

**Item 3 (c)**

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – Report from Cllr Flick Rea (Chair)**

### **The Arts and Growth**

1. I met Sir Peter Bazalgette, the new Chair of Arts Council England (ACE), on 12 February. We agreed on the link between the arts and growth and restated our shared commitment to the principle of a single cultural conversation between ACE and councils. The economic role of the arts underpins the newly-signed agreement between ACE and the LGA, and was also the focus of my recent article in the LGA's First magazine.
2. We are looking forward to Sir Peter and Ed Vaizey MP, Arts Minister, debating the proposition that investment in the arts pays economic dividends at the LGA's annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference on 7 - 8 March in Chester. They will be joined by 150 councillors and senior officers for the launch of the LGA's new arts and growth publication, which provides an insight into the economic role of the arts, and local government's role leading this – from attracting visitors, to creating jobs and developing skills, attracting and retaining businesses, revitalising places and developing future talent.
3. I highlighted the link between local government investment in the arts and economic growth in a BBC interview on 27 February that was broadcast widely on local BBC radio.

### **Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Legacy**

4. Councillor Stephen Castle, who chaired the LGA's 2012 Games Task and Finish Group, met Lord Coe, the Prime Minister's Legacy Ambassador, on 7 February. The meeting was an opportunity to highlight local government's leadership role in locking-in the sporting, economic and social benefits from the Games. Councillor Castle and Lord Coe agreed to work together to fully reflect and involve councils in national legacy activity.
5. I attended the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officer Association's roundtable on sport and health on 14 February. The roundtable brought together senior sport and health professionals for a lively debate on how best to maximise the contribution of leisure services to achieving local public health outcomes.

### **Libraries**

6. Lead Members and I were very pleased to meet Yinnon Ezra MBE, the Culture Minister's new public libraries adviser, on 13 February. We discussed the key issues facing public libraries and identified potential joint working on supporting local political leadership, managing assets and property, procurement and commissioning and libraries' contribution to wider community outcomes.

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