



Government

Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

27 May 2010

Local Government House, London at 13.00

Present

Chair: Cllr Chris White (Hertfordshire CC, Liberal Democrat Group)
Acting Vice Chair: Cllr Simon Henig (Durham CC, Labour Group)
Deputy Chairs: Cllr Stephen Castle (Essex CC, Conservative Group), Cllr Andrew Cooper (Kirklees MBC, Independent Group)
Conservative: Sir William Lawrence (Stratford-on-Avon DC), Cllr Ken Maddock (Mendip DC); Cllr Trevor Thorne (Northumberland CC), Cllr Kevin Carroll (Torbay); Cllr Geoffrey Theobald (Brighton & Hove)
Labour: Cllr Mark Hackett (Manchester City)
Liberal Democrat: Cllr John Commons (Manchester City), Cllr Flick Rea (Camden LB)

In attendance: Cllr Roger Begy (Rutland CC); Nigel Lynn (CLOA); Paul Raynes, Steven Skelton, Rebecca Rossini, Paul Johnston (LGA Group)

Apologies: Cllr Henry Smith (West Sussex CC); Cllr Bryony Rudkin (Ipswich BC)

1. Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting of the Board were agreed as a correct record.

Cllr White congratulated Ian Mearns and Henry Smith for their recent election as Members of Parliament. Cllr White also congratulated Cllr Hackett on his recent election as Lord Mayor for Manchester City Council.

Members noted that the next Board on 13 July would include a tour of the Olympic Park in Stratford.

Action

Officers to prepare congratulatory letters to Ian Mearns MP and Henry Smith MP.

2. Engaging with the new Government

Cllr White introduced the item by noting that the Government's coalition document was largely satisfactory, though lacked detail on libraries and tourism.

Members said that Government proposals for the National Lottery could lead to small, rural communities having difficulty in covering additional administrative costs, and thus would be unable to continue to run the lottery.

Members said that they were pleased with Government proposals to give tourism a higher focus within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and hoped that this would lead to better joint working in government in supporting tourism. Members said that, in the face of significant cuts to local government funding, the Government should nonetheless look to maintain free entry to museums and galleries. Officers noted that a decision on which local government grants should be cut had not yet been made.

Members added that there was a significant amount of learning to be taken from the Total Place pilots that had recently concluded. This would apply in particular to District Councils, who could face significant challenges from cuts in government grants. The Total Place pilots had been run to look at closer joint provision of local services, and Officers said that the LGA Executive had agreed on 20 May to an open and comprehensive “offer from local government”, which included significant savings through bringing local services together.

On live music, Cllr White said that the Board had historically opposed calls for further cuts in ‘red-tape’, and that the Board’s view had been that more should be done by the sector to encourage high quality musicians to perform live music.

Members reiterated the importance of supporting a sporting and wider cultural legacy from the 2012 Games, and added that the LGA Group had an important role in emphasising the importance and potential of the Games to member Authorities.

Members welcomed the additional licensing powers being granted to local authorities.

Members discussed the future role of quangoes and which quangoes they would like to support in the future. Officers noted that this was an issue that the LGA Group would continue to explore. Members also said that it was important for the Group to ensure that funding from any regional organisations or quangoes that were discontinued be redirected to local government.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

Officers and Lead Members to continue to reflect the Board’s steer in future lobbying work.

3. Lobbying on libraries

Cllr White said that the libraries modernisation review was currently postponed, and that the Government was also reviewing the proposed creation of a Libraries Development Agency.

The Board discussed the future role of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the apparent overlap between its local government improvement work and that of the LG Group. Members agreed that further work should be done on this.

Decision

Members agreed to undertake further work on the future role of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in relation to local government improvement.

Action

Officers to develop proposals for the Board to consider.

4. Update on 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Legacy

Officers explained the Local Leadership, Local Legacy programme, noting that the programme was aimed at providing peer support, benchmarking and help to non-London and SE Councils to use the 2012 Games as a means of addressing health inequalities in those council regions. There was a vital role for Members to play as advocates for this work.

Members said that this programme was a great tool in engaging member Authorities who had not yet fully understood or exploited the potential of the Games to positively impact on their communities. Members added that it was crucial to secure senior Member engagement within Councils to drive enthusiasm forward for the Games and its huge potential to transform areas.

Cllr Hackett said that Manchester City Council had been able to use the Commonwealth Games in 2002 to put sport and physical activity at the heart of the Council's agenda, and that doing so had seen a number of very positive consequences.

Decision

Members agreed that Cllr Chris White should represent the Board on the Member steering group.

Members agreed that short exception reports be included in the CTS Board update papers.

Members agreed that the four Beacons should copy the monthly progress updates for Ministers to Cllr Chris White.

Members noted the update on consultation responses and next steps.

Action

Members to include short exception reports in the CTS Board update papers.

5. Culture, Tourism and Sport conference programme

Members agreed that the Conference should take place in the Cardiff Hilton on the week commencing 28 February 2011. Officers said that discussions would take place with the Welsh LGA (WLGA) to ensure their involvement.

6. Member feedback from outside bodies

Members discussed the UK City of Culture programme, with some concern over the financial and logistical requirements for areas to successfully bid for this programme. Some Members noted that their authority had not been shortlisted for this programme due to the lack of a suitably large venue to host the programme. Cllr White noted that the programme was intended to be low cost. Cllr White added that there had been discussions at a recent UK City of Culture meeting over establishing a service level agreement between DCMS and the host venue; however, those at that meeting had agreed that this was not an appropriate means of securing the aims of the programme with the host venue.

Cllr Lawrence noted that he had attended a meeting of the DCMS Accessibility Forum. Channel 4 had recently been awarded broadcaster rights for the Paralympic Games, and were keen that local authorities share with them examples of what they were doing in preparing and building up for the Games.

Cllr Rea said that she would attend the Youth Libraries Board on 17 June.

Cllr Commons noted that he had attended a World Heritage sites event, and that organisers were keen on closer working with the LGA Group.

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

Members agreed that the LGA Group should challenge CLG on some of the content of their recently published Strategy for Seaside Success working with the Coastal Special Interest Group.

Members said that the future of the free swimming programme should also be clarified in discussions with DCMS.

Members said that they were unhappy with some of the language and tone of the recent CCPR facilities inquiry.



Officers to take forward Members' concerns with CLG on the Strategy for Seaside Success.

Officers to take forward Members' concerns with CCPR on the recent facilities inquiry.

Date of next meeting

2.00pm, 13 July 2010, Local Government House