

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

LGA Annual Conference

1. The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board hosted two lively and well-attended workshops at the LGA Annual Conference. I chaired the libraries workshop where the Leader of Surrey County Council and the Mayor of the London Borough of Lewisham gave very informative presentations about how they are re-designing library services. This was followed by delegates sharing their own examples. I was also delighted to launch the LGA's new publication "Local solutions for future local library services" which contains a plethora of good practice case studies. The publication can be downloaded from the LGA's website http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/culture-tourism-and-sport/-/journal_content/56/10171/3628286/ARTICLE-TEMPLATE .
2. Cllr Simon Henig chaired the sport workshop, which explored the huge potential of sport to improve the life chances of young people. Delegates heard from Portsmouth about how they worked with the Football Club to engage young people and achieve a 20 percent reduction in crime, and from Sport England about the support and funding that they offer councils.

Heritage

3. I have written to Baroness Kay Andrews, Chair of English Heritage, to express the LGA's concern about a proposed new national indicator to assess each local authority's commitment to the historic environment. It is disappointing that English Heritage is apparently moving away from our shared improved agenda and returning to the old world of national indicators and top-down performance management. I have offered to discuss with English Heritage how we can work together to support historic environment services through collaboration, the sharing of good practice and strong leadership. I am meeting Baroness Andrews on 16 July.

Arts Council England

4. I continue to represent councils' interests to Arts Council England (ACE) as they consult on a significant reduction in staff. In particular, I have emphasised the need for continued local government representation on the new regional bodies. This is essential in order to ensure accountability and transparency in the new arrangements, and also in recognition of councils' vital role working in partnership with ACE to support libraries, museums and the arts.

LGA Culture and Sport Commissioning Workshop – 9 July

5. As part of our political leadership offer on culture and sport, 20 councillors attended a workshop about commissioning. Its purpose was to support councillors to understand better the commissioning landscape and how to enable their culture and sport services to better engage with the commissioning process locally.

Professional leadership

6. On 11 June I was delighted to address participants in this year's Leading Learning Programme, a leadership development programme for senior culture and leisure managers in local government. I shared a politician's perspective on the importance of culture and sport and emphasised the need for a flexible officer corps that thinks in a holistic rather than silo fashion.

Apprenticeships

7. On 18 June I spoke at the South East Cultural Improvement Forum's event on creative, cultural and sports apprenticeships. Over 30 delegates attended this practical learning event to share how their areas are supporting apprenticeships. I highlighted councils' strong track record leading economic growth and supporting young people. Delegates also heard from Reading Borough Council about their approach and the Royal Opera House and Pinewood Studios shared the employers' perspective. We have promoted the learning widely through the CTS bulletin.

Street Play

8. I was interviewed for BBC Breakfast about the Street Play scheme in Bristol, a community-led project which works with the council to temporarily close roads to traffic in order to allow children to play safely in the street. Similar schemes exist in other parts of the country, such as London Play. This is an inexpensive and simple way for councils to support outdoor play and I have asked Officers to share case studies with the sector.

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