

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board - Update on Current Issues**

### **Summary**

This report updates Members on current issues of interest to the Board which are not covered elsewhere on this agenda. Updates are included on:

- 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Libraries
- Creative Investment Guide
- Children and Young people
- The Arts
- LGA Culture Tourism and Sport conference

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note policy developments.

### **Action**

Secretariat / CLOA Advisory Panel as appropriate.

## Update on Current Issues

### 2012 Games

1. On 2 April Cllr Stephen Castle (Chair of Nations and Regions East) presented to the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) about local authority engagement. NRG brings together the chairs of regional partners responsible for ensuring the 2012 Games leaves a lasting legacy for the whole of the UK. The extent and effectiveness of councils' engagement with NRG varies between regions. Given that most of the lasting legacy will be delivered locally by councils, it is vital that local authorities, especially councillors, are fully involved. The presentation was an opportunity to emphasise the importance of strengthening the involvement of councils. LGA will continue to raise awareness about NRG amongst councils and work with NRG to ensure that local government is fully embedded in the NRG structure.
2. 90 councillors and officers attended a joint conference with DCSF on 23 March about the London 2012 Get Set Education Programme. The free web-based programme offers schools, colleges and other learning providers a variety of tools to use the 2012 Games to inspire and enthuse children and young people to learn and get more involved with their community. Over 5,000 learning providers have already registered to join Get Set. The event helped to identify what more we can do to achieve a shared ambition for every learning provider to sign-up to the scheme and in particular to ensure that children and young people outside mainstream education have an equal chance to benefit from the opportunities presented by the Games.
3. Registration for London 2012 Open Weekend has recently gone live. Open Weekend is taking place on 24–26 July 2009, building up to the '3 years to go' milestone on 27 July. LOCOG is broadening the scope of this year's event beyond culture so that sport, education or sustainability events linked to 2012 and about widening participation can also be included. Councils who register their event with LOCOG by 29 June will receive London 2012 posters, postcards, external banners and digital media to promote local events. Already planned events with objectives that fit with the aim of Open Weekend can be registered. Events will form an important part of local legacy plans to use Games to deliver wider social objectives. To date 13 local authorities have registered events and the LGA will continue to work with Nations and Regions Coordinators to encourage as many councils as possible to participate.
4. On 23 April lead members of the Culture Tourism and Sport Board and Regeneration and Transport Board met to discuss issues of common interest, including transport and the 2012 Games. It was agreed that the Regeneration and Transport Board had an important contribution to make in terms of testing

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assumptions underpinning 2012 transport plans in areas facing the most challenges, particularly Weymouth where the sailing will be held. Members also agreed the importance of the Culture Tourism and Sport Board's continued lobbying of government for a broader corps of 'city volunteers' who will be stationed at transport interchanges and will be integral to providing a world class welcome to visitors during Games time.

5. The LGA is hosting a joint event with the councils awarded beacon status (Dorset, Essex, Greenwich, Hackney and Kent) in the Olympic and Paralympic legacy theme. The event will be on 15 July and will launch the beacon councils' year long programme of activity to share their expertise with as many councils as possible across the whole of the UK.

## Libraries

6. The LGA continues to be involved in the DCMS **Libraries Modernisation Review**. Following members' input at March Board the LGA have also facilitated a focus group of local authority Chief Executives to feed into the review. We are expecting the DCMS to publish its findings before the Board next meets, when officers will provide an appropriate summary of findings.

## Creative Investment Guide

7. On 9 July the Work Foundation, the LGA and the DCMS will formally launch the Creative Investment Guide to policymakers in central, regional and local government. This guide draws on existing analysis and advice to develop a set of resources for policymakers working in economic development and regeneration in local authorities and local and regional strategic partnerships. The aim is that the resources will support decisions about investment in creative industries, particularly in the context of a growing recession and tightening budgets.
8. The launch will begin with a networking lunch, and run from 12.00 – 14.30 in the Garnett Theatre in The Work Foundation's ground floor event space, 21 Palmer Street, SW1H 0AD. Speakers will include:
  - Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
  - Will Hutton, Executive Vice Chair of The Work Foundation
  - CTS board Lead member
  - Local authority chief executive to respond
9. Attendees will largely be senior managers from local authorities, RDAs, NDPBs and creative and cultural businesses. All members of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board are invited to attend should they wish.

## Children and Young People

10. A recent OFSTED report had highlighted the positive impact that participation by children and young people in sport and PE has on young people's attitudes towards learning and their own personal development. It also noted that more schoolchildren were having greater access to a wider variety of sports and leadership opportunities. For more details, please view the following link:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2009/April/Working-towards-2012-and-beyond-boosting-pupils-achievement-in-PE>

11. The DCSF has produced a new guidance document, "Safe from Bullying in Play and Leisure Provision", which recognises that bullying can happen out of school as well as in school. The guidance is for staff and volunteers in leisure centres, play provision, the cultural and sporting workforce and the voluntary management committees and trustees for these activities. It outlines possible bullying that might occur in play and leisure and describes steps to prevent it and respond to it. Documents are available via:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00363/>

12. Young people are to get extra encouragement to unlock their talents as part of a £10m Inspiring Communities Initiative launched in April. The scheme is about investing in locally conceived, locally delivered projects that will get whole communities standing behind the talented young people in their neighbourhoods, and make sure that communities play a bigger part in fostering and investing in that talent. The application deadline is 3 June 2009.
13. The DCMS and the DCSF have created the Children and Young People's Culture Team to bring together for the first time a range of government funded programmes in the two departments offering cross cultural experiences for children and young people. The programmes, ranging from Find Your Talent Creative Partnerships to Sing Up to Engaging Places are designed to enrich children's experiences and learning and offer possibilities for raising aspirations and developing talent across the creative sectors. These programmes have already seen more schools now providing dance activities, and the number of children learning a musical instrument has doubled since 2005 to 50% of all Key Stage 2 pupils.
14. The DH and the DCSF have produced 'Health Lives, Brighter Futures – the strategy for children and young people's health.' It includes an expectation that public sector bodies such as local government should provide healthy environments, encourage children and young people to make healthy choices and create a world class system for PE and sport offering 5 – 16 year olds 5 hours per week of physical activity, and 3 hours for 16 – 19 year olds.

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15. Play England has been contracted by DCSF to manage a funding programme for refurbishment for adventure playgrounds run by the voluntary and community sector. £1.5 million will be made available through the programme, which will run from April 2009 to March 2010, and all eligible third sector managed adventure playgrounds may apply for up to £19,000 to update and modify their play spaces.
16. Local Authorities across the country are busy completing the first round of play sites which are funded through the government's Play Strategy programme of funding, and many have been engaging with communities, children and young people to plan how to launch the sites. This programme is a major part of the national play strategy, Fair Play, launched in April 2009.
17. The Children and Young People Now show to be held between 19 and 20 May 2009 will promote and explore play and other government plans for services for children and young people. The two day show will highlight good practice and showcase key suppliers to leaders and employees of Local Authorities and their partners who are responsible for delivering the national Play Strategy.

## Friday and Saturday Nights

18. The Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, Right Hon Beverley Hughes MP, recently wrote to councils announcing the Open Weekend initiative, planned for 10 and 11 July, encouraging local authorities to plan for and involve young people in the provision of activities on Friday and Saturday nights. Open Weekend will support the overarching Open drive that the DCSF is running to stimulate an increase in weekend provision for young people. A recent survey generally supports the assertion that provision for young people is poor at the weekends, including Friday nights. Councils broadly welcomed the Aiming High for Young People Strategy that sets the tone for the debate about Friday and Saturday night activities, and are no doubt aware of the need to involve young people and communities in improving the access that young people have to things to do and places to go. However, the survey that supports the Government's case is questionable and does not stand up to scrutiny, and LGA has been keen to emphasise that such decisions are local in nature and must result from effective local commissioning.

## The Arts

19. Arts Council England (ACE) has produced draft criteria for supporting Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs) and is seeking views on these by **Friday 19th June**. The new criteria have been drawn up in the wake of The McIntosh review into the way that ACE sought to reduce the number of RFO clients it funds, and can be downloaded from [http://www.nalgao.org/e107\\_images/custom/1acerfocriteria.pdf](http://www.nalgao.org/e107_images/custom/1acerfocriteria.pdf)

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Responses to the Draft criteria should be sent by Friday 19th June to Paul Blaker, Director of Programmes, Arts Council England, 14 Great Peter Street, SW1P 3NQ or emailed to [paul.blaker@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:paul.blaker@artscouncil.org.uk).

20. ACE have also announced an extra £44.5 million investment in artists and arts organisations over the next two years to help maintain artistic excellence during the economic downturn. ACE Chair Dame Liz Forgan announced the new measures in a speech at an Arts Council sponsored seminar, Maximising the importance of arts and culture through the economic downturn on 24 April. The initiatives include:
  - Sustain – a new £40 million open application fund for arts organisations suffering as a result of the recession
  - £500,000 support for the Town Centres Initiative to enable more artistic activities to take place in empty retail spaces
  - A £4 million increase in the Grants for the arts budget over the next two years
21. The LGA, in partnership with the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, is looking to convene a small seminar bringing together local theatre managers, and arts officers, with representatives of voluntary theatre groups to explore ways in which participation can be encouraged in amateur theatre more effectively, especially by young people, and how voluntary theatre can help support the delivery of local priorities.

## **LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport conference**

22. Over 270 delegates from across local and central government and partner agencies gathered in Brighton for the 2009 annual Culture, Tourism and Sport conference. The online delegate survey has now been completed by a good cross section of attendees, and provides the following points:
  - 88% of respondents were either fairly satisfied or very satisfied with the event overall, with only 12% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied or don't know, no respondents stating that they were dissatisfied. This compares favourably with the 2008 conference where 34% of respondents were not satisfied, or totally unsatisfied overall.
  - 97% of respondents rated Brighton either fairly satisfied or very satisfied as a destination, and 88% rated the Thistle hotel very highly as a location for the conference.
  - Plenary speakers who were highly rated – by above 60% of the respondents – were Germaine Greer, Peter Barron and the Panel session with Alan Davey, Jennie Price, Roy Clare and Deborah Lamb.
  - 80% of the respondents voted the timing of the conference from 10.30am on Day 1 – 2.30pm on Day 2 as “just right” (14% said too short and only 5% said too long)

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23. Officers are exploring potential venues for next years conference, have begun initial discussions with CLOA regarding the overall theme and programme content. A draft programme will be presented for discussion and members' input at the July Board meeting.

## **Financial Implications**

24. The updates in this report have no financial implications.

## **Implications for Wales**

25. Implications for Wales will be discussed with the WLGA as appropriate.

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