

Note of Decisions Taken and Actions Required

Item 8

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Monday 16 March 2009

Thistle Hotel, Brighton, BN1 2GS

Present:

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

Vice Chair:

Deputy Chairs: Councillor Stephen Castle (Essex CC) (Con); Councillor Colin Brewer (North Cornwall DC)

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 Henry Smith (West Sussex CC); Councillor Mahroof Hussain (Rotherham MDC); Councillor Mark Hackett (Manchester City Council); Councillor Paul Crossley (Bath & NE Somerset);

Substitutes: Councillor Alan Gloak (Somerset CC) (Lib Dem substitute); Councillor Nilgun Canver (Haringey) (Labour substitute); Councillor Gill Mitchell (Brighton and Hove) (Labour Substitute)

In attendance: LGA: Paul Raynes; Steven Skelton; Laura Caton and Tina Surman
CLOA: Dr Ann Gosse; Nigel Lynn

Apologies: Sir Robin Wales (Vice Chair, Newham LB) (Lab); Councillor Bryony Rudkin (Ipswich); Councillor Paul Massey (Cheltenham BC)

1. Notes of previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were **agreed**.

2. DCMS libraries modernisation review

Officials from the DCMS libraries modernisation review team updated members on the progress of the review. They sought members' comments on the current direction of travel, and asked for input as to how best to communicate the emerging messages of

the review in a way that would secure substantial buy in across local government at a senior level.

Key comments / questions from Members included:

- The Library service needs to deliver at a corporate (LAA / LSP) level;
- Partnership working was central to delivering an effective modern library service. For example, co-location with schools, Sure Start centres or Further Education colleges could unlock resources and improve services. This should be brought to the fore in the review;
- The library service is about human interaction and welcome, not just book loans or access to IT;
- The work of the Youth Libraries Board provides examples of best practice;
- In discussing footprint, the review could be clearer in articulating that libraries are about providing a service to people, and that it is important to move beyond buildings;
- The review should avoid detailing lists of suggestions (i.e. of potential partners) as these can quickly become exhaustive and limit imagination;
- Given the present state of the economy, the review should focus on helping Councils further develop an efficient library service delivered in partnership, rather than making suggestions that would require increases in funding from council tax;
- It is important to place the libraries modernisation discussion within the context of cultural services and the single improvement toolkit;
- Libraries are central to reaching out to, for example, housebound or disabled residents and providing them with access to information and entertainment;
- The review needs to be clear on the question of workforce development. Library staff must be seen – and must see themselves – as part of the Council, and key to delivering on its corporate priorities and ambitions.

Decisions

- Members' comments were welcomed by DCMS, and will be fed into the future development of the review.

Actions

- Officers to explore with DCMS the possibility of a joint LGA / DCMS communication to publicise the Libraries Review once complete.

3. Licensing of lap-dancing clubs

The Board discussed measures in the Policing and Crime Reduction Bill to place lap-dancing clubs under a new licensing regime. The bill proposes that such clubs should be licensed as “sex encounter venues” (SEV) rather than via the existing arrangements of the Licensing Act 2003. The SEV regime would allow councils to consider a wider range of local concerns when considering a license for a lap-dancing club.



In particular, Members discussed two amendments currently being sought to the Bill. The first is to remove the exemption from the SEV licensing regime for a venue that puts on lap dancing fewer than 12 times a year. The second requires all Councils to take up the new powers within the PCR Bill.

The Board noted that the LGA has led the campaign to impose a tougher licensing regime on lap-dancing and has worked closely with Object and the Fawcett Society, with which the LGA had hitherto agreed on an approach to the legislation. The Board supported the first amendment. The second was more problematic. The LGA's strong line on lap-dancing was unquestioned, but the imposition of a mandatory requirement was in fundamental conflict with the LGA's view that councils should decide their own local approaches. In discussing the second amendment, members spoke both in support of and in opposition to introducing a mandatory duty on councils to licence lap dancing clubs as SEVs.

Decisions

- Given the narrow balance of views among the elected Members present at the meeting, the Chair agreed to raise the issue of introducing a new mandatory duty at LGA Executive on 19 March.

Actions

- The Chair to respond to those Councillors that had written the 26 February letter to First magazine.

4. Member feedback from outside bodies

Members reported on the meetings they had attended on behalf of the Board. They also noted that the grid detailing meetings with outside bodies was incomplete, and in places inaccurate. They requested that the grid be circulated to Members in advance of future Board meetings in order that it is as up-to-date and comprehensive as possible.

Members also discussed the Tourism Working Group (TWG). Members agreed that it was unfortunate that a TWG has not been arranged to coincide with the March Board meeting. Future arrangements must be clearly conveyed to members.

Actions

- Officers to circulate the grid detailing meetings with outside bodies to members in advance of future Board meetings. **Steven Skelton**

5. Update on current issues

Members noted the update on current issues.

6. Policing and Crime Bill

Members noted the update on the licensing aspects of the Policing and Crime Bill

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 19 May 11.00am, Local Government House