

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair)

1. Our final Culture, Tourism and Sport Board of this cycle took place on 4 June 2018. The agenda covered an update on the Board's tourism skills research, and culture-led regeneration research. The Board discussed an item which described early options on venue and content of the CTS Conference 2019, and finally heard an overview of the Board's targeted improvement support work.

Sport and physical activity

2. Cllr Peter Golds spoke at a Leadership Essentials Sport event, which is a programme to assist Cabinet members/portfolio holders with the responsibility for sport to lead transformational change in their service. The address gave an overview of the role that sport and physical activity can play in helping address health improvement and health inequality within communities; public health, health and social care commissioning and personalisation; the transformation required in the provision, management and development of sport and physical activity services within councils in order to improve efficiency and value for money and increase participation; and how Sport England and the LGA can help and support councils through change programmes and hear about Sport England's new strategy Towards an Active Nation.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

3. Cllr Peter Golds attended a Parliamentary roundtable on libraries, convened by Lord Bird and attended by Libraries Minister, Michael Ellis MP. The event focused on the impact of libraries on wider government objectives, and discussing future funding options.
4. On 18 July I am meeting with the Rt. Hon Michael Ellis MP, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism for a second time. We plan to discuss the findings from the CTS Board's culture-led regeneration research, and hear any updates on tourism, the development of the sector's bid for a Brexit deal, and developing the sector's skills.
5. On 10 July, Cllr Michelle Tanfield visited the Bush and the Unicorn Theatres as part of her role as Theatre lead on the Board. She explored their contribution to the local economy, relationship with the local council, and work to engage a more diverse audience in theatre-based cultural experiences.

Tourism

6. I was very pleased to have chaired the Workshop on Tourism and Brexit at day two of the LGA's Annual Conference and Exhibition 2018. The visitor economy in the UK, which is one of this country's fastest growing economic sectors, is worth £126.9 billion to the UK economy in 2015. The session looked at how councils can work with local, national and international partners to ensure their local economy benefits from sustainable tourism; and a good discussion followed which focused on new tools like a tourism tax and how they might be used to grow the visitor economy in the future. The presentation from the Chief Executive of the Peak District National Park showed how our council members can work with our National Park members on a shared agenda of growing sustainable tourism.

7 June 2018

Parks

7. I continue to be involved in the Parks Action Group, which is discussing next steps to safeguard and enhance parks and green spaces for future generations. The Group has developed a workplan, making use of the £500 000 allocated to the Group, and is awaiting Government approval for the components. The LGA will be working closely with PAG members to improve officer skills and networking.

Media

8. Our work with the PAG was featured in the June edition of the Countryside Managers Association journal. This set out the funding challenges facing local government, and explored the ways in which the PAG might support parks.

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