

## Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

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### Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

13 July 2010

Local Government House, London at 14.00

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#### Present

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Chris White (Hertfordshire CC, Liberal Democrat Group)
<b>Acting Vice Chair:</b>	Cllr Simon Henig (Durham CC, Labour Group)
<b>Deputy Chairs:</b>	Cllr Stephen Castle (Essex CC, Conservative Group)
<b>Conservative:</b>	Sir William Lawrence (Stratford-on-Avon DC), Cllr Ken Maddock (Mendip DC); Cllr Trevor Thorne (Northumberland CC); Cllr Geoffrey Theobald (Brighton & Hove); Cllr David Lloyd (Hertfordshire CC)
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Cllr John Commons (Manchester City), Cllr Flick Rea (Camden LB)
<b>Independent Group:</b>	Cllr Clarence Barrett (LB Havering)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Andrew Cooper (Kirklees MBC, Independent Group) (Deputy Chair); Cllr Henry Smith (West Sussex CC); Cllr Kevin Carroll (Torbay Council); Cllr Mark Hackett (Manchester City); Cllr Bryony Rudkin (Ipswich BC)

**In attendance:** Nigel Lynn (CLOA); Paul Raynes, Martyn Allison, Philip Mind, Charlotte Meller, Steven Skelton, Paul Johnston (LG Group)

#### 1. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting of the Board were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Paragraph 5, item 2: "cuts in 'red-tape'" be replaced with "deregulation of live music."

#### Decision

Members asked that an update on planning for the 2011 LG Group Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference be provided at the September Board meeting.

#### Action

Officers to submit a report on progress with the CTS Conference to the Board meeting on 13 September.

## **2. Helping councils to deliver better and more efficient library services**

Members noted that the LG Group, in partnership with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), were to deliver a sector-led efficiency programme to help Councils work together to deliver public libraries more efficiently.

The involvement of consultants within the project was of concern, and Members queried who would oversee their work. The intention was to use both local government peers and consultants, with the latter required to add capacity to the project rather than to direct its focus or make decisions.

Members said that the paper failed to reflect the changing expectations from local communities over the service that libraries should be providing and how those services were delivered. Members questioned whether the aims of MLA and the LG Group were the same, although they agreed that a joint working approach did reflect a more positive engagement of the MLA with local government.

Regular progress reports should be put before the Board to allow Members to assess the impact of the programme.

### **Decision**

Members discussed the project outline and governance arrangements, and asked that update reports on the programme be provided at future Board meetings.

### **Action**

Officers to reflect Members' comments in the future development of this work, and to ensure that a programme update be presented to the Board on 13 September.

## **3. Licensing reform**

Members noted that, under the proposals set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, local authorities would be given stronger powers on licensing issues. Officers said that clarification was needed on which Government department would oversee the Bill and over how the Government would consult throughout the passage of the Bill.

Members questioned how some of the proposed clauses in the Bill would be taken forward, particularly banning the sale of alcohol below cost price. Clarification was being sought on this point.

Members said that environmental health, licensing and trading standards teams within local authorities must be properly resourced to address the full impact of the increasing number of late night licenses issued, and that Councils should be empowered to make representations on applications for Temporary Event Notices..

## **Action**

Officers to reflect Members' views in future lobbying on the Bill.

## **4. Digital inclusion and delivery**

Members agreed that the increased use of online services was a genuine asset for Councils in delivering services to local communities, but that Councils would have to be careful in ensuring that a divide between those with access to online services and those without did not increase. Members raised this issue within the context of those who either did not have the financial resources to own a computer, or afford regular internet access, or those with mobility difficulties who would not be able to, for example, visit a local library to access the internet. Members also felt that there was an increasing rural / urban divide on broadband provision, and that a move to more online service provision could disproportionately impact on rural communities.

Members enquired over planning and conservation issues that may arise in installing the equipment required to allow broadband provision.

Members suggested that there was also a piece of work to do in establishing how effective Councils were in making online services accessible and useable, and that current good practice among member Authorities in online provision could be shared.

## **Decision**

Members agreed that the Board convey broad support for the work that the Government is undertaking on digital issues, subject to the concerns above being acknowledged.

## **Action**

Officers to reflect Members' views in future correspondence on digital inclusion.

## **5. LG Group Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board – governance arrangements**

Members noted the change in governance arrangements to come into place with the inception of the LG Group Programme Boards.

Members discussed both content and the programme for the Board away-day to be held on 13 September in Manchester.

## **Decision**

Members noted the report.

## **Action**

Officers to prepare a draft programme for the Board away-day and circulate this programme to Lead Members for their consideration.

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

Members noted the report.

Members enquired what legal responsibilities they held with regard to membership of outside bodies. Officers undertook to examine this ahead of the Programme Board meeting on 13 September, which would consider Board membership of outside bodies for the 2010 / 11 meeting cycle.

### **Action**

Officers to ascertain the legal status of Members on outside bodies by virtue of their appointment by the Board.

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

Members commented on the Government's cancellation of the free swimming programme, and noted that some leisure service providers were to offer reduced fees in the short term.

The Chair thanked Board Members for their assistance and contributions to the Board over the course of the year, and wished those Members who would not continue to sit on the Board well for the future.

### **Date of next meeting**

9.30am, 13 September 2010, People's History Museum, Manchester