

Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

15 September 2009

Local Government House at 13.00

Present

Chair:	Cllr Chris White (Hertfordshire CC)
Deputy	Cllr Stephen Castle (Essex CC), Cllr Andrew Cooper (Kirklees
Chairs:	MBC)
Conservative:	Sir William Lawrence (Stratford-on-Avon DC), Cllr Ken Maddock (Mendip DC), Cllr David Lloyd (Hertfordshire CC), Cllr Trevor Thorne (Northumberland CC), Cllr Kevin Carroll (Torbay), Cllr Geoffrey Theobald (Brighton & Hove)
Labour:	Cllr Bryony Rudkin (Ipswich BC), Cllr Mark Hackett (Manchester City Council)
Liberal Democrat:	Cllr Flick Rea (Camden LB), Cllr Gary Millar (Liverpool City)

In attendance: Cllr Peter Phillips (Shropshire Council) (Items 1 & 2 only), James Berresford (Visit England) (item 6 only), Craig Westwood (DCMS) (item 3 only), Sue Cheriton (CLOA), Paul Raynes, Laura Caton, Steven Skelton and Paul Johnston (all LGA)

Apologies: Cllr Ian Mearns, Vice-Chair (Labour, Gateshead MBC); Cllr Henry Smith (West Sussex CC); Cllr John Commons (Manchester City)

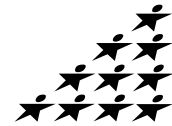
1. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were agreed.

Paul Raynes informed Members that LGA officers had held meetings with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council with a view to improving capacity for the LGA to advocate for the sector effectively.

2. Digital media

The Chair welcomed Cllr Peter Phillips (Shropshire Council) to the Board. Peter gave a brief presentation on the digital switchover, noting in particular the motion Shropshire Council had recently agreed that urged Government not to confirm the 2015 switchover date from analogue to digital radio until proposals had been properly rural proofed. Peter added that the proposed switchover also had significant carbon footprint implications, as DAB radios consumed more power than transistor sets, and



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that waste authorities would be affected in having to dispose of analogue radio sets. Peter suggested that relevant partners in this discussion might be Ofcom, Martha Lane Fox (Digital Champion), Commission for Rural Communities and the Rural Champion, the Consumer Expert Group and Government Departments and Agencies.

The Board thanked Peter for his presentation and discussed the implications of the digital switchover. Of particular interest were the disposal of old radios under Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations, the need to ensure coverage across all areas, the need to consider planning consent for certain properties to obtain the necessary satellite equipment for digital television and (in some cases) radio, and the danger of illegal exploitation of customers during the switchover period.

The Chair noted that important points had been raised by Members during discussions on this area, and asked that those points be shared with colleagues on the Safer Communities and Environment Boards.

Action

Convey relevant discussions to Safer Communities and Environment Boards

Action by

Paul Johnston

A paper further developing the LGA policy position on this issue to be put to members at the next Board meeting.

Steve Skelton

3. Libraries Service and Reviews

The Board received an update on the review that was being carried out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport from Craig Westwood. Craig stated that the Department intended to launch the review document in October, and outlined the key messages for the libraries service as part of the review.

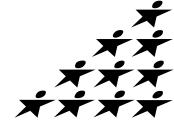
Members raised concerns that the review might be too prescriptive, thereby reducing the capacity for local authorities to encourage local innovation, and that the intervention of the Secretary of State into the Wirral library service might see the focus of decision-making shift to central government. Members also indicated that the LGA existed to provide examples of good practice to Local Authorities, and that they did not want the DCMS to replicate this role. Craig thanked Members for their views, and noted that the inquiry was the first in eighteen years, which indicated a general acceptance of the role of local decision making over library services.

4. Free swimming

Members noted the report.

Action

Officers to continue to reflect Members' views in their lobbying activities.



5. Member feedback from outside bodies / appointments to outside bodies

The Board discussed the Member appointments to the outside bodies associated with the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, and agreed that Office Holders would finalise appointments at their next meeting.

Action

- Officers to audit which outside bodies in the Culture, Tourism and Sport sector members sit on in order to represent interests other than those of the LGA, and to present this information in a paper on external influence across the Board.
Paul Johnston
- Officers to write to Members confirming appointments, pending agreement by Office Holders. **Paul Johnston**

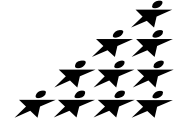
6. England's Tourism Strategy

The Board heard a presentation from James Berresford, Chief Executive of Visit England, over an emerging tourism strategy for England. James outlined the current state of the tourism market in England, detailing key industry challenges and opportunities. The timeline of the tourism strategy was outlined, as well as the overall objectives of the strategy and the next steps in moving forward.

Following the presentation, the following points were raised by Members:

- No mention was given during the presentation of the skills agenda. There was a need for tourist destinations in England to concentrate on improving skills amongst staff.
- Businesses received insufficient support from tourism organisations. There was a concerted need for an inclusive approach to be taken that included business.
- The strategic importance of London to tourism in neighbouring counties, as well as to England as an entirety, was not mentioned in the presentation. James responded that London was primarily under the remit of Visit London, but that it was accepted that it was necessary to build positive relationships with partners across the sector.
- It was essential to ensure that destinations were accessible for tourists with mobility issues.
- The strategy should look to address the currently confusing accreditation of accommodation.

James thanked Members for their views, noting that he agreed with the importance of points raised.



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Action

Officers to continue to engage with Visit England.

7. LGA response to alcohol code consultation

Members noted the report.

8. Live music update

Members agreed that they were content with the lobbying position as set out in the report.

9. Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – Update on current issues

Members noted the report, and following a brief discussion, endorsed the governance arrangements for the 2012 Games Local Authority Programme Team.