

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Flick Rea (Chair)

Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 7 and 8 March 2012

1. Over 120 delegates attended the LGA's annual CTS Conference in Cardiff, supported by the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association. This continues to be the definitive event for the local government CTS sector. Plenary speakers included Hugh Robertson MP, Sports Minister, David Moorcroft, former athlete and Chair of the 2012 Games partnership in the West Midlands, and Dame Jenny Abramsky, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund. In workshops delegates debated key issues facing the sector and highlighted the importance of the LGA sharing good practice case studies.

Libraries

2. Cllr Elizabeth Campbell (Cabinet Member for Education and Libraries, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) gave evidence on behalf of the LGA to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's inquiry on libraries on 21 February. Cllr Campbell emphasised how the LGA is supporting councils to modernise library services through peer mentoring, sharing good practice and supporting library portfolio holders. The LGA is also calling for the updating of the 1964 Libraries & Museums Act and the removal Secretary of State's superintendent role to better allow councils to modernise their library services.
3. On 29 February Cllr Florence Nosegbe chaired a seminar for libraries portfolio holders in Leeds. The event supported 25 councillors to share and learn from each other about different approaches to re-designing library services. This builds on a similarly successful seminar we held in London in November and we intend to extend the programme further so that even more councillors can participate.

2012 Games and Sport

4. Cllr Chris White, my predecessor, chaired the LGA's Olympic and Paralympic emergency planning conference on 7 February. Over 100 delegates from 70 councils attended the event, which briefed councils on latest resilience preparations for the 2012 Games and gave them the opportunity to raise concerns with government and the Organising Committee.
5. Cllr Simon Henig spoke at the LGA / Sport England leadership academy on 14 March. The event supported 15 portfolio holders for sport to develop further their understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by local government funded and supported sport. This is the second leadership academy we have hosted with Sport England and again we received very positive feedback from

delegates.

The role of local government in the arts

6. I was interviewed by Cllr Magazine about local government and the arts. I highlighted the LGA's role disseminating good practice case studies to councils and emphasised the opportunity for a single conversation between Arts Council England and local government, spanning the arts, libraries and museums.

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7. I chaired the CTS Board on 6 March in Cardiff. The Board received a presentation from Councillor Stephen Castle, Chair of the LGA's 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Task and Finish Group, on latest preparations for the Games. The Board also heard from Cllr Nigel Howells, Executive Member for Sport, Leisure and Culture, Cardiff Council about how Cardiff is supporting culture, tourism and sport.

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