

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Ian Stephens (Chair)**

### **Libraries**

1. I was delighted to meet the Rt Hon Rob Wilson MP, Minister for Civil Society (with responsibility for libraries) in September 2016. We discussed the work of the Libraries Taskforce, which has achieved a significant win for local government through the roll-out of funding for free Wi-Fi in libraries. I also emphasised to the Minister the local government views with regard the proposed Ambition for Libraries document and Action Plan and that this needs to reflect the priorities and budget position in local government.

### **Sport and Physical Activity**

2. I was pleased that Mike Diaper, Executive Director Community Sport at Sport England spoke at the Councillors Forum in June 2016, where he outlined Sport England's new strategy and the key role that local authorities have in the successful implementation of the strategy. I plan to meet with Sport England in the coming months to highlight the specific local government offer in relation to the Sport England strategy.
3. Local government's close working relationship with Sport England has resulted in the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with partners in Greater Manchester. The MoU sets out a framework of how Sport England and Greater Manchester partners, including councils will take forward a shared focus on tackling inactivity to improve health, social and economic outcomes.
4. Cllr Geraldine Carter gave the introductory presentation at the latest Sport England/LGA Leadership Essentials Sport Programme on 21-22 July 2016. The event supported seven portfolio holders to lead transformational change of sport services.

### **Culture**

5. I am delighted that the LGA and Arts Council England have updated their shared statement of purpose agreement. The agreement outlines how each organisation will work with each other nationally to support a place based approach to local cultural offers. We continue to have an excellent working relationship with Arts Council England and this was reflected in the comments made by Paul Bristow, Director Strategic Partnerships at Arts Council England who at a recent CTS Board meeting stated the local government remains a key delivery partner for the Arts Council.
6. The LGA has submitted a response to the Arts Council Tailored Review. Given the strong track record of locally-led interventions, the LGA supported the Arts Councils intentions to re-balance funding to all parts of the country. The LGA emphasised that councils and their local partners are well placed to lead a step-change in cultural participation that will lead to more growth and improve the nation's wellbeing. We also mentioned that councils have an important leadership role to play, bringing schools, voluntary/ community arts sector organisations, National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs), health, and the private sector together to forge partnerships, unblock barriers to cultural participation and growth.

**CTS political leadership offer 2016-17**

7. I am pleased to announce that both Arts Council England and Sport England have confirmed again financial support to jointly organise with the LGA the CTS political leadership offer.
8. The funding will enable five Leadership Essentials Sport and Culture events and four culture peer challenges to be organised as well as the development of an online cultural hub on the LGA's website. Since 2011, over 500 councillors have attended the various CTS political leadership events, which we have organised in partnership with Arts Council England and Sport England.
9. I will be speaking at the next Leadership Essentials Culture and Sport events in November and December 2016.
10. I am also delighted that the next CTS Annual Conference will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 in Bristol. This follows on from this year's conference which was a great success with over 150 delegates attending and the feedback was very positive.

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