

Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board – report from Cllr Chris White (Chair)

Broadband Seminar

1. On 26 July, I gave the opening speech at a seminar for councils about developing Local Broadband Plans, and accessing a total of £295 million of government funding to support the rollout of superfast broadband. The event was organised in partnership with BDUK and was attended by over 40 delegates from councils around the country. I highlighted that councils are ideally placed to join up the rollout of broadband with digital inclusion and service transformation.

Sport

2. On 28 July, Cllr Stephen Castle met Richard Lewis and Jennie Price, Chair and Chief Executive of Sport England, to discuss the LG Group's response to consultation on Sport England's new strategy. Cllr Castle emphasised that local councils fund the majority of this country's community sport infrastructure and will be key players in helping Sport England achieve its objectives, in particular a grass roots sporting legacy from the 2012 Games.

The visitor economy

3. On 6 July I met Sandie Dawe, Chief Executive of VisitBritain. VisitBritain is focussing on delivering a £100m global marketing programme, in partnership with the private sector. We agreed it was important to maintain a strategic relationship on shared priorities, such as the 2012 Games, promoting the economic value of the visitor economy and welcoming visitors at points of entry.

Casinos

4. On 6 July I met Mike Hoskins, Director of the National Casino Industry Forum and co-chair of its Operations Forum. I emphasised that we work closely with government, the Gambling Commission and our member councils to monitor the impact of the 2005 Gambling Act and to ensure that we work together to have a localist licensing regime that balances protection with de-regulation.

DCMS Informal Local Government Network

5. Councillor Stephen Castle and I co-chaired the Network on 13 July with Jonathan Stephens, DCMS Permanent Secretary. Portfolio holders and senior officers with responsibility for culture, tourism and sport attended to discuss latest developments on the 2012 Games, the School Games and broadband.

CTS Programme Board Meeting 21 July 2011

6. The Board received a presentation from Sarah Bartholomew, Government Relations Executive, and Angela Salt, Head of Nations and Regions, LOCOG on the Torch Relay.

Contact officer: Helen Johnston

Position: Head of Programme

Phone no: 020 7664 3172

E-mail: helen.johnston@local.gov.uk