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Member feedback from outside bodies

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides Members with the opportunity to **feedback** on recent meetings of outside bodies at which they have represented the Board. The Board Chair's report to LG Group Councillors' Forum, which details the Chair's and Lead Members' activities undertaken on behalf of the Board, is also attached as **Appendix A**.

Please note that meetings which took place after 31 December 2010 will be included in the Chair's report for February, and circulated with the next Board papers.

Recommendations

Members currently representing the Programme Board on outside bodies are asked to **provide any appropriate feedback** from recent meetings, details of which are enclosed.

Actions

Subject to comments from the Board, officers to take forward any suggested actions.

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Member feedback from outside meetings

Recent

Title	Date
Institute of Sport and Recreation Management Conference	18 November 2010
Cllr Chris White attended and spoke at the ISRM Conference on 18 November on the topic of the future of sport and leisure in a new financial and political landscape.	
2012 Games National Resilience Team Steering Group	25 November 2010
Following the establishment of the Home Office funded National Resilience Team to help councils meet the resilience challenges of hosting the 2012 Games, Cllr Stephen Castle attended the first meeting of the Steering Group, which will oversee progress.	
Martha Lane Fox, UK Digital Champion	1 December 2010
Cllr White met Martha Lane Fox, UK Digital Champion, to discuss the local government role in tackling digital inclusion and getting the 9 million people in the UK who have never used the internet online.	
NRG joint member and coordinator meeting	2 December 2010
Cllr Castle attended a meeting of the Nations and Regions Group met to discuss the latest preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.	
Ed Vaizey MP	8 December 2010
The Minister and Cllr White discussed progress with the Future Libraries Programme and the implications for councils of Government's decision to give the Arts Council responsibility for most of the functions currently carried out by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), which will be abolished by April 2012.	
Superfast Broadband – Ministerial meeting	9 December 2010
Cllr White attended a Ministerial meeting on superfast broadband on 9 December, which followed on from the Government's announcement that there will be a second wave of superfast broadband pilots and a digital hub in every community.	

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Tourism for All Board	9 December 2010
Cllr Sir William Lawrence attended the Board meeting, where discussions centred predominantly around finance and attracting more tourism operators to join the OpenBritain campaign.	
Local Authority World Heritage Forum	17 December 2010
Cllr John Commons attended the most recent meeting of the Local Authority World Heritage Forum, where attendees discussed progress on the Cultural Olympiad.	
County Sports Partnership Network meeting	11 January 2011
Cllr White and Cllr Castle met Richard Saunders and Lee Mason, Chair and Executive Director respectively of the County Sport Partnership Network, to discuss the relationship between CSPs and councils in the light of recent changes to how sport is funded and organised.	
John Penrose MP, Tourism Minister	11 January 2011
Baroness Eaton and Cllr White met John Penrose to discuss the potential role of Local Enterprise Partnerships in tourism and joint working with English Heritage on new and more efficient ways of working for local heritage services.	

Forthcoming

Title	Date	Attendees
Meet Ed Vaizey MP	25 January 2011	Cllr Chris White
Tourism Alliance Board	4 February 2011	Cllr Kevin Carroll
LGA / LOCOG meeting	10 February 2011	Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Stephen Castle
NILGA – Annual Conference and Executive meeting	10 and 11 February 2011	Cllr Chris White

Culture Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Chris White (Chair), December 2010

Joint letter with Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport

This week I have written a joint letter with Jeremy Hunt to leaders of councils to highlight some of the innovative approaches councils are developing to providing local cultural and sporting services in a tough financial climate, and to emphasise that councils are best placed to lead modernising cultural services generally. We also highlighted some of the early learning from the Future Libraries Programme, where 36 councils have come together in 10 projects to pioneer new ways to deliver library services more efficiently, including using new technology, sharing back office functions and co-locating libraries with other local services.

Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, 8 December

The Minister and I discussed progress with the Future Libraries Programme and the implications for councils of Government's decision to give the Arts Council responsibility for most of the functions currently carried out by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), which will be abolished by April 2012. I argued that councils and their local partners must lead improvement and efficiency in museums, and that the maximum amount of funding available must be devolved to the frontline, to keep museums open and engaged with their local schools and communities.

Martha Lane Fox, UK Digital Champion, 1 December

I met Martha Lane Fox, UK Digital Champion, to discuss the local government role in tackling digital inclusion and getting the 9 million people in the UK who have never used the internet online. I also emphasised how increasing internet access offered councils significant opportunities to transform the way they deliver local services, and the strong linkages to the roll-out of superfast broadband.

Superfast Broadband

I attended a Ministerial meeting on superfast broadband on 9 December. This followed-on from the Government's announcement that there will be a second wave of superfast broadband pilots and a digital hub in every community. In response, I have asked officers to develop a proposal for an LG Group offer to support councils in developing their on-line capability and sharing good practice.

2012 Games Nations and Regions Group

On 2 December the Nations and Regions Group met to discuss the latest preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The group also

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discussed what will happen to the regional 2012 partnerships, most of which are funded and hosted by Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), once RDAs wind down. UK-wide engagement with the 2012 Games, including local government, is currently achieved through these partnerships. Cllr Castle emphasised the importance of finding a way for this engagement to continue when we are so close to the Games. This will vary between regions, depending upon the RDA's appetite for continuing with this work during the wind down phase, and partners' capacity to put in place temporary arrangements.

2012 Games National Resilience Team Steering Group

Following the establishment of the Home Office funded National Resilience Team to help councils meet the resilience challenges of hosting the 2012 Games, Cllr Stephen Castle attended the first meeting of the Steering Group, which will oversee progress. He emphasised the importance of the team working with councils who are hosting Olympic and Paralympic events outside London, and those councils outside London who will play a role in the Torch Relay, Cultural Olympiad and other significant events related to the 2012 Games.

Institute of Sport and Recreation Management (ISRM) Conference

I spoke at the ISRM Conference on 18 November on the topic of the future of sport and leisure in a new financial and political landscape. I argued that at a time of unprecedented budget pressures for discretionary services, it is vitally important that strong political and officer leadership positions sport at the heart of a council's efforts to create healthier, stronger and more prosperous communities.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board

The Board met on 17 November. Members received a presentation from the Youth Libraries Board about encouraging more young people to visit libraries, debated a proposal for local community banks to simplify the allocation of lottery funding to the local voluntary and community sector and discussed the LG Group's response to Government's consultation on the publicity code of conduct for councils.

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