

Spending Review and 2015/16 Culture, Tourism and Sport Work Programme

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

Against the backdrop of the new Government's priorities, and a Spending Review that is expected to deliver another tough settlement for local government, this paper suggests a work programme for the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board that will represent the sector's interests nationally and offer sector-led support on priority issues.

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment upon, and agree, the draft work programme for 2015/16.

Action

Officers to take forward actions in line with Members' steer.

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Spending Review and 2015/16 Culture, Tourism and Sport Work Programme

Background

1. The purpose of the Culture, Tourism and Sport (CTS) Board is to provide strategic oversight of all the LGA's policy and improvement activity in relation to the visitor economy, the arts, heritage, libraries, museums, sport and physical activity. The Board also works closely with other relevant LGA Boards on shared priorities. In particular, the Community Wellbeing Board to support the role of culture and sport promoting better health, the People and Places Board in relation to the broadband rollout and the Community Safety Board in relation to gambling and regulated entertainment which is also the responsibility of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).
2. Against the backdrop of the new Government's priorities, and a Spending Review that is expected to deliver another tough settlement for local government, austerity, reform and devolution will continue to be key drivers for the CTS Board. In particular, with greater flexibility over the scope of devolution deals, we expect more places in the medium to longer term to explore opportunities to devolve some of the tourism, culture, heritage and sport funding and functions currently administered by the DCMS national agencies. This will likely be a key area of focus for the Board's relationship with the agencies.
3. Since the general election, DCMS Ministers have set out a policy agenda that aims to achieve a step-change in grassroots sport participation, re-balance the visitor economy away from London and transform the digital connectivity of England's public libraries. Most of the activity in support of these policy areas is led and funded locally, so DCMS will need to work closely with local government in order to achieve their ambitions. This presents Members with an opportunity to ensure that national policy enables, rather than frustrates, local activity and that councils and their partners have the necessary freedoms and flexibilities to lead these policy areas.

Government Spending Review 2015

4. The LGA has published its core submission to Government's Spending Review 2015. '[Spending Smarter](#)' builds on our 2015 conference publication, '[A Shared Commitment](#)' to make the case for local government's role in balancing the nation's books while improving public services and the local economic environment.
5. 'Spending Smarter' states that since 2010, councils have dealt with a 40 per cent real terms reduction to their core government grant. In adult social care alone, funding reductions and demographic pressures have meant dealing with a £5 billion funding gap. Public polling has shown that roughly 80 per cent of those surveyed are satisfied with local services and that more than 70 per cent of respondents trust councils more than central government to make decisions about services provided in the local area – a trend that has been sustained during the last five years.
6. Key recommendations include:

- 6.1 Enable wider integration of social care and health services to deliver savings and improve outcomes; and implement a single place-based budget approach for delivering all local services through a Local Public Services Fund as part of at least five devolution deals.
 - 6.2 Promote growth and productivity by accepting the case for further devolution of powers and funding including devolution of, or local influence over, more than £60 billion of growth, skills and infrastructure funding over the Spending Review period.
 - 6.3 Help councils adequately resource and deliver high quality public services by transforming the business rate mechanism and providing a four year local government finance settlement.
 - 6.4 Help councils focus on driving efficiency and value for money through an assessment of the impact of unfunded cost burdens that core council budgets are going to face over the Spending Review period.
7. Our core submission is also supported by a small number of themed papers, including on fire and rescue, adult social care, and prevention, not all of which have been made public at the time of writing. The paper on prevention, included separately with this pack, makes the case for a prevention transformation fund by examining evidence currently available. This includes physical activity programmes. The paper is intended to be the start of a conversation with Government that will continue up to the Spending Review and beyond. Members are invited to consider how the Board's work programme could support this conversation.

Leadership Board policy commissions

8. As part of the recent member-led review of governance, the LGA Executive and Leadership Board have been asked to commission work from our Policy Boards where a clear corporate priority has been identified or where an important policy issue straddles more than one Board.
9. The Leadership Board met in July 2015 and agreed the following remit for the commissioning of policy work from Boards on behalf of the LGA leadership:
 - 9.1 The Leadership Board's commissioning is related to the most important (current and future) issues for LGA membership.
 - 9.2 The issues commissioned cover the terms of reference of more than one Board.
 - 9.3 There will be a limited number of corporate commissions, no more than five.
 - 9.4 Boards will continue to set policy priorities based on their specific terms of reference. These will be reported back to the LGA Executive.
10. The following cross-cutting areas of work were agreed and are being commissioned from relevant Boards in 2015-16. Specific Boards have been asked to lead this work as indicated below. Lead Boards will be having detailed discussions

about the projects at their first meetings of this Board cycle. All policy Boards are invited to consider their contributions to the four projects. The devolution and health and wellbeing projects will be of particular interest to CTS members.

- 10.1 Devolution and future shape of local government (jointly led by City Regions and People and Places). It is likely that this work will focus on supporting councils to develop and implement bespoke devolution deals, including governance, the evidence base for devolution, and working with Whitehall once the Cities and Local Government Bill has been enacted.
- 10.2 Housing (led by the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board), will include a focus on addressing housing need, building on the LGA's leadership of this debate.
- 10.3 Finance (led by the Resources Board) will be driven largely by the outcome of the Spending Review and will look to build on our successful Future Funding Outlook work.
- 10.4 Promoting health and wellbeing (led by the Community Wellbeing Board). Continued moves towards an integrated health and care system remains at the top of councils' and the Government's agenda, and getting these new arrangements right for councils and citizens remains a significant opportunity for the LGA. This work should: draw on the wider role of other local services such as schools, children's services, the fire service, public health, housing, transport and leisure; and play in promoting wellbeing across the life course and keeping people physically and mentally healthy, in work, and in their own homes. It should raise the profile of social care as an equal to the NHS, and build a business case for council-led investment as part of a much wider integrated approach to improve health outcomes and address health inequalities, as well as keep pressure off the NHS and other expensive services. This work should also consider the role of citizens and communities in supporting themselves and each other and promoting resilience and independence.

11. With these considerations in mind, Members are invited to discuss the draft work programme for the coming year. In particular, views are sought on the issues that are covered, the anticipated impact of the Board's work influencing national players and supporting councils, and the relative balance between the different priorities.

12. The work programme can be delivered within available resources, but Members are asked to bear in mind that adding substantially to the work programme will mean not doing some of the projects currently suggested. It is also inevitable that the sector will look to the Board for leadership on a number of significant issues that will be topical over the next year.

Suggested Priorities and Work Programme

Key projects and timeframe	Outcomes	Link to LGA Business Plan / cross cutting theme
Culture, tourism and sport improvement programme for councillors		
Deliver 20 days of sector-led improvement activity for councillors in 2015/16 through leadership essentials programmes, seminars and peer support on libraries, culture and sport – see Annex A for the calendar of events	Over 140 councillors supported to lead transformational change of culture, libraries and sport services (in partnership with DCMS services)	Sector-led support, improvement and innovation
Grassroots sport and physical activity		
Consult with CLOA and develop compelling responses to the Government's consultation on a new sports strategy (2 October) and Sport England's consultation on its new strategy (timeframe tbc), that position councils and local partners as leading the most effective and value for money whole place approaches to achieving a step-change in participation rates	The Government's new Sports Strategy supports the LGA's position on councils' leadership of sport and physical activity and links to public health and the prevention agenda Where appropriate, Sport England's new strategy re-balances funding away from national interventions and towards a more efficient and effective locally-led approach	Promoting health and wellbeing Funding for local government Devolution and the future shape of local government
Building upon the LGA's Spending Review, continue to work with the Community Wellbeing Board to support their lobbying on public health funding, the Prevention Transformation Fund and to maximise the potential of sport and physical activity to reduce and prevent expenditure on health and social care – on-going		Promoting health and wellbeing Funding for local government Devolution and the future shape of local government
In collaboration with partners, continue our campaign for greater Premier League investment in grassroots football through sharing examples of what can be achieved when football clubs work in partnership with councils and ongoing press work - 30 November	Councils and local partners are well positioned to benefit from any potential shift in football funding that benefits the grassroots game	Promoting health and wellbeing Funding for local government
The visitor economy and devolution		
Work with councils to consider the case for tourism within devolution deals to help boost local growth – develop initial analysis by 30 September. Following discussion with Members, we will engage VisitEngland to explore scope for their new growth strategy to support devolution. We will then extend our analysis to cover sport and arts funding by 31 December	Raise awareness amongst councils about the potential benefits for culture, tourism and sport from devolution and the benefits of doing so are shared with all councils through the devolution knowledge sharing activity Relevant departments and agencies supportive of the	Economic growth, jobs and housing Devolution and the future shape of local government

Key projects and timeframe	Outcomes	Link to LGA Business Plan / cross cutting theme
	opportunities for culture, tourism and sport	
LGA / DCMS Libraries Taskforce		
Build upon the Taskforce's early achievements to ensure it continues to progress against the agreed priorities (rolling out WiFi, workforce development, sharing good practice and supporting libraries to add value to wider priorities). The Taskforce has a detailed project plan which is a separate agenda item – in particular 10 September is the deadline for applications to ACE's Wi-Fi fund and the money must be spent by 31 March 2016. The Taskforce will submit 6-monthly progress reports to the CTS Board and DCMS.	The Taskforce provides sector led support on the key issues facing public libraries with joint accountability to LGA Members and Ministers Wi-Fi available in all English public libraries by 30 March 2016	Sector-led support, improvement and innovation Promoting health and wellbeing Funding for local government
New delivery modes for local historic services		
Following recent meetings with Historic England (HE), we will update our suite of case studies on different delivery models. In the light of HE's focus on planning, we will connect them to the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), so that appropriate linkages can be identified – launch publication in January 2016	A new suite of case studies that share innovative approaches to configuring local historic environment services and improved links between HE, PAS and the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board	Sector-led support, improvement and innovation Economic growth, jobs and housing
LGA / CLOA annual CTS Conference		
Work with the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association and Leicester City Council (with input from the County and Districts) to deliver the annual CTS Conference 24-25 February 2016.	150 councillors and senior officers debate the biggest issues facing the CTS sector and access the latest innovative practice	Sector-led support, improvement and innovation All

13. In addition, Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, has announced that DCMS will develop a Culture White Paper covering four themes: the role that culture plays in creating places where people want to live, work and visit; how people engage with culture; building financial resilience in cultural organisations; and working with cultural organisations to promote Britain abroad. DCMS will shortly launch a digital discussion platform to give others the opportunity to shape the White Paper. Although details are to be finalised, responding to the consultation is likely to form a cultural policy strand in the Board's work programme.

14. A number of cross-cutting themes will be evident throughout the Board's work. In particular, the outcome of the Spending Review will frame how Members take forward the work programme, there will be a communications element to all of the projects outlined above, and Members will want to ensure that we are well positioned to advance our arguments with Ministers and the DCMS agencies through a regular programme of Chairs' meetings.

Next Steps

15. Members are invited to comment on and agree the Board's priorities and work programme, following which the full Board will be asked to sign-off on 14 September.

Financial Implications

16. The draft work programme can be delivered within existing resources, but any additional priorities will mean not doing some of the projects currently suggested.