

Item 3c

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

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

1. Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Andrew Lewer attended the joint London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 Parliamentary reception on 12 January. This was an opportunity to share how the LGA has worked with London 2012 to ensure that councils have been integral to the planning of the 2012 Games.
2. I represented the CTS Board at the LGA's 2012 Games Task and Finish Group on 18 January and shared concerns about the impact of the Games on train services and road transport and consequent overcrowding and difficulties travelling in and out of London.
3. Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Stephen Castle met senior officials from the London Organising Committee and the Government Olympic Executive on 17 January. They raised a number of operational issues and emphasised councils' continued concerns about transport and resilience.
4. Cllr Stephen Castle and I attended the 2012 Games Security and Resilience Programme Member Steering Group on 30 January. I highlighted the need for better communication to members about resilience and security issues, especially on the Torch Relay.

Libraries

5. The LGA has submitted written evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry into library closures. We argue innovation, coupled with the energy and expertise of local authorities themselves, is the best way to provide better library services whilst responding to unprecedented budget pressures. We also press for the modernisation of the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act and remove the superintendent role of the Secretary of State.

Arts Council England (ACE)

6. I met Dame Liz Forgan and Alan Davey, Chair and Chief Executive of ACE, on 24 January. We agreed on the opportunities presented by a single conversation between ACE and councils spanning the arts, museums and libraries. I reinforced the importance of ACE supporting councils to develop imaginative solutions that are locally appropriate, and owned and driven by councils themselves. I also raised councils' concerns about the additional bureaucracy implied by ACE's new role in school music.

Superfast Broadband

7. In a letter to Jeremy Hunt MP, I raised councils' concerns about the rigidity of the Government's timetable and the potential impact on value for money. I

emphasised that we are committed to working in partnership with Government and Broadband Delivery UK in order to resolve the issues that remain and to ensure that the vast majority of contracts are signed by the end of this year.

Sport

8. In response to the Government's new youth sport strategy, I wrote to Jeremy Hunt MP to encourage him to reflect the fact local government is the key delivery agent for sport and uniquely placed to bring together the sometimes disparate elements of the local sporting landscape.
9. I met the Chair and Chief Executive of the newly established Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) on 16 January. I emphasised the need for CIMSPA to develop training and support programmes for local government professionals so that they are better equipped to meet the new challenges and opportunities posed by the radically different local sport landscape.
10. I spoke at the LGA / Sport England leadership seminar for Portfolio holders with responsibility for sport on 30 January, which the LGA organised in partnership with Sport England. I highlighted the importance of strong political leadership in making the case for sport. The event also enabled councillors to learn and share ideas about how to make the most of the new opportunities presented by localism, public health reforms and commissioning.

Regulated Entertainment

11. An LGA press release on how councils are supporting communities to host street parties during the Diamond Jubilee received widespread coverage in newspapers, television and radio. I appeared on BBC Breakfast News and various local radio stations and Cllr Shona Johnstone was also interviewed on local radio.
12. The Live Music Bill has progressed successfully through the House of Commons and subject to the formality of returning to the House of Lords, will receive Royal Assent shortly. The LGA had previously raised concerns with the original draft of the Bill, but successfully lobbied for amendments which mean it will cut red tape for the music industry and ensure councils still have sufficient powers to protect residents and people attending live music events.
13. I also addressed the LGA licensing conference on 26 January and updated councils on our response to the Government's consultation on regulated entertainment.

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14. The Board discussed the LGA draft submission to the CMS Committee Inquiry into library closures and agreed how the Board will support culture and sport services to get ready for and to maximise the opportunities presented by public health reforms.

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