

## Note of last Culture, Tourism & Sport Board meeting

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**Title:** Culture, Tourism & Sport Board  
**Date:** Tuesday 27 November 2018  
**Venue:** Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

#### 1. **Welcome, apologies, and declarations of interest**

The Chair listed apologies received and welcomed the board.

There were no declarations of interest received.

#### 2. **Speech from Kevin Brennan MP**

The Chair welcomed Kevin Brennan MP, Shadow Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, (KB), who spoke to the board about Labour's position on the arts, heritage and tourism industries. Labour policy is to:

- Seek to increase access and participation, recognising creative industries as one of fastest-growing industries in UK and their resistance to automation.
- Recognise the importance of local councils and the financial constraints they face when making the case for arts and culture.
- Look to develop £1 billion Cultural Investment Fund – which councils could benefit from and would value LGA support in developing.
- Expand culture and creative industries beyond traditional institutions.

The Board discussed:

- whether current cultural schemes would be cancelled,
- The tourism staff shortage,
- Whether Labour would divert money from NHS for the prevention agenda
- whether Labour will put forward a clearer set of cultural proposals,

The Shadow Minister noted that Labour are in a 5 year policy cycle, and that policies are still going through structures to be approved. However, he would argue for existing schemes to be continued due to councils having invested time and resources in developing proposals. He also noted that a skills shortage in the tourism sector is definite issue, and needs to be considered as a Brexit issue, as well as a perception problem of the tourism industry as a career in the UK. The Shadow Minister agreed with importance of the prevention agenda but also the need to protect NHS as an institution.

### **3. Tourism Skills Research**

Faith Graham from Redbox Research and David Howells from Rubicon Regeneration, presented on research commissioned by the Board into the potential role of councils in supporting a skills pipeline for the tourism sector, using Work Local principles.

#### **Discussion**

The Board discussed:

- How the project would measure success
- The lack of existing training for the wider hospitality sector
- Recognising the different needs of micro-businesses compared to large businesses, and the need to support both
- Creating jobs for people of ambition in rural areas.

#### **Decision**

The work will explore local provision of training and education, and consider the needs of businesses of all sizes.

### **4. Work programme 2018/2019**

Senior Advisor, Ian Leete, introduced the paper which outlined recommendations for the Board's programme of work during 2018/19. The Board discussed the paper and the board's capabilities in terms of its work over the following year.

#### **Discussion**

The Board discussed:

- The recent discussion between the Chair and the Chief Exec of Arts Council England concerning development of a template cultural strategy for councils, noting this could be a useful piece of work for the Board to pursue. Members agreed, but noted that some councils had already developed their own strategies. A linkage with the work of CLOA was also noted.

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- The importance of the prevention agenda to the financial sustainability for councils and the NHS, and the opportunities this provided for sports and cultural services.
- The lack of visible progress of the parks action group (PAG) and the resulting loss of credibility this was causing with the sector
- Concerns about the future of the Libraries Taskforce and the need to genuinely free up Arts Council England to act as the development agency for libraries; and to avoid the development of an 'Ambition 2'.
- The resources available to the Board to deliver the planned work programme. It was noted that resources were limited and that opportunities to work with partners and explore ways to expand in-house capacity should be explored wherever possible.

### **Decisions**

The Board decided that:

- the proposed priorities and actions for 2018/19 were the right ones;
- a guide to developing a cultural strategy should be developed;
- a letter should be written to the Minister for Parks about the lack of progress by the PAG;
- A letter should be written to the Minister for Libraries on the future direction and legacy of the Libraries Taskforce.

### **5. Annual Conference 2019**

The Board discussed potential sessions at the LGA Annual Conference in July 2019, to showcase aspects of councils' work related to the Board's remit.

### **Decisions**

The Board agreed that culture-led regeneration and a session on the impact of community work of Premier League football teams in communities, especially relating to Bournemouth FC, should be proposed.

### **6. Board Activity Update Report - for info**

The Board noted the report, including the Board's views that the meeting on 21 March should be held at 1-3pm in Sheffield. The Millennium Gallery was discussed as a potential venue.

### **7. Budget 2018 Update - for info**

Ian Leete, senior advisor, introduced the paper, which outlined the sections of the 2018 Autumn Budget that impacted on culture, tourism and sport.

The Board noted the paper.

**8. Minutes of the last meeting**

**Discussion**

The Board noted areas of the missing from the Outside Bodies section of the minutes, namely the lack of notification of the appointment/reappointment of:

- Cllr Tom Hollis to British Destinations Board
- Cllr Geraldine Carter to the Tourism Alliance

Cllr Matthew Lee also raised that his attendance was not reflected in the minutes and Cllr Phil Twiss being incorrectly identified as a member of East Devon rather Devon County Council.

**Decisions**

The Board approved the minutes subject to officers making these changes.

**9. Any other business**

No other business was raised by the Board.

**10. Modelling Fiscal Devolution – Confidential**

The Chair introduced the report on developing a tourism levy, following research that suggested it was a suitable testbed for wider fiscal devolution.

**Discussion**

The Board noted that there was no consensus among the tourism sector in favour or against a tourism tax; and that the work seeks the input of those leaders and authorities who are most affected by high visitor numbers.

**Decisions**

The Board agreed to take forward work on a tourism levy. This work will seek out leaders and representatives of affected authorities to ensure their views are fully considered and represented in the work.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Julian German	Cornwall Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Members	Cllr Geraldine Carter Cllr David Fothergill Cllr Peter Golds Cllr Barry Lewis Cllr Phil Twiss Cllr Phil Seeva Cllr Richard Henry Cllr Matthew Lee	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council Somerset County Council Tower Hamlets Council Derbyshire County Council Devon County Council Cornwall Council Stevenage Borough Council South Kesteven District Council
Apologies	Cllr Janet Walton Cllr Terry O'Neill Cllr Faye Abbott Cllr Muhammed Butt Cllr Brigid Jones Cllr Dhanisha Patel Cllr Mike Bell	Borough of Poole Warrington Council Coventry City Council Brent Council Birmingham City Council Bridgend County Borough Council North Somerset Council
LGA Officers	Ian Leete Dan Mould	
CLOA	Ian Brooke	