

Forward View of Improvement

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report summarises our current improvement offer to the sector, our contracts with Sport England and Arts Council England and invites Member input on the renegotiation and prioritisation of this offer in the future.

Recommendations

1. That members feedback on the current improvement programme and suggest any other potential sector improvement work;
2. Suggest any other service areas that could benefit from a councillors handbook, as has been done with museum services.

Action

Officers to progress improvement work according to contracts and in light of member comments.

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Forward View of Improvement

Background

1. The LGA is commissioned by both Sport England and the Arts Council England to provide improvement support to local authorities for the sports and cultural sectors respectively.
2. Currently for the years 2018/20, the LGA and Sport England have a two-year agreement worth £271, 728.
3. This will deliver:
 - 3.1. Five leadership essentials events for councillors (average 2/3 per year)
 - 3.2. Six leadership events for senior strategic officers (average 3 per year)
 - 3.3. Four regional events for councillors and/or senior strategic officers (average 2 per year)
 - 3.4. Four masterclasses for senior strategic officers over the two years.
4. So far, 3 of the leadership essential events for councils have been delivered already alongside 3 of the officers events. Two further officer events are scheduled for April and May.
5. The level of demand for officer events has led to one of the planned councillor events being changed to an officer event.
6. Arts Council England have commissioned us to deliver for 2018/2019:
 - 6.1. Two leadership essentials events for portfolio holders
 - 6.2. Three cultural peer challenges
 - 6.3. Ten library peer challenges
 - 6.4. A councillor handbook on museums services
7. The total value of these activities is £149, 860. The leadership essentials events have taken place already, receiving positive feedback from delegates, while the peer challenges have all been allocated and we are in the process of agreeing dates with the councils and peer teams. One additional culture peer challenge will be funded, to meet additional demand, using underspend from the leadership essentials events.

Forward View

8. The current contracts represent a significant expansion from previous years' agreements with both Sports England and the Arts Council.
9. The LGA have hired a Culture and Sport improvement advisor, part funded by the expanded contracts, who will be in post from March 2019. This role will involve looking at reshaping the current improvement offer and means the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport team can allocate more time and workload towards the offer and our improvement work in general.
10. We will be looking to renegotiate our contract with Arts Council England for the following year in the near future and review our offer with Sport England. Any member steer or guidance on this is welcomed.
11. The Museums Handbook production represents a one-off investment. Members are invited to suggest any other service areas that could benefit from a similar investment we could propose to the Arts Council.

Implications for Wales

12. Improvement work is devolved to the WLGA.

Financial Implications

13. The current financial worth of the Sport England contract is £271, 728, while the Arts Council contract is worth £149, 860.

Next steps

14. Members are invited to comment upon the current improvement offers and suggest any future areas of focus they believe would be valuable to the sector.
15. Officers to progress improvement work according to contracts and in light of member comments.