

## Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

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### Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

14 July 2009

Local Government House at 13.00

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#### Present

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Chris White (Hertfordshire CC)
<b>Deputy</b>	Cllr Stephen Castle ( Essex CC), Cllr Collin Brewer (North Cornwall
<b>Chairs:</b>	DC)
<b>Conservative:</b>	Sir William Lawrence (Stratford-on-Avon DC), Cllr Henry Smith (West Sussex CC), Cllr Geraldine Carter (Calderdale MBC), Cllr Trevor Thorne (Northumberland CC)
<b>Labour:</b>	Cllr Mahroof Hussain (Rotherham MBC), Cllr Mark Hackett (Manchester City Council)
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Cllr Paul Massey (Cheltenham BC), Cllr Paul Crossley (Bath & NE Somerset Council)

**In attendance:** Nigel Lynn (CLOA), Paul Bristow (MLA), Dr Stephen Connolly (DC Research Ltd.), Alan Bucknall (Government Olympic Executive), Martyn Allison (IDeA), Paul Raynes, Philip Mind, Laura Caton, Steven Skelton and Paul Johnston (all LGA)

**Apologies:** Sir Robin Wales (Newham LB) (Labour), Cllr Ken Maddock (Mendip DC) (Conservative), Cllr Bryony Rudkin (Ipswich BC) (Labour)

#### 1. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were agreed.

Sir Lawrence, as Chair of the Tourism Working Group, recounted the discussions held by the Group at its most recent meeting.

The Board noted its thanks to the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism for enabling the LGA to represent the local government sector on the Tourism Advisory Council.

#### 2. The contribution of Museums, Libraries and Archives to Local Area Agreement priorities

The Board heard a presentation from Dr Stephen Connolly from DC Research Ltd on the contribution of the MLA sector toward Local Area Agreement priorities. In introducing Dr Connolly, Paul Bristow from the Museums, Libraries and Archives

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Council thanked DC Research Ltd for the research undertaken. The MLA was keen to ensure that the sector was working well with partners, and to ensure that the MLA Council was fit for purpose, and this research would assist in meeting both these aims.

The Board thanked Dr Connolly for his presentation.

Members raised a number of points in response to the presentation, in particular:

- Lessons from the MLA research were felt to be applicable to other cultural services. In particular there was some comparison with findings from the Libraries Modernisation Review;
- The role and capacity of professionals within the culture sector to advocate successfully and effectively for their services were brought into question by the research. Dr Connolly noted that this was not necessarily the case across the whole sector, but undoubtedly more could be done;
- Members felt that better advocacy for the sector might be achieved through improved training for sector professionals at the local level, and through better public advocacy on behalf of the sector at the national level;
- The research focused only on one specific part of the MLA services – their relations with the corporate centre locally – but it was important to consider issues beyond Local Area Agreements;
- The importance of sharing best practice was raised. Dr Connolly noted that there were a number of examples of excellent practice within the sector, but that these could be better communicated.

## **Decisions**

**The Board agreed that the LGA should engage further with the National Culture Forum, other professional bodies where appropriate and with Local Authority portfolio holders to:**

- **support service improvement further;**
- **advocate better for museums, libraries, archives and other cultural services – particularly regarding their contribution to corporate priorities – within their local area.**

## **Action**

Officers to progress discussions with CLOA and other professional bodies, and to liaise further with the board and IDeA regarding portfolio holders.

### **3. 2012 Games update**

The Board heard a presentation from Alan Bucknall from the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), updating Members on the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

Members raised the following points:

- A query was raised over carbon management for the Games. Alan responded that the issue of carbon management was one that was being examined, but that there was more work to do on this. Games' organisers were keen to put into place measures beyond carbon offsetting.
- A question was raised over whether there would be targeted skills training for the hospitality sector in the run-up to the Games. Alan responded that training provision was broadly led by demand, and demand levels within the sector were currently mixed.
- Members expressed concern about delivery of national action plans, and whether they would meet the wider legacy aims.
- Members felt resilience planning was too focused on counter-terrorism issues rather than, for example, instances of extreme weather. Alan responded that the resilience plans in place were dependent on the location, but that in the five legacy boroughs plans were in place to meet a range of challenges.
- Members asked about engagement by the GOE with the Nations and Regions Group, and expressed some concern that insufficient engagement could mean duplication of efforts and patchy delivery on legacy proposals. Alan noted that involving all communities in the Games remained a significant challenge, although the GOE was looking to build on the infrastructure in place to meet this challenge.
- Discussions were held over the volunteering programmes in place for the Games. As part of this discussion, a query was raised about the support available for disabled people to be involved in volunteering. Alan noted that LOCOG had indicated that volunteers would be drawn through open competition without discrimination. A national strategy for the Paralympic Games would also be launched later this year.

## **Action**

Steven Skelton to circulate a briefing to Board Members on plans in place to meet the 2012 legacy target of two million people becoming more active.

## **4. Member feedback from outside bodies**

Members on outside bodies fed back details of recent meetings they had attended on behalf of the board. Sir William Lawrence had recently attended the ISPAL conference on free swimming, and the launch event of Open Britain.

The Chair detailed his recent meetings, which included the National Skills Strategy Monitoring and Implementation Group chaired by Barbara Follett MP.

## **5. Culture, Tourism and Sport Annual Conference 2010**

Members noted the report.

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The Board agreed the current proposed list of speakers, but asked that some consideration be given to ensuring speakers were from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Further discussions were held over the title and content of the conference.

## **6. Policing and Crime Bill – Alcohol licensing**

Members noted the report.

### **Action**

Officers to finalise the LGA response to the Home Office enquiry and clear with lead members.

## **7. Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – update on current issues**

Members noted the report.