

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board – report from Cllr Chris White**

### **Libraries**

1. The LG Group has successfully lobbied the Arts Council for a second phase of the Future Libraries Programme (FLP), the sector led improvement programme for libraries. Over 36 councils participated in the first phase and the LG Group has shared the learning widely across the sector. I have consistently argued that the best way to support councils to modernise libraries and to avoid getting into the territory of statutory inquiries must be to continue the approach of the FLP. Officers are working with the Arts Council to scope the next phase with a view to launching it in September.

### **LG Group annual conference**

2. I chaired two very well-attended sessions at the Group's annual conference in Birmingham. Over 50 delegates attended a workshop on getting ready to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, where Cllr Stephen Castle highlighted how councils are using the inspirational power of the Games to inspire participation in sport and culture, encourage volunteering and learning and boost the local economy. Over 40 delegates attended a lunchtime fringe session on culture, libraries and the Big Society. Delegates heard from Essex County Council and Birmingham City Council about how they are modernising their libraries and museums respectively and the lively debate highlighted the value of sharing good practice across the sector.

### **Partners for England Forum**

3. I attended the last meeting of the Partners for England Forum in its current form on 16 June. John Penrose, the Tourism Minister, outlined the government's vision for the visitor economy. The Forum, which brings together the tourism industry, is being re-focussed on VisitEngland's new strategic framework. The LG Group will continue to be members of the new group in recognition of the vital role of councils in leading local partnerships with the tourism industry to create a thriving visitor economy.

### **Museums**

4. I have written to Dame Liz Forgan, Chair of the Arts Council, setting out the LG Group's vision for sector-led improvement in the museums sector. The Arts Council is reviewing the Renaissance Programme and I have argued that councils should be invited to form local museum partnerships, where they don't already exist, to drive locally appropriate solutions for improving performance and to ensure that resources are devolved to the frontline to keep museums accessible to the public.

### **A social legacy from the 2012 Games**

5. Councillor Stephen Castle has written to Charles Allen, chair of the government's Social Legacy Board, setting out how councils across the country are helping to achieve a social legacy from the Games. The letter also said that LOCOG could help to encourage even more local activity by giving councils sufficient lead-in time to maximise the impact of LOCOG's projects and milestone events and by changing the "can't do" culture that sometimes acts as a barrier to local activity.

### **New chartered institute for sport**

6. I attended the inaugural event of the new Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (IMSPA) on 7 June where Hugh Robertson, Sports Minister, welcomed its creation. IMPSA is the new single professional body for sport and leisure and is also strongly supported by councils. The LG Group has offered to help where it can over the coming months, to create a unified, far-sighted institute that can lead by example and help address the coming challenges for the whole sector.

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