

LG Group Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board – report by Cllr Chris White (Chair)

LGA bilateral meeting with LOCOG

1. Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Stephen Castle, Vice Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board respectively, met with representatives from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) on 14 October to discuss a number of developing issues as the Olympic and Paralympic Games draw ever closer. Members discussed LOCOG's official volunteering programme for the Games, which closed in late October, and asked what efforts were being made to ensure that volunteers were being drawn from across the UK. We also discussed local government involvement with the torch relay that is to take place throughout the UK shortly before the Games commence.

LGA meeting with Arts Council

2. On 19 October, I met with Liz Forgan, Chair of Arts Council England, and Alan Davey, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, the first such meeting since the General Election. Our discussions centred on the implications of the Spending Review for the arts.
3. Specifically, I reinforced the importance of Arts Council England talking to co-funding organisations, including Councils, about funding decisions. Following on from the Government's decision to abolish the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), we discussed what this might mean for the Arts Council.

CILIP Public Library Authorities conference

4. On 20 October, I gave a speech entitled "How will the age of austerity affect local government?" at the CILIP Public Library Authorities Conference. The speech concentrated on the continuing importance of libraries to local communities, managing change and how, collectively across the sector, we might, in an age of reduced public funding, design and enact improvements across the public library service.

LGA meeting with Sport England

5. Cllr Stephen Castle and I met with representatives from Sport England on 27 October. In a very full agenda, we again discussed the Spending Review and the potential impact on community sport, the Government's proposals for a national Schools Olympics, the role of local authorities in spreading an

Olympics legacy across the country and the importance of continuing close joint working between Sport England and the LG Group.

LGA Meeting with Minister for Tourism and Heritage

6. Cllr Castle and I met with John Penrose MP, Minister for Tourism and Heritage, on 27 October. The Minister updated us on live music licensing policy and agreed on the importance of maintaining regular officer contact with LG Regulation. On tourism, Cllr Castle and I emphasised the importance of strong partnerships between Destination Management Organisations, local authorities and emerging Local Enterprise Partnerships in creating great destinations.

LGA meeting with the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries

7. I was pleased to meet with Ed Vaizey MP, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, on 28 October to discuss progress on work on the Future Libraries programme that the LGA and Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) are jointly leading on with Government support. I also used the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the proposed way forward for the Renaissance project and emphasised the importance of sector-led improvement for museums and archives.

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