

**Item 4c**

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

**Superfast Broadband Ministerial meeting, 10 October**

1. I represented councils' interests at a cross-Government ministerial discussion on broadband, drawing upon a recent visit to the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire pilot.
2. More generally, we are advocating the need to support councils who are developing local broadband plans, the importance of access to European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the potential impact of broadband infrastructure on roads and road maintenance budgets.

**Sport and Physical Activity**

3. I met Richard Lewis, Chair of Sport England on 26 October, to discuss Sport England's new strategy and joint working. We agreed that our collective focus must be on strengthening local political leadership, developing and sharing new models of service delivery, exploiting the opportunities presented by the health reforms and encouraging greater connectivity locally between councils and other organisations.
4. I attended the Sport and Recreation Alliance's (SRA) Parliamentary Reception on 25 October. We are working with SRA to share case studies about how National Governing Bodies for sport are working in partnership with councils and voluntary sports clubs to increase participation in sport for all abilities. I have also exchanged letters with Andy Reed, SRA's Chair, on the LGA's position in relation to the disposal of playing fields.

**Libraries**

5. As part of the Future Libraries Programme, the LGA and Arts Council England is hosting a seminar on 6 December for libraries portfolio holders to share learning from the different delivery models that are emerging across the country.

**The Visitor Economy**

6. I attended the first meeting of VisitEngland's Strategic Industry Advisory Group on 26 October, which has been established to cement industry ownership and drive forward the implementation of VisitEngland's Strategic Framework for Tourism 2010-2020.

7. I emphasised the importance of industry working through local enterprise partnerships, which are aiming to give a lead on the full range of interlinked issues that affect local economies and upon which a thriving visitor economy rests.

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