

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

Culture and Growth

1. I was delighted to speak at the first Culture and Growth Leadership Academy 22 – 23 October, hosted in partnership with Arts Council England. Through impactful case studies and practical exercises, we supported 14 portfolio holders to build resilient and sustainable cultural services.
2. Councillors Andrew Lewer, Deputy Chairman of the CTS Board, and Sonja Crisp, CTS Board Member, co-facilitated the Academy. The case study speakers included Councillor Doreen Stephenson, Leader of East Lindsey District Council and member of the CTS Board, who shared how the council's programme of cultural festivals has boosted the local economy. Other sessions explored different delivery models, working with Local Enterprise Partnerships and we heard from the Royal Shakespeare Company about how they are working with local government to boost the visitor economy.
3. All delegates agreed that the Academy had given them the basis for further improvement, and we are looking forward to the next Academy 4 – 5 December.

Sport

4. I was pleased to welcome 12 portfolio holders for sport to the eighth LGA / Sport England Leadership Academy 12-13 November. This highly successful programme supports councillors to achieve fit-for-purpose sport and leisure provision for their communities within the context of unprecedented budget pressures. Sessions explored creative ways to keep sporting assets viable, the opportunities presented by public health reform, understanding the commissioning landscape and leading transformational change in councils.
5. I have also written to Helen Grant MP, the new Sport and Tourism Minister, to congratulate her on her new role, and to emphasise the role that council sport and leisure services can play in actively promoting good health. We are meeting on 28 January.

Play

6. On 29 October I attended a roundtable on play policy convened by Play England and hosted by Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society. Representatives from a range of organisations with an interest in play also attended. The meeting was an opportunity to highlight the different ways in which councils support play opportunities – including the provision of formal and informal safe spaces to play, using the planning system to design opportunities for play and linking play to other policy agendas in a joined-up approach to children and young people's health and wellbeing. I emphasised that strong local partnerships between councils, schools, the voluntary sector and other partners was central to effective local play provision.



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