in Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, London, Southern England and the East of England. Our investment supports six months of facilitated discussion to agree strategic priorities, develop a work plan and establish a governance structure with senior management commitment. The work plan focuses on ‘quick wins’ in the first 12 months to secure the partnership, and can then move on to tackle more complex issues such as digital preservation. Benefits have been quickly realised – including £74,000 HLF grant to archives in Greater Manchester for cataloguing business records, and development of a joint image sales platform for London archives. Over the next two years, we hope to have established networks across the whole of England, and to share good practice between the networks.

- 13.3 Partnership in Higher Education: The National Archives holds Independent Research Organisation status, and has a strategic focus on developing collaborative relations between the HE and archive sectors. We aim to position archives at the heart of the knowledge-based economy. We showcase examples of the benefits these partnership bring to the locality, as witnessed in the successful partnership of the [Hull History Centre](#), a purpose-built landmark building and visitor attraction. Through our strategic focus we support partnership developments locally, regionally and nationally. Our HE current initiatives include guidance on developing partnerships, [Discovering Communities](#), [Discovering Collections](#), our flagship annual conference and [Higher Education Archives Programme](#).

The government's policy for Archives

14. The previous government policy – [Archives for the 21st Century](#) – was published in 2009 and refreshed in 2012. Last year an [independent review](#) found that much progress had been made in increasing digital access and delivering effective commercial and cultural partnerships. It also highlighted some of the emerging strategic priorities facing the archive sector – digital transformation, financial resilience, workforce capabilities and sector leadership. The time is now right to build on those successes by shaping a new future for archives in England.
15. Over the coming months, The National Archives will be hosting a series of roundtable events for archive professionals, organisations, funders and key stakeholders from the cultural, creative, commercial and digital sectors. The Minister responsible for The National Archives, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, has made clear her support for this work and will be addressing some of the engagement events to encourage the sector to help shape the new strategy and future priorities. We expect her to formally announce the consultation on the new strategy, in autumn 2016. We hope that you will encourage your senior managers and archive staff to contribute to our on-line and engagement roundtable events.

The LGA and local council archives

16. The LGA can play an important role in supporting local authority archives to thrive and engage with their local communities into the future via the following strands:

16.1 Digital transformation:

16.1.1 sharing best practice of digital service transformation

16.1.2 ensuring where archives are co-located with libraries, that they have access to digital reporting tools such as *LG Inform*

16.1.3 enabling and supporting partnerships and applications

16.1.4 supporting archives through shared digital provision to establish a web presence and to gain access to new digital platforms

16.1.5 developing capabilities to improve efficiency and service delivery.

16.2 Financial resilience:

LGA members can help support and build the evidence case for archives to establish their social, cultural and economic impact by:

16.2.1 supporting archives to achieve greater visibility locally and nationally, to attract new users, and to use local insight into local needs and draw-up evidence based plans for optimal service provision

16.2.2 exploring further opportunities for shared services and combined authorities

16.2.3 supporting archives through training, shadowing and mentoring

16.2.4 exploring other opportunities for income generation, both public and private

16.2.5 promoting the role of archives in the devolution agenda and the local cultural economies in supporting the development of local history, regional identity, community cohesion, transparency and accountability.

16.3 Workforce capabilities:

LGA members can help develop the workforce (archivists, volunteers and management) by building the capacity, skills and knowledge base of the archive sector by:

16.3.1 supporting apprenticeships across the archive sector to build skills

16.3.2 building local cultural apprenticeships across cultural services to support small archives services – for example, Camden Council is working with The Knowledge Quarter in Kings Cross, London to develop a [Knowledge Quarter Higher Apprenticeship scheme](#). (The Knowledge Quarter includes archives, museums, libraries, universities and commercial companies)

16.3.3 supporting the development of partnership eco-systems, foster collaboration, peer-learning and best practice through peer-review.

Ambition for Libraries Consultation

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

Ambition for Libraries will determine how central and local government will work together, and with partners, to support thriving public libraries over the next four years within the context of a challenging fiscal climate and wider public service reform. It was developed by the LGA and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Leadership for Libraries Taskforce.

The consultation ran from March to 3 June. Views were collected through an online survey and a series of events held around the country. The LGA encouraged councils to respond to the consultation and hosted a well-attended roundtable for councillors on 1 June.

Kathy Settle, Chief Executive of the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce, will join the Board to give an overview of the consultation responses. This item is an opportunity for Members to set out their vision for Ambition for Libraries and how it can best support council library services.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the presentation and give any further steer in response to the issues raised.

Action

To be taken forward by officers as directed by Members.

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Ambition for Libraries Consultation

Background

1. In March 2016 the LGA and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Leadership for Libraries Taskforce published a consultation document on the future of public libraries [Libraries Deliver: An Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021](#).
2. Ambition for Libraries will determine how central and local government will work together, and with partners, to support thriving public libraries over the next four years within the context of a challenging fiscal climate and wider public service reform.
3. The consultation, which ran from March to 3 June, was an opportunity to ensure that the [Taskforce](#) is focussed on the opportunities and challenges that are most important for councils.
4. The Leadership for Libraries Taskforce was set up in March 2015 following the publication of William Sieghart's [Independent Library Report for England](#) in December 2014.
5. The Taskforce is jointly accountable to LGA Members and Ministers. It is chaired by Paul Blantern, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council. The Taskforce brings together partners including LGA, council chief executives, Arts Council England, The British Library, the BBC, the Society for Chief Librarians and Public Health England to support the sector-led transformation of public libraries.
6. One of Mr. Sieghart's recommendations was to publish a document that set out a shared vision between central government, local government and key partners for public libraries.
7. Taskforce achievements are reported in [six-monthly reports](#) to the LGA and Ministers. These include rolling out Wi-Fi to nearly every public library in England through a DCMS funded and Arts Council England managed project.

The Consultation

8. The Ambition for Libraries consultation ran from March to 3 June. Views were collected through an online survey and a series of events held around the country. The LGA encouraged councils to respond to the consultation and hosted a well-attended roundtable for councillors on 1 June.
9. The consultation document sought views on the following themes:

9.1 The policy context – this section considered people's changing expectations, as well as wider context for local government and the legislative framework.

- 9.2 A vision for libraries** – views were sought on a vision for “a vibrant public library network for the 21st century that supports a strong, sustainable and democratic society that delivers a wide range of benefits to people, communities and the nation.”
- 9.3 What libraries can achieve** – this section summarised evidence about how libraries contribute towards seven priorities: reading and literacy, digital literacy, health and wellbeing, economic growth, culture and creativity, communities and learning.
- 9.4 How we can make this happen** – this section considered different delivery models and governance arrangements for libraries, continued support for libraries to adopt new ways of working, developing a positive public narrative for libraries and what an action plan might need to cover
10. The Taskforce team is currently analysing the feedback from the consultation and Kathy Settle, Chief Executive of the Taskforce, will present a summary to the Board.

Key Messages

11. The LGA’s response to the Ambition for Libraries consultation is attached at **Annex A**.
12. As the joint accountable body for the Taskforce, the CTS Board has been heavily involved in steering the development of Ambition for Libraries. This included the Chair of the Board meeting the Culture Minister, the Chair and Chief Executive of the Taskforce briefing CTS Lead Members, the Taskforce leading a workshop at the LGA’s Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference and regular officer engagement.
13. Ambition is an opportunity to set out how national and local government will work with partners to respond to continued financial challenges and ensure libraries remain exciting and relevant destinations that drive footfall, help to create a climate of aspiration, contribute towards the achievement of local priorities and provide access to a range of public services.
14. Members have set out clear principles which they would like to underpin Ambition:
- 14.1** The importance of recognising that libraries are a locally-led service with councillors’ democratic mandate making them best placed to work with communities to ensure libraries meet local need within available resources.
 - 14.2** The diversity of library delivery models is a great strength because what works for one community might not work for another.
 - 14.3** Acknowledgement of the acute funding challenges facing councils and the potential impact on library services, as well as opportunities from wider public service reform.

- 14.4 Recognition of the innovation that councillors and their staff are already leading in the library sector and how libraries are contributing to local social and economic priorities.
- 14.5 The Taskforce can add value to existing activity by focussing on supporting the locally-led transformation of library services, in line with sector-led improvement.

Next steps

- 15. The LGA will continue to work closely with the Taskforce in developing the final Ambition document, which will be signed-off by Members and Ministers over the summer.

LGA Response: An Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021 Consultation June 2016

1) About the Local Government Association (LGA)

1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national voice of local government. We work with councils to support, promote and improve local government.

1.2 We are a politically-led, cross party organisation which works on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government. We aim to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to councils so they are able to deliver local solutions to national problems.

2) Key Messages

2.1 Ambition for Libraries is an opportunity to set out how central and local government, through the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce, will support public libraries to thrive in a challenging fiscal context for councils and the public sector. We urge the Taskforce to focus on a small number of priorities that will make the biggest difference to improving libraries.

2.2 Ambition must recognise that libraries are a locally delivered service that will look different in different places, reflecting local need. Libraries are among the most valued and used of all council services. In 2014/15 councils invested £800 million in libraries in recognition of their contribution towards local social and economic priorities. However, this investment will come under increasing strain given the acute funding pressures councils face.

2.3 From offering computer coding clubs to small business start-up support and health advice, libraries are increasingly community hubs providing access to a range of services and information, as well as the most up to date written and digital offer. Councils are also embracing new library delivery models, such as co-locating with other services, sharing back office functions and setting up trusts, to improve efficiency and put the service on a more sustainable footing.

2.4 The scale of the funding pressures – especially the costs of caring for a growing older population – means that Ambition needs to be firmly focussed on supporting libraries to be efficient and valued assets that are well placed to take advantage of the opportunities presented by public service reform.

2.5 The Libraries Taskforce's support for councils must be taken forward in line with sector-led improvement, which local and central government have agreed is the most effective way to improve council services. It is vital that the Taskforce recognises the need for local flexibility in how councils access national support. Councillors would welcome the Taskforce focussing on knowledge sharing and good practice that supports locally-led service transformation.

3) Further Information

3.1 We have structured our response according to the themes described in the consultation document. Case studies are attached at **Annex A**.

4) Introduction and Context

4.1 The Ambition for Libraries consultation is happening at a pivotal moment for local government. The challenging fiscal climate and public service reform agenda are transforming the role of councils and therefore how all local services are provided.

4.2 Although local government received a 'flat-cash' settlement over the next four years, there are still significant challenges ahead for councils who will have to make savings to compensate for any additional cost pressures they face. These include costs arising from general inflation, cost pressures in the care sector and increases in demand for everyday services as the population grows. Many councils will have to make significant reductions to local services to account for financial reductions. This acutely challenging financial context, and the potential impact on libraries, needs to be more strongly recognised in Ambition.

4.3 Updating existing and developing new devolution deals, continued health and social care reform, and changes to local government funding, will all impact upon libraries. This important context for councils ought to be reinforced in the 'assumptions about the future' paragraph (3.3) as it will present opportunities and challenges for libraries which the Taskforce can support.

4.4 Recognition of this wider context will also ensure the document resonates with the most senior local decision makers. Ambition is an opportunity to raise the profile of libraries amongst council leaders and chief executives. This requires a punchy, evidence based document that focusses on a small number of priorities and shows how libraries can help councils to tackle the biggest challenges they face.

4.5 Linked to the above point, we suggest the core audience for Ambition is local government. While there are many others working with libraries and with an interest in libraries for whom Ambition will be valuable, its main purpose is to set out how the Taskforce will support libraries to improve and be sustainable in a challenging fiscal context. Multiple audiences and purposes will risk diluting the impact of the final document.

4.6 During the consultation phase, some have called for central government to define what constitutes a 'comprehensive and efficient' library service in the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act. The LGA strongly opposes this because what a local community wants from its library service will vary from place to place. As locally elected representatives, councillors have the democratic mandate to ensure that the library service meets community needs, within available resources. Given the challenging fiscal climate, there is the further risk that greater prescription will stifle local innovation and undermine innovations that have already taken place.

4.7 The consultation document is clear that Ambition is not a statement of government policy. It is important that there continues to be clarity on the status and ownership of Ambition. The final version will be a shared document between the LGA and Ministers. Of course Ministers might also choose to formally adopt all or elements of the document as government policy.

4.8 It is right to put the needs of people who live, work or study in their area at the heart of Ambition. We also strongly agree that the Taskforce should make full use of existing research into why people value libraries.

5) Vision

5.1 While local library services will have their own vision that reflects the local offer, we agree it is helpful to have a shared sector-wide vision which can be used by partners to raise awareness about the value of libraries.

5.2 The vision describes the current library offer. It could have greater impact if it was more forward looking and captured the ability of libraries to continuously evolve and meet changing needs.

5.3 We also suggest the vision needs to be clearer that libraries are locally-led. One of the many strengths of libraries is that they are firmly rooted in the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve.

6) What libraries can achieve

6.1 This section presents a compelling and evidence based narrative on how libraries can help councils to tackle seven priorities: reading and literacy, digital literacy, health and wellbeing, economic growth, culture and creativity and communities. How these priorities are taken forward will vary between different places. There is also a good match with the Society of Chief Librarians' Universal Offers, which are already supporting greater collaboration and consistency across services, whilst retaining local distinctiveness.

6.2 We agree that the consultation document identifies the key policy challenges for councils and that libraries have a significant contribution to make. Within those seven priorities, the consultation responses will help us to further hone the Taskforce's focus, so that it identifies two or three areas where its capacity can make the biggest impact to supporting libraries. Our consultation with councillors particularly highlighted the importance of the health, economic growth and digital agendas.

6.3 Partnerships between libraries and local businesses are developing in more places, and not just cities. This could be more strongly referenced in the 'economic growth' section. Libraries can support businesses by providing access to start-up space, advice and resources. In turn, businesses can help to make libraries more viable by supporting local growth and increasing reach. We would like the Taskforce to support further knowledge sharing, building upon the experience of the Business and Intellectual Property Centres set up by The British Library.

6.4 We also suggest that the document could say more about how libraries can help councils to tackle social care challenges, the biggest funding pressure facing the sector. For example, libraries support independence by providing a safe place for older and vulnerable people to visit and help them to learn digital skills. Libraries can also host reminiscence activities and give service users and carers access to information on issues including care services, health and volunteering opportunities.

6.5 The importance of articulating the wider value of libraries is a key theme to emerge from the LGA and ACE's joint library leadership events for councillors. Councillors welcome being

able to draw upon case studies and evidence that supports the local investment case for libraries. As councils increasingly commission services to deliver health and wellbeing outcomes, it is important that library portfolio holders and managers can draw upon a robust evidence base in commissioning conversations.

6.6 While we agree on identifying a small number of indicators to track progress against the seven priorities, they must be within the Taskforce's remit to influence, strike a balance between ambition and achievability, be useful to councils in making decisions about their service, and not add to councils' data collection burden. For example, we suggest aiming to improve England's ranking for literacy in the OECD might be beyond the admirable ambition of the Taskforce because of the key role other factors, such as schools and the home environment, play in determining literacy levels. If the Taskforce wishes to suggest indicators that are not currently measured or collected centrally, then this must be agreed by local government and taken forward in line with the shared approach to sector-led improvement agreed with government.

7) Governance and delivery

7.1 A set of design principles could be a very useful tool for councils who are reviewing their library service. It is important they are developed by the sector, for the sector. At the moment, the consultation document states that the principles have been drafted "to inform the superintendence of public libraries as a network." As already highlighted, we do not think central government should mandate what a library service looks like. We would welcome further discussion on the design principles and how they might be used to support the sector-led transformation of libraries.

7.2 There is a risk that focussing discussion on structures shifts the debate away from the priority issues set out in *Ambition*. Actions to further strengthen leadership, workforce development, digital presence and communications, which could make a real difference to the customer experience, do not necessarily require structural changes.

7.3 With that in mind, the 'suggested model for service delivery' in section 4.2 needs to be substantially revised. Paragraph 4.2 should not attempt to describe a model for service delivery. This will necessarily vary from place to place and risks a narrow focus on structures. There are, however, a number of shared principles which could underpin the delivery of libraries and how decisions are taken. For example, locally-led, collaboration and sharing good practice. We strongly urge the Taskforce to re-frame section 4.2 along these lines.

7.4 Section 4.2 implies that the Taskforce has reviewed how public libraries are delivered in England and makes recommendations on the way forward. While we wholeheartedly agree that local government ought to remain accountable for public libraries, it is beyond the Taskforce's remit to open up this question for debate. The assumptions that follow - in particular, the review of national structures and organisations - need to be re-considered in the light of this.

7.5 We agree that the time limited nature of the Taskforce means it needs to work with national sector bodies such as ACE, SCL and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) on how best to support the sector beyond the lifetime of the Taskforce. However, the proposed review of national structures and organisations risks diverting the Taskforce's attention away from the issues that matter to frontline libraries and will make the most difference to the sustainability of the sector. It is also out of kilter with the

otherwise welcome collaborative approach that is taken throughout the rest of the document. We strongly urge the Taskforce to re-consider this recommendation. If DCMS feels that there is benefit in commissioning an independent review, then it ought to be taken forward by Ministers, separately from the Taskforce.

7.6 We support what section 4.2 says about the Taskforce helping libraries to exploit opportunities from collaboration and harnessing the potential of acting together, when councils want to do this. It is entirely sensible that councils consider the implications of Combined Authorities and similar arrangements on the delivery models for library services and their footprint.

7.7 Public libraries do not yet feature in many devolution deals. However, as deals continue to develop and new ones are signed, we are likely to see more opportunities for local services. For example, the devolution of economic growth and skills funding offers opportunities for libraries to strengthen their role supporting new businesses and helping people to find jobs. Greater freedoms and flexibilities in the system overall will mean that councils are able to deliver more innovative funding and support to services such as libraries. The Taskforce could play a valuable role supporting libraries to engage in devolution conversations and sharing the lessons from this.

7.8 We support Ambition highlighting the importance of evidence based planning to decision making. However, the driver of the proposed voluntary mapping exercise must be the needs of councils, not to support the “active superintendence” of councils by central government. Councils have extensive experience of complex service transformations and we need to understand from the sector if there are any particular gaps or needs in relation to libraries which the Taskforce could support. It will be up to councils to choose whether or not they develop a Public Library Delivery Plan.

7.9 It is right to recognise that the localisation of local government funding will impact upon the future resources available for libraries. We suggest this is better reflected in the ‘context’ section rather than ‘governance and delivery’.

7.10 We are pleased that Ambition emphasises the importance of developing the library workforce. As more libraries co-locate with other services, library staff will increasingly need to be multi-skilled. This must be reflected in the library workforce’s professional training and development. The role of volunteers should also be considered more fully in this section, because it is a significant workforce issue. Volunteers have a hugely important role to play, but this needs to be carefully handled to ensure they are supported, and it will not be appropriate for all libraries.

8) New ways of working

8.1 Councils have a strong track record of adopting new ways of working across the services they lead. There are a range of delivery models and approaches for libraries which the LGA, ACE, the Libraries Taskforce and SCL share and support through our sector-led library improvement offer. These include co-location with other services, trusts, shared services and back office functions, contracting an external provider, commissioning libraries to deliver wider outcomes and involving communities in running libraries. Each of these are considered in the consultation document.

8.2 Underpinning the new ways of working are partnerships between libraries and other council services, such as public health. Libraries are also forging wider partnerships with the public, private, and voluntary sectors to make more services available and increase the reach of libraries. For example, Citizens Advice and the police. Co-locating and working with a range of council and other services delivers further benefits to library users and helps make the service more sustainable.

8.3 A key role for the Taskforce is to further strengthen the culture of mutual support that exists amongst councils and their partners by seeking out and sharing the most innovative practice. It may also be the case that new opportunities and ideas emerge over the lifetime of Ambition.

8.4 The LGA is already supporting councils to adopt new ways of working for a range of council services. We can help ensure that learning from other council services is shared with libraries who are considering adopting similar approaches and that the learning from libraries is fed back into the LGA's wider support offer.

8.5 We also need to recognise that the current funding climate will make it increasingly difficult for councils to invest in taking forward new delivery models. Managing complex change requires appropriate political and managerial capacity and expertise. This highlights the importance of the Taskforce and its resources focussing on supporting the sector-led change process within libraries.

8.6 It is through strong local political leadership that libraries will be well placed to influence and take advantage of wider public service reform. For example, many libraries work in partnership with public health to increase access to information and advice. Over half a million people have been supported by the clinically validated [Reading Well](#) programmes which are offered in over 90 per cent of libraries.

8.7 We agree that in the event of council support for the expectation set and/or a voluntary accreditation, they must be developed as part of the Taskforce's sector-led improvement offer. The tools would need to be light touch, recognise the need for local flexibility and sit separately from DCMS's superintending role.

8.8 We fully support the emphasis on evidence-driven decision making underpinned by quality and timely data. The Taskforce is working with the LGA to explore opportunities to improve the library data we host on [LG Inform](#), the single online repository for local government improvement data. It is important that the proposed model basic data set is developed by the sector and with the LG Inform team. There may be resource implications that need to be considered.

8.9 We caution against the use of the phrase "fewer but better" because while some councillors have chosen this course of action, and we need to recognise the funding challenges facing councils, others have taken different decisions. Ambition must embrace diversity and should avoid recommending a single way forward to local government. The Taskforce has a valuable role to play sharing the learning from different approaches which reflect local need, geography and other circumstances.

9) Marketing and communications

9.1 The Taskforce brings together an impressive range of national partners who have considerable public and media profile. We suggest the Taskforce leads a focussed marketing and communications plan, based around the key messages in the final Ambition document, with two aims:

- 1) To encourage a more positive national narrative on libraries that the Taskforce and partners can use for 'golden moments' and elsewhere.

9.2 The current national narrative does not reflect the many different ways libraries are adapting and innovating to meet local people's needs and we welcome efforts to improve branding and promotion. As the consultation document suggests, a shared positive narrative would include opportunities such as National Libraries Day and the Summer Reading Challenge. It could help to challenge stereo types about libraries and reach out to a wider audience.

9.3 We would welcome clarity on the resources available to support national campaign activity and further discussion on how this might relate to local promotion. We also suggest focussing on those aspects of the library offer which nearly everyone can expect to access thanks to the Universal Offers.

- 2) To raise awareness and secure buy-in to Ambition amongst local and national decision-makers.

9.4 We suggest the immediacy of the funding challenges facing libraries means that local decision-makers should initially be the main focus for communications activity that seeks to make the case for libraries, while recognising the opportunities that exist for influencing the wider public narrative.

10) Action Plan

10.1 We support a proportionate action plan that sets out how the Taskforce will work with councils to take forward the themes in the Ambition document. Accountability for the duration of the Taskforce should be through the six-monthly Taskforce reports to the LGA and Ministers, who will also sign-off the action plan.

10.2 The action plan should measure Ambition's progress against a small number of outcome focussed indicators on which the Taskforce is adding value over and above what individual organisations are already doing. The action plan does not need to reflect the totality of actions being led by Taskforce members, although there may be value in another lighter touch mechanism to capture this breadth of activity.

10.3 We need to recognise the time limited nature of the Taskforce (funding has been secured until 2020/21) and give early consideration to sustainable and proportionate arrangements for maintaining a shared central and local government focus on improving libraries.

10.4 As the wider context within which councils and their partners continues to change due to public service reform, devolution and funding pressures, Ambition will need to keep pace with the opportunities and challenges that that presents for libraries.

11) Background

11.1 The Leadership for Libraries Taskforce was set up in March 2015 following the publication of William Sieghart's [Independent Library Report for England](#) in December 2014.

11.2 The Taskforce is jointly accountable to LGA Members and Ministers. It is chaired by a council chief executive and brings together partners including LGA, council chief executives, Arts Council England, The British Library, the BBC, the Society for Chief Librarians and Public Health England to support the sector-led transformation of public libraries.

11.3 One of Mr. Sieghart's recommendations was to publish a document that set out a shared vision between central government, local government and key partners for public libraries. Taskforce achievements are reported in [six-monthly reports](#) to the LGA and Ministers.

11.4 The LGA hosted a roundtable for councillors on 1 June to discuss the Ambition consultation document and their feedback is reflected in our submission.

Evaluation 2016 Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference and planning for 2017

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

151 people attended the LGA's annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Leicester on Wednesday 24 – Thursday 25 February 2016, organised in partnership with the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association. This report summarises the delegate feedback and suggests a way forward for next year.

Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- Note the Conference evaluation and offer any other comments.
- Offer any further steer on the format.

Actions

Officers will take forward actions in line with Members' steer.

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Introduction and Background

1. 151 people attended the LGA's annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Leicester on Wednesday 24 - Thursday 25 February 2016, organised in partnership with the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association. It remains the definitive event for the political and managerial leaders of local culture, tourism and sport.
2. The conference provided delegates and the CTS Board with an unrivalled opportunity to further strengthen the relationship between local government and key partners including Sport England, Arts Council England, Historic England, The National Archives and VisitEngland.
3. The Conference was a platform to promote the CTS Board's priorities and attracted big name speakers, including Stella Duffy, Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE, Jennie Price, Viscountess Penelope Cobham and Sir Laurie Magnus. Workshops covered the latest policy issues and shared leading edge practice on devolution, wellbeing, service transformation and libraries.
4. Key to the event's success was the very successful partnership between the LGA and Leicester City Council, who supported the LGA team from the outset. The City Council hosted an excellent evening event at Curve Theatre and very popular study tours.
5. The shorter format (evening event followed by one day conference compared to 1.5 day conference with evening event) enabled us to reduce the delegate fee from £340 in 2015 (excluding dinner) to £299 in 2016 (including dinner).
6. The conference received very positive delegate feedback. The financial context within which this event operates continues to be very challenging, both for councils and the LGA. Therefore, Lead Members have agreed to broadly retain the shorter 2016 conference format, with some tweaks in response to feedback.

Evaluation of 2016 Conference

7. 48% of delegates completed the evaluation form, which is significantly higher than previous years.
8. Overall, 92% were very or fairly satisfied with the conference. This is significantly higher than last year's satisfaction rating of 82%. 80% of respondents said they would attend the conference again. The study tours scored very high satisfaction ratings, as did Leicester as a host city. The plenary speakers and workshops all scored well. Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE and Stella Duffy scored particularly highly.
9. 131 delegates attended the conference (excluding speakers and exhibitors), 10 higher than last year (121). 95 delegates attended the evening dinner and conference with a further 15 opting to just attend the conference. The conference also attracted more non-LGA Members than previous years.

10. While very positive, the evaluation suggests a number of improvements. In particular, delegates wanted a clearer focus for what is effectively a one day conference. Delegates particularly value the networking opportunities presented by the conference and some wanted more networking time built into the programme. Delegates also wanted more opportunity to ask questions at the plenary panel session.
11. When asked about potential topics for next year, the clear message was to focus on new delivery models and how to sustain culture, tourism and sport in a tough fiscal climate.
- 12. Members are invited to note the conference evaluation and to give any further feedback on the 2016 conference.**

2017 Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference

13. The significantly improved satisfaction ratings and higher delegate numbers suggest support for the shorter conference format – an evening networking event, followed by a one day conference programme. This is also in line with other LGA events and puts the conference on a more sustainable footing given the continued budget challenges facing the CTS sector.
14. Hosting the conference in an iconic cultural, historic and sporting destination, with networking and study tours organised around showcasing the host city remains the unique selling point of CTS Conference. Officers will update members on the 2017 venue at the meeting.
15. In response to delegate feedback, Lead Members have agreed the following changes in 2017:
 - 15.1 Agree a focussed theme that runs throughout the plenary and workshop sessions. This will bring greater coherence to the one day format, rather than trying to cover the full range of policy issues in too short a time period. Feedback suggests support for responding to funding challenges and new delivery models.
 - 15.2 Refreshing the Non Departmental Public Body panel format so that it is a 'question time' about the conference theme. This will ensure the session is more interactive with plenty of time for audience participation.
 - 15.3 Maximising the networking opportunities within the shorter format, for example hosting the evening event closer to, or at, the conference hotel and promoting the registration times as a networking opportunity.
- 16. An outline programme is attached at Annex A. Members are invited to note the outline programme and to give any further steer on the 2017 conference format.**
17. We will also continue to pursue all other means to keep costs down and attract as many delegates as possible. In particular, more targeted marketing, an earlier and more targeted approach to potential sponsors, and working with Lead Members and the Political Groups to attract more councillors. We will also provide clear information to delegates about categories of hotels to assist with finding options that suit different budgets.

Next Steps

18. Subject to Members' steer, officers will draft a full draft programme for Lead Members' comments and clearance with a view to confirming as many sessions as possible by the end of July.

Annex A

Programme

LGA Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference and exhibition 2017

Day 1

5.00–6.00	Registration, refreshments and networking
7.00–8.00	Drinks reception
8.00	Dinner

Day 2

8.00	Registration (for new delegates), refreshments and networking
9.00	Three to four walking study tours that showcase the host city's culture, tourism and sport offer
10.30	Refreshments and networking
10.45	Chair's welcome
10.55	Host council welcome
11.05	NDPB Question Time
11.50	Workshop sessions round 1 Three to four workshops covering policy issues and leading edge practice related to the conference theme
12.50	Lunch and networking
1.50	Plenary address 1
2.15	Plenary address
2.40	Workshop sessions round 2
3.40	Plenary address 3
4.05	Conference close



Update on the Government's Culture White Paper

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This item updates the Board on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) Culture White Paper, which was published in March 2016, and suggests steps for the LGA in supporting councils to respond to the recommendations.

The LGA has consistently highlighted councils' significant investment in, and support for, culture, and the role of councils in shaping cultural provision within their localities. Strong local government involvement in taking forward the White Paper's actions is crucial if we are to sustain cultural provision in the long term.

Recommendation

Members are asked to comment upon, and agree, the next steps for the LGA suggested in section 6.

Action

Officers to take forward actions in line with Boards' steer.

Contact officer: Siraz Natha
Position: Adviser
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Update on the Government's Culture White Paper

The Culture White Paper

1. Between August 2015 and February 2016, the government undertook a consultation to develop a Culture White Paper. A total of 232 organisations, including many councils, took part in roundtable discussions that were organised. As part of the consultation, the Chair of the CTS Board met with Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, attended a Ministerial roundtable and wrote to Ministers setting out our vision for the White Paper. (See Annex A).
2. In March 2016, the government launched its first [Culture White Paper](#) in more than 50 years and only the second ever published. The White Paper sets out how the Government will support the cultural sector over the coming years and how culture will play an active role in building a fairer and more prosperous nation that takes a lead on the international stage. The LGA's response is [here](#).
3. The White Paper includes a number of points from the LGA's response:
 - 3.1 Recognition of the importance of culture to place, economic growth and of local government's leadership role in unlocking the wider benefits of culture.
 - 3.2 Acknowledgement that outside London local government is the biggest public investor in culture and that despite funding pressures, there is much innovation. Case studies cited include East Lindsey District Council and the North East Combined Authority.
 - 3.3 Commitment to a new place based way of working between the DCMS national agencies, local government and partners.
 - 3.4 Commitment to greater involvement from the DCMS national bodies in promoting the contribution of culture to improving health and wellbeing.
 - 3.5 The LGA is mentioned in relation to our joint improvement offer for councillors and the work on the Libraries Taskforce, which we are leading on with the Government.
4. The White Paper covers four themes which outline the aspirations for the cultural sector. A number of statements are made with some specific actions about what the Government will do. The following lists the four themes and the key recommendations that will affect councils:
 - 4.1 Everyone should enjoy the opportunities culture offers, no matter where they start in life**
 - 4.1.1 The government will put in place measures to increase participation in culture, especially amongst those who are currently excluded from the opportunities that culture has to offer, and children and young people.

- 4.1.2 A new cultural citizen's programme will reach across 70 areas where cultural participation is lowest.
- 4.1.3 With the introduction of the apprenticeships levy, there is an expectation that larger cultural organisations will take on apprentices.
- 4.1.4 Requiring funded bodies to publish strategies for increasing diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

4.2 The riches of our culture should benefit communities across the country

- 4.2.1 Arts Council England (ACE) is committed to supporting culture outside London and has made a commitment to increase the proportion of Lottery funding it allocates outside London to 75 per cent by 2018.
- 4.2.2 Government wants national cultural institutions and funders - in the public, private and charitable sectors – to work together and back the vision of local leaders, local authorities, local businesses, local communities and others.
- 4.2.3 The government wants to see more local partnerships established, like the North East Culture Partnership, which develop visions for culture within their localities and which are embedded in council plans and policies. This will be achieved through 12 Great Place scheme pilots.
- 4.2.4 Government will work with Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other partners to develop and promote the benefits of culture for good health, wellbeing and safer communities.
- 4.2.5 Historic England will establish Heritage Action Zones, which will look to improve relationships between local partners and manage change and new developments.

4.3 The power of culture can increase our international standing

- 4.3.1 The government has increased investment in the GREAT campaign to £60 million per annum until 2019/20. The new Events and Industry Board will enable Britain to make more of the opportunities offered by festivals and major cultural events.

4.4 Cultural investment, resilience and reform

- 4.4.1 The government will carry out tailored reviews of Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund during 2016/17 and a review of museums in England.

- 4.4.2 A new museums and galleries tax relief will be launched in April 2017, following formal consultation on its design. It will support museums and galleries to develop new exhibitions and display their collections across the country.
- 4.4.3 The VAT refund scheme eligibility criteria will be broadened so that more museums and galleries, which offer free public access to their collections can benefit.
- 4.4.4 The 80 per cent mandatory rate relief for charities will continue and changes to discretionary relief will be a matter for councils, with the government continuing to fund 50 per cent of the cost of any relief granted.
- 4.4.5 The government will work with ACE, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other partners to support cultural organisations to diversify their funding.

Next steps

- 5. Councillor Stephens, CTS Board Chair, attended the launch event for the Culture White Paper in March and secured a commitment from the Culture Minister to fully involve councils in taking forward the recommendations. The Minister reinforced this commitment when he met the CTS Board Chair in April.
- 6. The White Paper recommendations present us with an opportunity to secure further support for local cultural provision, building upon our existing work with DCMS and the national agencies. Below are some suggested principles to guide the LGA's role:
 - 6.1 Ensuring that DCMS and the national agencies recognise the wider context for councils. In particular, the acute funding challenges facing discretionary cultural services, the changing ways in which councils are delivering public services and the opportunities for culture from public sector reform such as devolution.
 - 6.2 Ensuring that DCMS and national agencies understand and take account of local government's leadership role, their significant investment in culture and how the whole council - from planning to licensing and transport - can support and strengthen the contribution of culture to place and economic growth.
 - 6.3 Seeking to influence the development of initiatives that will impact directly on councils, in particular the Great Place Scheme. We will want to ensure that new initiatives recognise existing innovation, offer useful additional support, enable sufficient local flexibility and are taken forward in line with sector led improvement.
 - 6.4 Representing councils' interests in the various reviews that will be undertaken. In particular, the reviews of ACE, the HLF and the museums sector (which will include local museums). The reviews are an opportunity to

further embed a shared place based approach to culture that helps ensure the total public subsidy is spent as efficiently as possible on local priorities and that locally-led innovation is supported and shared.

- 6.5 Making appropriate links to other LGA Boards. For example, the Community Wellbeing Board in relation to the focus on maximising the health benefits from cultural participation, the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board on the role of planning and the Children and Young People's Board on increasing low participation rates amongst children and young people.
7. CTS Lead Members have asked that we invite the Culture Minister to the September Board and organise a roundtable for councillors to discuss how local government can help take forward the recommendations. This could also be an opportunity for DCMS, Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England to hear direct from councillors.
8. There is also an opportunity to engage councillors in the discussions on the actions during the development of the cultural improvement programme, in particular the seminars and Leadership Essentials Culture events that are planned in the coming months.

Tracey Crouch MP and Hon Ed Vaizey MP
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Fourth Floor
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Dear Ms Crouch and Mr Vaizey,

Culture White Paper

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some thoughts on the forthcoming Culture White Paper in the light of the Spending Review.

It was encouraging the Government recognised the important economic and social benefits of our nation's cultural and heritage offer. The LGA has long argued that culture and heritage boosts growth, attracts visitors and can help to reduce and prevent costly health and social care expenditure. We also recognise the increased flexibilities the Government announced for local government funding. These will go some way towards addressing funding pressures, especially on adult social care.

As we know, there will also be a financial reduction in core funding for local government, which will have an impact upon valued frontline services, such as libraries and museums. The welcome settlement for national arts, tourism, archives and heritage funding will help to relieve some of the pressure on cultural organisations.

Local government remains the country's biggest public funder of culture and invested £2.6 billion in culture in 2014/15. Outside London, around 60 per cent of National Portfolio organisations are co-funded by councils, so we will need to work closely with Arts Council England (ACE) to ensure that the total public subsidy is spent as efficiently as possible and encourages new ways of working.

Whilst recognising the funding challenges, the first Culture White Paper in 50 years is a significant opportunity to set out how you will work with local government and others to support culture across the country, with all the intrinsic and wider economic and social benefits that brings.

Cultural assets and experiences are at the heart of places. Thriving and excellent culture attracts visitors and provides valuable opportunities to engage with the local community, and boost the economy. It is for these reasons that councils still play a major role in culture and have an important contribution to make to the four White Paper themes. I would especially like to highlight the following key issues and opportunities:

Devolution and reform

Whilst there are big financial challenges, wider public sector reform also offers opportunities for culture. For example, embedding culture in the overall vision for place (especially Local Plans), influencing and benefitting from innovation in other sectors, accessing new funding sources, co-locating culture with other public services, working with Local Enterprise Partnerships and being commissioned to deliver wider outcomes.

English governance is undergoing significant change with the current move towards devolution. A number of places, such as Liverpool and Cornwall, have included culture in their devolution proposals, and we expect this to increase now that councils have more flexibility over what to include in deals. Culture also stands to benefit hugely from devolution proposals to improve transport, infrastructure and skills. The move to 100 per cent business rates retention could open up new investment models in places where culture is a local growth priority. Devolution is also prompting conversations about identity. Shared cultural experiences help to strengthen community ties and feelings of belonging to a place.

We have been especially pleased to support the Arts Council England funded National Cultural Commissioning Programme, which has helped more cultural organisations to be 'commissioner ready'. It is important that we mainstream the valuable learning as the Programme reaches its formal end in June and we are delighted to be hosting the national learning event on 13 April.

Digital connectivity remains a shared priority which is vital for supporting the creative industries, new ways of working and new forms of cultural engagement. ACE's WiFi in Public Libraries Programme is an important step forward in making the most of the potential of libraries to widen their offer and reach through an enhanced digital offer. We hope, therefore, that the rollout of superfast broadband and closing the digital skills gap will underpin the Culture White Paper.

Culture adding value

From attracting visitors and businesses to revitalising places, creating jobs and developing future talent, we have worked together over the last few years to develop an evidence base that demonstrates the economic value of culture, heritage, and tourism. It was very encouraging that the Government recognised this link in the Spending Review. We are keen to build on this by developing a stronger narrative on how cultural services can help to reduce demand and prevent costly health and social care expenditure. LGA research on a range of local prevention schemes suggests that investment in prevention could yield a net return of 90 per cent.

The Leadership for Libraries Taskforce is a good example of central and local government working together and with partners to shift the narrative on public libraries away from closures and towards transformation and how libraries are adding value to other agendas. Libraries are anchor destinations with a footfall that other public services can only dream of and we look forward to the contribution of libraries to a place's wider cultural offer featuring in the White Paper.

We have recently highlighted how the viability and economic value of heritage assets (particularly World Heritage Sites) relies upon the landscapes in which they are situated. Within the context of planning reform, localism and devolution, we are keen to ensure councils are able to give appropriate protection to cultural heritage landscapes.

Supporting local political leadership and sector led improvement

Funded by Arts Council England (ACE), we have supported over 150 culture portfolio holders to lead transformational change through our very successful Culture Leadership Essentials Programme, library seminars and library peer reviews. We also work closely with Historic England to support heritage portfolio holders and are exploring similar opportunities with The National Archives and VisitEngland. It is essential that we continue to provide practical support, so that councils are supported to drive excellence and participation in culture through innovative solutions that are locally appropriate and driven by councils themselves.

Single cultural conversation

As I mentioned at Tracey's roundtable on heritage, it is important that the White Paper reflects local government's joined-up approach and encompasses a broad definition of culture. The LGA's 'practical statement of purpose' with ACE highlights how national collaboration through a "single cultural conversation" will support the local collaboration that already exists to unlock fully the benefits of closer working between libraries, museums, culture and the arts. We are looking forward to building upon this and updating our shared understanding to reflect the current landscape.

The LGA and councils enjoy positive partnerships with your department and agencies, including ACE, Historic England, VisitEngland and The National Archives. The White Paper is an opportunity to provide a framework for further developing those partnerships and in particular the importance of a place based approach.

With new developments in the culture industry, we will be looking to embrace new ways of working and forge new partnerships to support the sector. We encourage your department to champion culture across Government, to celebrate those who understand and appreciate culture, to ensure that national policy enables local activity and that councils and their partners have the necessary freedoms and flexibilities to maximise the potential of thriving and excellent culture for everyone.

I would be very pleased to discuss these points further with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Stephens', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Ian Stephens
Chair LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Sport England Strategy: Towards an Active Nation 2016- 2021

Purpose

For information.

Summary

The LGA has been at the heart of the campaign for more investment in grassroots sport and physical activity.

Sport England's new strategy 'Towards An Active Nation' strategy 2016-2021 was published last month. It will triple investment in tackling physical inactivity (to £250 million) and open up more funding to councils and local partners.

Sport England is the Government agency responsible for increasing participation in grassroots sport and is a statutory distributor of funds raised by the National Lottery.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the update.

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

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Sport England Strategy: Towards an Active Nation 2016- 2021

Background

1. In June 2015, the Sports Minister, Tracey Crouch MP, announced the Government's intention to develop a new sport and physical activity strategy in response to falling participation rates. In December 2015, the Government published '[Sporting Future - A New Strategy for an Active Nation](#)', which set out five outcomes that the strategy aimed to achieve: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.
2. The strategy reflected many of the [LGA's recommendations](#). In particular, Government recognised our call for more funding to be devolved through Sport England away from national interventions and towards local partners who have a proven track record of encouraging activity and can integrate sport and physical activity work into wider agendas such as health and growth. The strategy will allocate approximately £1 billion of Exchequer and Lotter funding over the next five years.

Sport England strategy

3. In early 2016, Sport England consulted on developing its new strategy to take forward the Government's priorities. The [LGA's response](#) emphasised the importance of locally-led partnerships that can target national funding to local need and make the biggest difference to increasing participation and improving wellbeing.
4. The strategy, [Towards an Active Nation](#), was published in May and will result in a significant re-balancing of funding away from national and towards local bodies. In summary, it has:
 - 4.1 A much stronger focus on tackling inactivity so that everyone feels able to engage in sport or physical activity, whatever their ability.
 - 4.2 A focus on customer engagement and a customer-focused approach that draws on principles of behaviour change.
 - 4.3 Seven investment programmes (replacing the 30 plus current ones) with a much more outcomes-focused approach and with councils and local partners able to access more funding.

The LGA's work

5. The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board ensured that local government played a key role in shaping Sport England's strategy. This included the Chair of the Board meeting the Sports Minister, the Chief Executive of Sport England attending the annual LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference and senior Sport England officials presenting to the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board in December 2015.
6. Mike Diaper, Sport England's Executive Director for Community Sport, attended the Councillors' Forum on 9 June. Members strongly supported Sport England's new focus on tackling inactivity and emphasised the vital leadership role of councils.

7. Sport England also funds our very successful Sport Leadership Essentials Programmes. Through organising 14 events since 2011, we have supported almost 200 portfolio holders to lead transformational change of sport and leisure services.
8. Sport Leadership Essentials Programmes will take place Thursday 21 July - Friday 22 July, Roffey Park, Horsham, West Sussex, and Thursday 17 November - Friday 18 November, Warwick Conferences, Coventry. All Board welcomes are welcome to attend. Further information is [here](#).

Next Steps

9. The CTS Board will continue to work closely with Sport England to ensure that councils are fully engaged and can access funding opportunities across the seven investment programmes.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Annual Report

Purpose of report

For information and discussion.

Summary

This report provides an overview of the issues and work the board has overseen during the past year. It sets out key achievements in relation to the priorities for the **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board** in 2015/2016, and looks forward to next year's priorities.

Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- (a) Note the achievements against the board's priorities in 2015/2016; and
- (b) Note the board's priority areas for 2016/17.

Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

Contact officer: Eleanor Reader-Moore
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Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Annual Report

Background

1. The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board has shaped the national political agenda and made decisive interventions on priority issues for councils. The board has made a significant difference to LGA member councils, contributed to LGA corporate campaigns, and raised its national profile.
2. Key achievements include supporting councillors to lead transformational change, securing a re-balancing of national sports funding, developing analysis on the visitor economy and devolution, influencing the Culture White Paper, steering the Libraries Taskforce and delivering a successful annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference.

Priorities and Achievements

Sport and Physical Activity

3. The LGA successfully made the case to Government for councils and local partners to play a bigger role in the new national sports strategy in recognition of the success of locally-led approaches. In May 2016, Sport England announced a new £250 million fund to tackle inactivity, which will result in a significant re-balancing of funding away from national and towards local bodies.
4. The Chair met with Tracey Crouch MP, Sports Minister, the Rt Hon David Evennett MP, Acting Sports Minister, and Jesse Norman MP, Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, to make the case for greater investment in grassroots sport and physical activity. The LGA's media campaign helped to persuade the Premier League to double the reach of its school sport programme to 10,000 schools in the next three years.
5. The LGA, in partnership with Sport England, supported 37 sport portfolio holders to lead transformational change of leisure services through the Sport Leadership Essentials Programme.

Libraries and Culture

6. As joint accountable body for the LGA and Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) Libraries Taskforce, the Chair had a number of meetings with Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, to agree Taskforce priorities and keep it focussed on the biggest issues for councils. The key achievement was to rollout free Wi-Fi to nearly every library in England through a DCMS and Arts Council England (ACE) managed project.
7. In line with a steer from the Board, the LGA's response to the Ambition for Libraries consultation highlighted the importance of recognising local accountability, the diversity of library delivery models and the need to take forward support for councils in line with sector-led improvement.
8. The LGA secured strong recognition of the role of councils in the Government's Culture White Paper, which was published in March 2016. The Chair wrote to Ministers, attended

a Ministerial roundtable in October on the role of heritage within the White Paper, and met the Culture Minister in April, emphasising that much of the country's cultural offer is funded and supported locally.

9. The LGA submitted written evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's Countries of Culture Inquiry, highlighting that New Local Government Research has shown while funding challenges remain, councils have protected arts funding from the brunt of spending pressures, and have adopted new ways of working.
10. The Chair was interviewed by national trade magazines, and spoke at various national conferences, including on cultural commissioning, the creative industries and theatres. This helped to raise the profile of the Board and highlight how despite funding pressures, councils are striving to support the cultural sector.
11. The LGA, in partnership with ACE, supported 36 culture and library portfolio holders to lead transformational change of cultural services through the Culture Leadership Essentials Programme, library seminar and library peer challenges.

The Visitor Economy and Heritage

12. In response to a steer from the Board, the LGA argued that VisitEngland's new Discover England Fund must be locally flexible and aligned to devolution deals when this makes sense. Members also made the case for English destinations to have a strong voice on new national tourism governance arrangements. The LGA commissioned new research which showed that devolution could further boost the visitor economy.
13. The LGA has continued to work with Historic England and The National Archives to seek out and share different approaches to organising local historic environment and archive services.

2016 Culture Tourism and Sport (CTS) Conference

14. The CTS Conference was held in Leicester 24th-25th February. Over 150 people attended and it scored a satisfaction rating of 92 per cent. Speakers included Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson (Chair of ukactive) and Stella Duffy (Co-Director Fun Palaces).

Programme of work and priorities 2016/17

15. While next year's Board will agree the work programme in September, we can expect a number of priorities to feature:
 - 15.1 Continue to ensure councils are fully involved in implementing the Culture White Paper, Sport England's new strategy and the Discover England fund.
 - 15.2 Steer the LGA/DCMS Leadership for Libraries Taskforce so that it focusses on the biggest issues for councils.
 - 15.3 Continue to deliver the Culture and Sport Improvement Programme (in partnership with Sport England and Arts Council England).
 - 15.4 Continue to consolidate and promote the Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference as the definitive event for our sector.

Outside Bodies

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This report has four parts:

- A - Report back on member meetings since 25th February 2016.
- B - Forthcoming meetings.
- C - Latest Chair's Report from Cllr Ian Stephens.
- D - CTS Outside Bodies 2015/16

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the report

Action

Subject to comments from the Lead Members, officers to take forward any actions.

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Outside Bodies

A – Report back on Member meetings since 25th February 2016

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
Board members attended and Cllrs Stephens, Henig and Burbage participated in the CTS /CLOA Annual Conference on 24th -25th February 2016		
To represent the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board at the annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference.	Plenary speakers and workshop discussions covered key issues for the sector, including new delivery models, devolution, wellbeing and growth.	High profile recognition in the roles that councils across the country play in maintaining the arts and culture in their communities. The conference also provided the CTS Board with an unrivalled opportunity to further strengthen the relationship between local government and key partners.
Cllr Geraldine Carter spoke at the LGA / Sport England Sport Leadership Essentials Programme 2nd-3rd March		
To represent the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board at the event.	Cllr Carter set the event within the wider context of the challenges and opportunities facing local sport and leisure services. In particular, devolution and the wellbeing agenda.	Nine portfolio holders were supported to lead transformational change of sport and leisure services, improve partnership working with health and strengthen their offer to commissioners.
Cllr Stephens met with Jessica Harris, Cultural Commissioning Programme Manager at NCVO 3rd March		
A pre-meet ahead of the Cultural Commissioning Programme's National Evaluation Conference on the 13 th April.	The programme for the conference, including networking opportunities and the importance of marketing the conference was discussed.	It was agreed that a question and answer session would be added to the agenda and that elements from the DCMS Cultural White Paper should potentially be included.
Cllr Stephens attended a half-day workshop about how the Arts Council shapes its investment in arts and culture from 2018 onwards, 8th March		
To represent the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board at the event.	ACE outlined their proposals for funding organisations post-2018, including a greater focus on place based working.	Feedback from local government attendees helped to shape the LGA's response to ACE's consultation.
Cllr Stephens met with Patricia Yates, VisitBritain's Director of Strategy and		

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
Communications, on 8th April		
To update on respective priorities and discuss the closer working between VisitBritain and VisitEngland.	The current work of VisitBritain and VisitEngland was discussed, as was how their relationship with the LGA would be taken forward. The importance of local areas having the flexibility to allocate the £40m Discover England Fund in line with local priorities and allied to devolution deals was emphasised, as was the importance that local government had a strong voice in the new national arrangements for tourism.	VisitBritain and the LGA would continue to share good practice. VisitBritain would also keep the LGA up-to-date on how work was progressing.
Cllr Stephens met with Ed Vaizey MP on the 12th April		
To discuss the Government's Culture White Paper and joint Libraries Taskforce.	The importance of ensuring councils are fully involved in taking forward the recommendations of the Culture White Paper was discussed. Progress of the Libraries Taskforce and the Ambition for Libraries consultation were also noted.	Agreement that local government will be fully involved in taking forward the Culture White Paper recommendations.
Cllr Stephens chaired the Cultural Commissioning Programme's National Evaluation Conference on the 13th April		
To represent the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board at the event and develop cultural commissioning opportunities.	Kent County Council and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, among others, shared how they have embedded culture in commissioning opportunities.	Over 50 councils and partners supported to better exploit the cultural sector's offer to local commissioners.
Cllr Organ attended the Tourism Alliance Board Meeting, 3rd May		
To represent the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board at the event as the board's appointment to the body.	Topical issues of concern to the tourism industry were discussed, including licensing, high streets and closer working between VisitBritain and VisitEngland.	Local government represented at the meeting.
Cllr Stephens spoke at the Theatres 2016 Conference on 13th May		
To represent the LGA at the conference.	Cllr Stephens spoke about the difficult climate facing councils and how they are striving to work differently in order to support local theatres.	Raised awareness about the different ways in which councils are supporting local theatres.

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
Cllr Stephens met with Cllr Guy Nicholson, Lead Member for Economy, Tourism and Culture, London Councils on 17th May		
To catch up on recent developments in cultural policy.	Cllr Stephens and Cllr Nicholson discussed opportunities for councils in the Culture White Paper and the importance of further strengthening our partnership with Arts Council England. Cllr Nicholson flagged issues of particular interest to London Boroughs.	LGA and London Councils will continue to involve each other in our respective work programmes.
Cllr Stephens met with Diane Lees, Director-General, Imperial War Museum and Chair National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC), on 17th May		
To catch up on recent developments in cultural policy.	Cllr Stephens and Ms Lees discussed the museums review announced in the Culture White Paper and agreed it will be opportunity to highlight the contribution of museums to a range of social and economic outcomes.	LGA to keep NMDC informed as we respond to the Culture White Paper recommendations.
Cllr Stephens met with David Evennett MP, Acting Sport, Tourism and Heritage Minister, on 17th May		
To discuss the Government's new approach to sport and physical activity and key issues for councils within the Minister's brief.	Cllr Stephens emphasised the opportunity to achieve a step change in the nation's health by a more localised approach to sport and physical activity. He also urged the Minister to act on the Triennial Review of Gaming Machine Stake and Prize Limits.	The Minister reaffirmed his strong belief that councils are a very important partner in delivering the new sports strategy. LGA will write a letter setting out what we would like to see in the Triennial Review of Gaming Machine Stake and Prize Limits.
Cllr Stephens to attend the launch of the Estuary Festival Programme on 19th May		
To represent the LGA.	Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Garvesham and Kent are working with public and private partners to host an ambitious 16 day programme of contemporary visual art, literature, film and music.	LGA will share a case study.
Cllr Stephens spoke at Westminster Forum's Creative Industries Conference on 19th May		
To represent the LGA.	Cllr Stephens emphasised the different ways in which councils support the creative industries, one of this country's strongest	Raised awareness about the CTS Board and how councils are supporting the creative industries.

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
	performing economic sectors.	
Cllr Stephens attended the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce networking event on 26th May		
To represent the LGA, as joint accountable body for the Taskforce.	The Informal networking event was attended by Taskforce Members, including the BBC, The British Library and Society of Chief Librarians. A number of libraries and other partners also attended.	Reinforced the LGA's support for the Taskforce.
Cllr Stephens chaired and Cllr Burbage MBE and Cllr Smith attended the LGA's Ambition for Libraries councillor roundtable on 1st June		
To give councillors the opportunity to feedback on the Ambition for Libraries consultation document.	Kathy Settle, Chief Executive of the Libraries Taskforce, gave an overview of Ambition and feedback to date. Councillors discussed key points, including the need to recognise that libraries are different in different places, the importance of co-location as an opportunity to increase reach and achieve efficiencies, and opportunities for libraries to strengthen partnerships with businesses, linked to the economic growth agenda.	The view expressed shaped the LGA's consultation response.
Mike Diaper, Sport England's Executive Director for Community Sport, attended the LGA's Councillors' Forum on 9th June.		
To update Councillors' Forum on Sport England's new strategy.	Mr. Diaper gave an overview of Sport England's new approach which will focus more on tackling inactivity and open up more funding for councils and local partners.	LGA Members strongly supported Sport England's focus on tackling inactivity and emphasised the importance of fully involving councils in the implementation of the strategy.
Cllr Bell chaired Kathy Settle's session at the Society of Chief Librarians' (SCL) Conference on 10th June		
To represent the LGA, as joint accountable body for the Taskforce.	Cllr Bell introduced the session by highlighting the importance of political and professional leaders working together. Kathy Settle gave an overview of Ambition and feedback to date and answered questions from delegates.	Reinforced the LGA's partnership with SCL.

B – Forthcoming meetings at the time of writing

Title	Date	Attendees
A New Strategy for Culture: Boosting Access to Arts, Heritage & Culture Conference	12 th July	Cllr Burbage MBE speaking
LGA Annual Conference	7 th July	Cllr Stephens chairing devolution plenary and launching visitor economy and devolution publication
LGA / Sport England Leadership Essentials Programme	21 st – 22 nd July	LGA speaker to be confirmed at the time of writing. All Board members are welcome to attend.

C - Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Chair's Report to Councillors' Forum June 2016

Sport and Physical Activity

1. I was delighted to meet the Rt Hon David Evennett MP, Acting Sport and Tourism Minister, on 17 May. We discussed the Government's new approach to sport and physical activity, which places much greater emphasis on local delivery and encouraging people of all abilities to get active. I emphasised the opportunity to achieve a step change in the nation's health by a more localised approach to sport and physical activity. I also urged the Minister to act on the Triennial Review of Gaming Machine Stake and Prize Limits. We will be writing a letter setting out what we'd like to see in the Review.
2. Sport England announced a new £250 million fund to tackle inactivity as part of its strategy "Towards an Active Nation: 2016-21" on 19 May. There are a number of wins for the LGA in the strategy, which more than triples Sport England investment in tackling activity and will result in a significant re-balancing of funding away from national and towards local bodies. We will work closely with Sport England over the coming months to ensure that councils and local partners are central to their plans to tackle inactivity.
3. Cllr Geraldine Carter gave the introductory presentation at the latest Sport England Essentials Programme 2 – 3 March. The event supported nine portfolio holders to lead transformational change of leisure services.

Libraries

4. I had a very productive meeting with Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, on 12 April. We discussed the progress of the joint LGA / Department for Culture, Media and Sport Leadership for Libraries Taskforce and noted the particular success of the WiFi rollout to nearly every public library. The Minister also agreed that local government must be fully involved in driving forward the recommendations from the Culture White Paper.
5. The LGA has encouraged councillors to respond to the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce's Ambition for Libraries consultation. Ambition will set out how local and central government work together to support thriving public libraries in a challenging fiscal climate. 18 councillors attended an LGA roundtable on 1 June and feedback informed the LGA's consultation response. Our response highlighted the importance of Ambition recognising local accountability, the diversity of library delivery models and the need to take forward support for councils in line with sector-led improvement.
6. I attended the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce's networking event on 27 May. This was an opportunity to reinforce the LGA's partnership with key organisations including the BBC, The British Library, ACE and the Society of Chief Librarians.

Culture

7. I attended an Arts Council England (ACE) workshop on 8 March to discuss ACE's proposals for funding organisations after 2018. The LGA's response supported a more proportionate approach to the National Portfolio, the stronger emphasis on place based working and opening up funding streams to museums and libraries.
8. Over 45 councils and partners attended the Cultural Commissioning Programme's National Evaluation Event at LGA on 13 April. I was pleased to chair the conference which shared how Kent Council and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group have embedded culture into their commissioning opportunities.
9. I spoke in a panel debate about local government funding at the Theatres 2016 Conference on 13 May. This was the biggest ever theatres conference and an opportunity to raise awareness about the difficult climate facing councils and how they are striving to work differently in order to support local theatres.
10. I participated in a panel debate at the Westminster Forum's Creative Industries Conference on 19 May. I emphasised the different ways in which councils support the creative industries, one of this country's strongest performing economic sectors.
11. I was delighted to meet Diane Lees, Chair of the National Museum Directors' Council and Director General of the Imperial War Museum, on 17 May. We discussed the museums review announced in the Culture White Paper and agreed it will be opportunity to highlight the contribution of museums to a range of social and economic outcomes.
12. I was pleased to meet Councillor Guy Nicholson, London Council's lead member for economy, tourism and culture, on 17 May. We discussed the importance of local government's relationship with Arts Council England and opportunities to further strengthen national and local partnerships.
13. I attended the launch of the Estuary Festival Programme on 17 May. Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Garvesham and Kent are working with public and private partners to host an ambitious 16 day programme of contemporary visual art, literature, film and music.
14. The LGA submitted written evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's Countries of Culture Inquiry. Our response highlighted New Local Government Research that showed councils have protected arts funding from the brunt of spending pressures and adopted new ways of working to improve sustainability. However, the scale of the funding challenge ahead means that more councils will have to take tough decisions about their cultural provision.

The Visitor Economy

15. I was delighted to meet Patricia Yates, VisitBritain's Director of Strategy and Communications on 8 April. Following significant changes to the national tourism landscape, the meeting was an opportunity to emphasise the importance of local

areas having flexibility to allocated the £40 million Discover England Fund in line with local priorities and local destinations having a strong voice in new national governance arrangements.

16. Cllr Colin Organ attended the Tourism Alliance Board meeting on 3 May. The meeting was an opportunity to highlight the LGA's views on the Discover England Fund and to hear from industry on priority issues for them.

D- CTS Outside Bodies 2015/16

Organisation	Background	Representative for 2015/16	Dates of Future Meetings	Contact at Organisation
British Board of Film Classification – Consultative Council	The British Board of Film Classification classifies films on behalf of Local Authorities and videos / DVDs under the terms of the Video Recordings Act. Its "Consultative Council" is a requirement of the Board's designation under the Video Recordings Act.	1 place Cllr Faye Abbott has been appointed as the board's representative.	Monday 20th June (Cllr Abbott unable to attend – clashes with CTS Board) Monday 10th October	Amy Brooks Assistant to Director abrooks@bbfc.co.uk Tel (+44) 020 7440 0372
Tourism Alliance	The TA seeks to establish and maintain a favourable operating environment for all businesses involved in the delivery of tourism, particularly in England. The	1 place Cllr Colin Organ has been appointed as the board's representative.	Thursday 26 th May (AGM) Tuesday 13 th September Wednesday 7 th December	Director: Kurt Janson Tel: +44 (0)20 3117 0664 Email: kurt.janson@tourismalliance.com

Organisation	Background	Representative for 2015/16	Dates of Future Meetings	Contact at Organisation
	LGA has a non-voting place on the Board.			
British Destinations	Operates as a trade association representing the wider interest of local authority sponsored tourism. Membership includes local government authorities of all types and sizes from across the UK, regional and local tourist boards and commercial organisations.	1 place Cllr Geoff Knight has been appointed as the LGA's representative on this body.	Monday 20 th June (Cllr Knight unable to attend – clashes with CTS Board)	CEO: Peter Hampson – 0151 9342285 – 07714341379 email peter.hampson@btconnect.com

Note of last Culture, Tourism & Sport Board meeting

Title:	Culture, Tourism & Sport Board
Date:	Thursday 25 February 2016
Venue:	The Derby Suite, Holiday Inn, 129 St Nicholas Cir, Leicester LE1 5LX

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>Welcome and declarations of interest</p> <p>The Chair updated the Board on the news that Cllr Roger Begy, a former Board Member, recently passed away. He paid tribute to Cllr Begy's valuable work assisting the LGA's broadband projects and offered his sympathies to Cllr Begy's family and friends.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	<p>Presentation from Leicester City Council on culture, tourism and sport work (Cllr Rory Palmer, Deputy City Mayor of Leicester)</p> <p>The Chair invited Cllr Rory Palmer, Deputy Mayor of Leicester City, to speak to the Board about Leicester's culture, tourism and sport work.</p> <p>Cllr Palmer began by paying tribute to Cllr Begy who was well known for his social care work in the Leicestershire area.</p> <p>He said that he would frame his presentation around the notion that Leicester had a specific recipe for success, but that other cities, boroughs and counties will have different success stories to tell.</p> <p>The first ingredient of Leicester's recipe for success that Cllr Palmer highlighted was the Council's flexible approach to building on local opportunities. He highlighted the vast increase in tourism generated by council investment around King Richard III's burial site, in particular the new Visitor Centre. There have been over half a million additional visitors to Leicester since this finding. However, he noted that councils must build on local opportunities in ways that integrate with their wider culture and tourism agendas, and also ensure that they maintain sustainable momentum after capitalising on initial opportunities.</p> <p>The second ingredient of Leicester's recipe for success was the Council's heavy investment in large-scale cross-cutting projects. He noted that cultural projects and economic projects are often mutually reinforcing, and with this in mind the Council has invested over £1 billion in cultural projects during the present administration. For example, Leicester hosted three rugby world cup matches last year and as a result received visitors</p>	

from as far as Australia and Canada, thereby driving inward investment and raising the international profile of the city. Other major events that are part of Leicester's tourism offer include the London 2012 torch relay, the 2012 Paralympic torch relay, hosting Paralympic events, staging the first leg of the Diamond Jubilee tour, and holding the Dave Leicester Comedy Festival - the biggest comedy festival in Europe. In addition, major celebrations are planned if Leicester City Football Club win the Premier League this season.

The third ingredient was the diversity of Leicester's cultural offer. He emphasised the importance of investing in a range of cultural events that reach all parts of the community in terms of ethnicity, religion and class. Examples in Leicester include: Sky Ride, a family-oriented cycling event; the annual Diwali celebration on Leicester's golden mile; and, the annual Bonfire Night celebrations. Cllr Palmer noted that, in addition to increasing civic pride, these events offer a good financial return. For instance, the council invests £88,000 in the annual Diwali celebrations and they attract 100,000 additional visitors to the city.

The Chair thanked Cllr Palmer for his presentation, and thanked him and his colleagues for hosting the LGA Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference.

3 Cultural heritage and landscape

The Chair recalled that, at the December Culture, Tourism and Sport Board meeting, members had strongly supported Cllr Lewis' suggestion that the Board examine the impact of planning reform on cultural heritage and landscape. He updated the Board on how this has been taken forward with the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT) Board and welcomed Cllr Julian German (EEHT Lead Member and Economic Regeneration Cabinet Member, Cornwall Council) to the meeting.

The Chair also welcomed Sir Laurie Magnus, Chairman of Historic England, and Quinton Carrol, Chair of the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers in England (ALGAO).

Cllr Lewis introduced the report, noting that there are many challenges across the country surrounding upscaling developments, particularly in areas without local neighbourhood plans. He highlighted the significant tensions arising from the aim of expanding housing and the aim of protecting sites of cultural value. He drew members' attention to the next steps suggested in the report, noting that these may ameliorate the impacts of development on cultural heritage sites, but emphasised that there is still a deeper issue of whether councils are using all of the legal protections for cultural sites available to them.

Quinton Carroll highlighted the National Planning Policy Framework's (NPPF) explicit protections for cultural heritage sites. He also expressed concern that piecemeal amendments to the planning system in the wake of the NPPF have had the unintended consequence of weakening these protections. He argued that the most promising solution is the creation of stronger local plans. He noted that ALGAO have sample policies that councils can include in their local plans.

Sir Laurie Magnus agreed with Quinton Carroll that having a strong local plan is key. He also noted that one consequence of cuts to local budgets is that many councils no longer have experts in planning applications, particularly complex applications involving historic buildings, and this causes long delays in the applications process. He noted that Historic England has provided more detailed guidance to supplement the NPPF in its particular areas of expertise.

Cllr Julian German said that the EEHT Board supports the report and its recommendations. However, he mentioned that the EEHT Board are concerned about a lack of protection for world heritage sites, insofar as there is no statutory protection for such sites. As such, he asked for Board members' opinions on whether it would be worthwhile promoting a Heritage Bill that specifically recognises the value of these sites to our economy.

Action

The Chair asked for any further comments on the report to be directed to officers after the meeting.

4 Update on current issues

The Board **noted** the report.

5 Annex A

6 Annex B

7 Annex C

8 Annex D

9 Outside bodies

The Board **noted** the report.

10 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2015 were **agreed** as an accurate record.

11 AOB

The Chair thanked officers and members for their work.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
	Cllr Greg Smith	Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council
	Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Colin Organ	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Terry O'Neill	Warrington Council
	Cllr Faye Abbott	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
	Mark Allman	(Observer)
Apologies	Cllr Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
	Cllr Geoff Knight	Lancaster City Council
	Cllr Mike Bell	North Somerset Council
	Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council







