

## Board working groups

### Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

### Summary

At the last Board meeting, the Board requested that four working groups be established to allow members to contribute to priority areas of work.

The groups will identify and draw on external resources, but will feed into and support the wider CTS workplan and LGA corporate agendas where relevant.

This paper sets out four proposed themed groups and draft terms of operation for the Board's consideration.

### Recommendations

That members of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board:

1. Discuss the proposals and either approve or puts forward alternatives.
2. That members nominate themselves to the agreed groups.

### Actions

Officers to progress as directed.

**Contact officer:** Ian Leete  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 0207 664 3143  
**Email:** [ian.leete@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.leete@local.gov.uk)

## Board working groups

### Background

1. At the last Board meeting, the Board requested that four working groups be established to allow members to contribute to priority areas of work.
2. The groups will operate under their own resources, but will feed into and support the wider CTS workplan and LGA corporate agendas where relevant.

### Proposed groups

3. **Skills and the local economy in a post-Brexit Britain** – Our member authorities have highlighted possible shortages of workers in particular industries and sectors post-Brexit. We also know that VisitBritain reveals that three million people across the UK are employed in jobs linked to tourism and that KPMG believes the hospitality sector would need to replace approximately 65,000 jobs annually if it could not rely on the contribution of EU nationals post Brexit. What is also clear from discussions is that there are considerable local and sector variations so the effects of Brexit will be very different.
4. Ensuring the local workforce has the appropriate skills will require a major rethink of how we commission and deliver skills training. The LGA's Work Local proposals, led by the People and Places/City Regions Board have highlighted the inadequacies of the current centralised system and proposed a devolved model for how a skills system could work better for individuals, places and the economy. We would like to explore how in the context of the tourism sector's bid under the Industrial Strategy, and working with the British Hospitality Association as the lead body for the skills element of that bid, we can develop some useful insights into what this could mean for different places.
5. **Rural tourism** – Our rural areas offer some of our most attractive countryside and heritage, but can be hard to reach for tourists using public transport. They also suffer from a restricted seasonal offer, meaning many workers experience impoverished conditions during the low season. The EFRA select committee was conducting an inquiry into rural tourism, to which the LGA contributed, but that was interrupted by the last election. This group could engage with the select committee to explore the possibility of resuming the inquiry, as well as developing local government-led solutions.
6. **Culture-led regeneration** – As a priority issue for the Board, this group could assist in identifying councils that have effectively used culture to regenerate their areas, and distilling some of the key learning from councillors, officers, and experts involved. Known areas for investigation include Newcastle, Weston-super-Mare, and Waltham Forest, but further examples are required, including rural councils. The group can provide scrutiny and comment on the development of the culture-led regeneration publication being developed.

7. **Physical activity** – Our sporting and leisure offer is well-understood, but the role of councils in embedding physical activity in local lifestyles – through active walking and cycling schemes, use of public parks, or alternative cultural provision such as guided walks or dance groups – is less understood. This group could identify innovative approaches among councils and partners, as well as act as a sounding board for our role on the new Parks Action Group established by DCLG.

### **Draft terms of reference**

#### Objectives

8. These groups are established to support the work of the culture, tourism and sport board on specific subjects agreed by the board.

#### Membership

9. Members will be appointed to the groups by the Board, and may co-opt other board members as necessary. Due to the smaller nature of the groups, it is not necessary to reflect the political balance of the board, but groups must ensure that their work is consistent with a cross-party approach.

#### Ways of working

10. Groups must keep LGA officers up to date with their work and activities, including meetings and conversations with external stakeholders. However, groups will not be able to commit LGA officers to deliver activities outside of the CTS board workplan without the full agreement of the culture, tourism and sport lead members or wider board.
11. Groups may secure their own resources to support the group, whether officers from councils or secondees from other organisations, subject to restrictions in paragraph 14.
12. The groups have full discretion to explore their remit. However, in doing so, the group must give full consideration to, and maintain public LGA lines. The group may not make any public comments to press, media or conferences without having first cleared those comments with LGA officers and all political parties.
13. The groups may wish to publish documents, case studies or research on their specialist subject. Before doing so, they must first secure the cross-party agreement of the culture, tourism and sport lead members.

#### Finances

14. The LGA will not be liable for any costs incurred by the group relating to staffing costs or member travel, beyond those already agreed in relation to attending outside bodies.
15. Groups may make use of LGA meeting room facilities, subject to availability.

Lifespan

16. The groups are overseen by the CTS board and will be reviewed in accordance with the annual board cycle. The group or the CTS board may also choose to end the group early.

**Next steps**

17. The groups will be established as agreed.