

## **Culture Tourism and Sport Board – report by Cllr Chris White (Chair)**

### **LOCOG reception**

1. On 14 July Cllr Castle and I and other members of the LG Group Executive attended an informal dinner with senior members of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), including the chairman, Seb Coe. There was a positive discussion about the joint working between local authorities and LOCOG, including the contribution that the Games can make to children's education.

### **Meeting with the Minister for Sport.**

2. Cllr Stephen Castle and I met with the Sports Minister, Hugh Robertson MP, on 28 July. The meeting was an opportunity to emphasise that councils fund 80% of the community sports system and it is only through the local partnerships they lead that an Olympic and Paralympic legacy for sport can be delivered. We also emphasised the importance of councils taking a central strategic role in promoting and developing the Olympics style school sports competition, so that the benefits feed into the wider community sports system. Cllr Castle also detailed the recent work of Local Connectivity Working Group (LCWG), which he chaired for LGA.

### **Meeting with the Minister for Libraries**

3. Cllr Castle and I also met Ed Vaizey MP, Minister for Culture, Communications and the Creative Industries on the 28 July. We discussed progress with the Future Libraries Programme, which was later launched on the 16 August, is led by the LG Group, and reports jointly to the CTS Programme Board and the Minister. The Programme represents a significant win for local government and the principle of sector-led improvement. Through it, library authorities will pilot new and radical approaches to delivery that will save money, develop new partnerships and governance models and take advantage of digital opportunities. This learning will be spread throughout the libraries sector in phase two of the project.

### **Regional arrangements**

4. Cllr Castle has written to the Sports Minister emphasising that an appropriate mechanism is required to allow local authorities to properly engage with the organising committee of the 2012 Games once the RDAs are abolished. UK-wide engagement with the 2012 Games, including local government, is currently achieved through the Nations and Regions Groups (NRGs), most of which are funded and hosted by RDAs. The uncertainty

around the future of NRGs puts at serious risk our ability to deliver a safe and secure Games and to spread the wider social, economic and sporting benefits to all communities.

### **Licensing of regulated entertainment**

5. On 26 July, Cllr Paul Bettison and I met John Penrose MP, Licensing Minister at the DCMS. The meeting focused on the licensing of regulated entertainment, including live music. We discussed a range of options that might contribute to the Coalition's objective of cutting red-tape in the sector. I stressed the need, in any further development of the licensing regime, to retain adequate controls to protect residents from noise nuisance and to protect gig-goers from attending performances in potentially unsafe environments.

### **Heritage conference**

6. On 19 July I chaired a conference on local heritage held jointly with English Heritage. My presentation focussed on the challenges faced by the local heritage sector and the role that local government can play in addressing these challenges. Other speakers from across the sector covered a wide ranging and interesting set of topics, which included heritage tourism and the new Policy Planning Statement.

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