

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

### **Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board – 13 September 2010**

1. The LG Group Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board held its first meeting of the 2010 / 11 meeting cycle in Manchester.
2. Agenda items included the Future Libraries Programme, which launched on 16 August, and will be delivered by the LG Group and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), supported by Government. Ten projects have been selected by a joint LGID / MLA panel to participate in the first phase. They will be offered practical support and advice to develop new ways of working that can help all library services to modernise and adapt to cuts in public spending, with the learning widely shared.
3. The LG Group's leadership on libraries modernisation was praised by the Culture minister Ed Vaizey MP, who, in a Westminster Hall debate about libraries also highlighted innovative ways of working from councils.
4. The Board also agreed to support a sector-led approach to museums improvement and I have written to Ed Vaizey MP to propose a way forward. In a discussion about the changes to the tourism landscape that will result from the winding down of Regional Development Agencies, members emphasised that the new landscape will be very different. Local Economic Partnerships have a potentially vital role to play in supporting tourism, which is the fifth largest industrial sector in the UK, in partnership with local businesses.

### **The future of Culture, Tourism and Sport conference**

5. I spoke on behalf of the Board at the *Future of Culture, Tourism and Sport* Conference on 14 September 2010. In my speech, I made it clear that, against a backdrop of significantly reduced budgets for public services, local culture, tourism and sport services will need to change in order to sustain themselves and develop in the coming years.
6. I set out the need for local services to be even more open to community input, and therefore more accountable to residents. Such services will also have to work increasingly in partnership across boundaries, and to deliver less and commission more.

## **Nations and Regions Group – 30 September**

7. I emphasised the importance of local authorities having an appropriate mechanism to properly engage with the organising committee of the 2012 Games once the RDAs are abolished. Currently local government engagement with the Games is achieved through the Nations and Regions Groups, which are mostly funded by RDAs.

## **Launch of UK Volunteers Toolkit**

8. Councillor Castle has led the Board's lobbying of government and the organising committee of the 2012 Games to recognise that a wider network of volunteers will be needed to support the Games, in addition to those stationed at venues. Our lobbying has resulted in the UK Volunteering Toolkit, which was launched on 13 September. The toolkit will help local authorities and their partners who want to recruit extra volunteers during the Games, perhaps because they are hosting their own local events, expecting more visitors or are a transport hub.

## **Joint working with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)**

9. I discussed the 2012 Games and Derry / Londonderry's status as 2013 UK Capital of Culture with Alderman Arnold Hatch, Vice Chair of NILGA. I agreed to support Alderman Hatch to raise the profile of the work local authorities in Northern Ireland are doing to leave a lasting legacy from the Games for their communities.

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