

Item 7

Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board – update on current issues

Purpose of report

For information / noting.

Summary

This report updates Members on current issues of interest to the Board which are not covered elsewhere in the agenda. Updates are included on:

1. Modernising local cultural services and the Future Libraries Programme
2. School Sport
3. 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
4. Museums improvement
5. Heritage

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the update.

Action

Secretariat / CLOA Advisory Panel as appropriate

Contact officer: Laura Caton
Position: Business Manager, LGA
Phone no: 020 7664 3154
E-mail: laura.caton@local.gov.uk

Item 7

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – update on current issues

Modernising local cultural services and Future Libraries Programme

1. At the end of December, Cllr Chris White wrote a joint letter with Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media, Sport and the Olympics, 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. The letter is **annexed** to this report.
2. It 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. Ahead of the formal publication of findings from the programme, the leading savings options that are emerging include:
 - 2.1 **Use of new technology** – Northumberland and Durham are exploring how they can make the most of the opportunities presented by Raceonline 2012 and use digital innovation to improve services and make savings;
 - 2.2 **Exploring a single library authority** - Cornwall with Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are looking at a single library authority for the peninsula as opposed to four of varying sizes, capacities and strengths;
 - 2.3 **Community management of library services** - Herefordshire with Shropshire and Suffolk are exploring new models of service delivery and governance including community management;
 - 2.4 **Shared services** - Kensington and Chelsea with Hammersmith and Fulham are exploring the feasibility of shared services;
 - 2.5 **Locating libraries in other outlets** - Bradford is exploring locating libraries in shared outlets including retail premises.
3. Cllr Chris White and Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, are meeting with representatives from some of the Future Libraries Programmes on 25 January to discuss progress.
4. Although the FLP is progressing well, Members will be very aware that there is a vigorous debate about the future of libraries and campaigns in those areas where local councils have taken the difficult decision to close some of their libraries, and in the letters pages of the broadsheets. Councils are very aware of their statutory duty in relation to libraries so it is of some concern that in a recent communication Roy Clare, Chief Executive of MLA, said that the MLA is working with a number of councils (less than 10) who are “at risk of being in breach” of those duties. Clearly we need to avoid further central government statutory inquiries into local library services of the kind undertaken in Wirral in

Item 7

2009. Aside from the LG Group's position that locally elected councillors should be free to decide how best to provide information services to local people without fear of central government intervention, the statutory duty was drawn up half a century ago, before the arrival of the internet and digital media. The LG Group has a vital role to play, widely sharing the learning from the phase 1 FLP projects and offering targeted support to councils who are considering changing the way they deliver their library services to reduce costs without compromising their statutory duty. Officers will closely monitor the situation and keep Members fully informed.

School Sport

5. The Government recently announced that it will fund School Sport Partnerships (SSPs) to the end of the summer term 2011 at a cost of £47 million. A further £65 million from the Department's spending review settlement will be paid to enable every secondary school to release one PE teacher for a day a week in the school year 2011/12 and in 2012/13. However, even with this transitional funding, a significant amount of activity will have to stop and in some cases already has, which risks disrupting preparations for the national roll-out of the School Olympics in 2012/12. CTS Lead Members have asked officers to work with Children and Young People's colleagues to develop a proposed way forward that will put school sport on a more sustainable footing and better connect it to the wider community school system. A draft proposal will shortly be shared with Lead Members.

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

6. The National Local Authority Olympic Resilience team has been formed to ensure that local authorities are fully represented in national discussions and planning processes on Olympic resilience matters and to support local authorities across England and Wales in preparing for resilience issues associated with the 2012 Games. The Member Steering Group for the Programme met for the first time on 25th November and will meet on a quarterly basis. This followed the first meeting of the Chief Executive-level Programme Board for the project on 28th October. Two officers are now in post and are engaging with local authorities through a variety of means, including a national workshop for local authority Heads of Emergency Planning on 31st January and meetings in early February of project teams which will take forward three key areas of work: emergency coordination and information management; venue and emergency planning; and training and exercising.

Item 7

Museums improvement

7. Following the Government's decision to abolish the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), it has been announced that Arts Council England will take on the following functions relating to museums and libraries:
 - 7.1 the Renaissance in the Regions programme for regional museums, including completing the re-design of its content and operation;
 - 7.2 regional museums improvement and development agenda, including the Accreditation Standard and the Designation Scheme and projects relating to the 2012 Cultural Olympiad;
 - 7.3 libraries improvement and development agenda;
 - 7.4 cultural property functions including, for example, export licensing, Government Indemnity, acceptance in lieu and security advice.

8. The LG Group is developing a proposal on behalf of the sector about the role of councils in the new Renaissance programme, so that councils and their partners are leading improvement and efficiency in museums locally. We will also continue to press Government for the maximum amount of money available to be devolved to the frontline, to keep museums open and engaged with their local schools and communities. CLOA advise on the importance of managing the transfer from MLA to the Arts Council and a new Renaissance programme in order to minimise disruption on local museums services and to give clarity about funding levels. A draft proposal will shortly be shared with Lead Members.

Heritage

9. Councils are playing a huge role in the preservation of and protection of our heritage. The LGA is working with English Heritage to develop the more efficient ways of working locally that will be necessary to cope with fewer local conservation officers. This could include sharing local conservation services, giving local volunteers a bigger role and forging partnerships with private sector heritage attractions. These different ways of working will be shared widely with the sector at an event on Sustainable Heritage Asset Management in partnership with the Princes Regeneration Trust on 22 February.

Item 7



CMS 161900/DC

29 December 2010

Dear Councillor

We are writing to you about our shared goal of getting better local services for people and to update you on some practical measures to help local authorities delivering cultural and sporting services when the government's overriding priority is deficit reduction, as reflected in the local government finance settlement.

We would like to highlight some of the many examples of improvement and modernisation across local cultural and sporting services. Culture and sport support a range of policy priorities including, but not limited to, economic growth, health and wellbeing, and safer and stronger communities. It is for these reasons that culture and sport are so important to communities and tend to attract significant local interest. Councils across the country have also learned that it is important to prepare for changes with evidence that can be defended.

Through the Future Libraries Programme (FLP) the Local Government Group and Museums, Libraries & Archives Council (MLA) are supporting 36 councils to find new ways to deliver library services without cutting the front line. We thought it would be helpful, ahead of the formal publication of findings from the programme, to share with you examples of the leading savings options that are emerging and our [newsletter](#) gives you more information. The MLA and Local Government Group can help if you want to find out more and are available to assist you in looking at a wider range of options and ideas for your library services that could help you save money while minimising the need for cuts to front line services.

Library authorities outside the programme are also developing innovative approaches to providing services:

- a) Essex County Council will be helping to improve Slough Borough Council's library service and reduce its administration costs from 1 January 2011;
- b) Investment by Aviva has contributed towards the transformation of York Central Library with more books, the latest technologies and new services;
- c) In North Yorkshire volunteers at Grassington Hub are at the heart of service delivery.

We are convinced that innovation, led by the energy and experience of councils themselves, is also going to provide the best recipes for modernising cultural services generally in a tougher financial climate.



**Culture, Tourism and Sport
Programme Board**

19 January 2011

Item 7

19 January 2011

Item 7

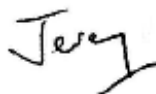
There are also lots of examples of councils developing different approaches to providing local cultural and sporting services and responding to the economic situation by being innovative:

- a) Many councils are successfully commissioning their cultural services to deliver more efficiently other key service priorities such as adult social care, health, better outcomes for children and young people and economic development;
- b) Manchester City Council has focused its culture and sport services as major drivers of economic growth, inward investment, and job creation and training;
- c) Leicester Comedy Festival has developed relationships with communities and the health service to respond to issues such as men's health, teenage pregnancy and healthy eating amongst children and young people;
- d) Suffolk Artlink manages a series of projects aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable people in Suffolk including older people and their carers;
- e) In Kirklees a partnership between creative arts organisations offer a range of services for people as part of their mental health and wellbeing care planning services.

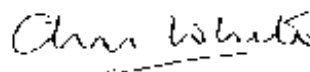
There are a number of different ways by which examples such as these are shared widely across the local government sector, including:

- a) LGID's website brings together in one place the learning that is coming out of the "Passion for Excellence" improvement work in partnership with DCMS and key public bodies.
<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=21131849>.
- b) The Living Places website is a suite of online resources developed by DCMS and key public bodies to support the contribution of culture and sport to planning <http://living-places.org.uk>.
- c) LGID has also launched two new publications outlining ways the sector can improve its efficiency through new ways of working and making better use of assets and sources of further help.
<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=24327034>

Help and advice is available and it could assist you in providing the culture and sport local people will be looking for while making the savings that are needed.



JEREMY HUNT
Secretary of State for Culture,
Olympics, Media and Sport



Cllr CHRIS WHITE
Chair, LG Group Culture, Tourism &
Sport Programme Board