

Note of Decisions Taken and Actions Required

Item 1

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Tuesday 13 January 2009

Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Present:

Chair: Councillor Chris White (Hertfordshire) (Lib Dem)

Vice Chair:

Deputy Chairs: Councillor Stephen Castle (Essex CC) (Con)

Members: Councillor Sir William Lawrence (Stratford-on-Avon DC); Councillor Ken Maddock (Mendip DC); Councillor Geraldine Carter (Calderdale MBC); Councillor Trevor Thorne (Alnwick BC); Councillor Mahroof Hussain (Rotherham MDC); Councillor Mark Hackett (Manchester City Council); Councillor Paul Massey (Cheltenham BC); Councillor Paul Crossley (Bath & NE Somerset); Councillor Nilgun Canver (Haringey) (Labour substitute)

In attendance: LGA officers: Paul Raynes; Steven Skelton; Laura Caton and Neale Clark

Apologies: Sir Robin Wales (Vice Chair, Newham LB) (Lab); Councillor Collin Brewer (North Cornwall DC) (Ind); Councillor Henry Smith (West Sussex CC); Councillor Bryony Rudkin (Ipswich)

1. Notes of previous meeting

Decision

- Item 4 Physical Activity - the last bullet point (page 10) should read 'bike hire schemes', otherwise the note was accepted as a true record.

2. Archives Strategy

The Board received a presentation from Carol Tullo, Nick Kingsley and Liz Prior from National Archives who began by outlining the work they are undertaking with the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council on a new government Archives Strategy. They also explained that ahead of the consultation document on the new strategy, which was awaiting ministerial clearance, discussions with key stakeholders were continuing. The



consultation was due to begin on 2 February and will last 12 weeks, with further details appearing on the National Archives website – www.nationalarchives.gov.uk – shortly.

Nick Kingsley then gave an overview of how the publicly funded archive sector operated and the overall direction of the new policy. It was unlikely that there would be any new funding for archives services, and the key message was “Fewer, Bigger, Better services”. This would be achieved by reducing and uniting some of the smaller services and using this process to drive up standards. He concluded by saying that there was a need to encourage service providers to work with the local government sector, particularly in relation to Local Area Agreement targets.

Key comments/questions from Members included:

- Concern that there would be a potential threat to archive services as a result of local government re-organisation;
- Concern that the new policy, fewer, bigger, better services, could create accessibility difficulties with the increasing need to do things on line;
- Would the consultation be looking at cost of access/use?
- What will the policy be for paper copies once the system is digitised?
- Will National Archives be exploring partnership working with other countries?
- Important to keep historical paper records;
- Partnerships were crucial and councils needed to co-operate as much as possible, but should bear in mind that the provision of these services was not a statutory duty for local authorities.
- If the percentage of records currently on line is low, could the prioritisation for transfer be determined? Citizen input would be important in this;
- In relation to the inconsistency of national provision in local areas across the country, how will the poorer areas be targeted when sharing good practice?

Decisions/Actions

- The LGA will respond to the consultation document in line with the views expressed by members during the discussion. **Phillip Mind**

3. Alcohol and alcohol licensing policy

The Chair introduced the discussion and said that the role of the Ward Councillor in licence reviews should also be considered.

Members began by discussing alcohol buying patterns and expressed scepticism about the significance of duty increases as a determinant of consumption. Officers agreed to share research on alcohol price elasticity with Members that had been undertaken last summer. Members felt that supermarkets/small traders selling at low prices were undermining the pubs and contributing to alcohol-related harm. It was agreed that local



authorities should have the ability to instigate a review of licensed premises where problems were identified, without needing to be instructed by residents.

Decisions

The Board agreed to the following recommendations as set out in the report.

Alcohol duty and the pre-budget report

- Officers to explore further the impact of alcohol duty increases in the pre-budget report on alcohol retail and consumption trends, following which;

The Policing and Crime Reduction Bill

- That the LGA continue to work with the Home Office and DCMS to ensure there is a full consultation on the detail of mandatory conditions and the content of the proposed Code.

Strengthening councils' role in tackling alcohol related harm to communities

- That the LGA consult further with licensing authorities and councillors as to the suitability and practicality of the proposals set out in the report, following which suitable proposals are to be pursued either as amendments to the Policing and Crime Reduction Bill or via other appropriate legislative vehicles. The role of the Ward Councillor should be built into the response and contributions should be done by correspondence through Steven Skelton.

Actions

- Officers to provide Members with the LGA research into alcohol buying patterns. **Steven Skelton**
- the Chair to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer outlining council concerns about the unintended consequences of the changes in alcohol excise duty and their potential negative impact on public policy goals.
- Officers to action the decisions agreed by members as above. **Steven Skelton**

4. 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games update including twinning of authorities to promote 2012

On twinning, Cllr Castle said that specific reference was not being made to Beacons status. He referred to other centres of expertise, outside London Boroughs, that could also be involved in the twinning process, as well as opportunities for other authorities, outside the host borough group, to get involved in legacy planning.

In discussion, Members highlighted the importance of volunteers. The LGA should be promoting volunteering as part of the legacy of 2012. Volunteers would not be addressed until the end of the year or early next and there was a real challenge in terms of the cost of training volunteers to a consistent acceptable standard.

Decisions

The Board agreed to the following recommendations as set out in the report.

LGA's 2012 Games Conference

- Agreed that a 2012 Games one-day conference be held in Autumn 2009 and, if possible, it should be hosted close to the Olympic Park so that a tour can be incorporated into the day.

2012 Twinning

- Draft a proposal document setting out the benefits to both councils of twinning; suggestions about what the relationship might entail (for example: visits, speakers at events and sharing of expertise, although it will of course be up to the councils to determine what best suits their needs); and the role of the LGA in brokering the arrangements.
- Work through London Councils to establish potential interest from London Boroughs (the pool of councils could be increased by including 2012 venues outside London).
- Use 2012 networks to test demand from the rest of the UK.

LGA Publication

- Agreed that the planned publication for March 2009 focused on practical case studies about how councils are already benefiting from the Games across the main legacy themes of physical activity, tourism, economy, culture, young people.

Action

- Officers to take forward the agreed decisions. **Laura Caton**

5. Member feedback from outside bodies

Members reported on the meetings they had attended on behalf of the Board. Sir William Lawrence also gave a report on the DCMS National Tourism Summit in Liverpool that he and the Chair had both attended.

Steven Skelton would be attending the Tourism Alliance on 15 January in place of Cllr Geraldine Carter.

A discussion developed on the Tourism Member Group that had been switched to 2pm as Visit Britain would be attending. Reference was made to the VisitBritain consultation where views were required by 19 January and the difficulty in formulating a response without full cross party representation. Officers had not been made aware of the consultation deadline and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to receive an update on the VisitBritain structure. An invitation to attend had already been extended to all Board members. It was agreed that the response should be cleared by correspondence.

Actions

- Members to be provided with a link to the British Tourism Framework Review. **Steven Skelton**
- Response to the VisitBritain consultation to be handled through correspondence. **Steven Skelton**

6. Update on current issues

Paul Raynes updated Members on the funding of the free swimming scheme, which remained a concern, as well as progress that had been made with the Arts Council on Regularly Funded Organisations.

Councillor Paul Crossley had been asked to Chair the Heritage Conference on 3 February, and it was reported that the LGA Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference on 17/18 March was shaping up well with a good cast of speakers. There were still a number of slots available for Members to chair workshops and officers agreed to provide a list where places needed to be filled.

Decision/Action

- Viscountess Cobham and the new Chief Executive of VisitEngland to be invited to a future Board. **Steven Skelton**
- Officers to provide Members with a list of Conference workshops that require a Chair. **Steven Skelton**

7. Libraries Modernisation Review

Paul Raynes described the LGA's engagement with the DCMS review and said that, at this stage, the review was developing towards helpful conclusions. He added that a full presentation would be given by DCMS officials at the next Board. Members also asked for Ann Gosse to be invited to attend to give CLOA's perspective on the Libraries Review.

Decision/Action

- Ann Gosse, CLOA, to be invited to attend the next Board in Brighton on 16 March. **Steven Skelton**

Date of the next meeting: Monday 16 March at 5pm, Brighton