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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**.

**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**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>LGA meeting with Ed Vaizey MP</b>	<b>25 January 2011</b>
Ed Vaizey MP, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, and Cllr Chris White met representatives from three of the phase one Future Libraries Programme project areas; Greater Manchester, Suffolk, and Kensington & Chelsea with Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster. Presentations covered the councils' innovative approaches to delivering more efficient library services, including sharing back office functions, a bigger role for volunteers and using new technology.	
<b>LG Group annual 2012 Games Conference</b>	<b>2 February 2011</b>
Cllr Chris White chaired the annual LG Group 2012 Games conference, which focussed on how local authorities can maximise the benefits of the Games for their local communities, including the local cultural, sporting and volunteering legacy of the Games. Cllr Stephen Castle spoke in a plenary panel session on how local authorities can maximise local volunteering opportunities through the Games and chaired a workshop on maximising the sporting and physical activity legacy of the Games.	
<b>Discussion with Chair of the LG Group Children and Young People Board</b>	<b>4 February 2011</b>
Cllr Chris White and Baroness Ritchie discussed areas of common interest between the two Boards, including school sport, school music, playing fields and play. They agreed to develop shared policy positions on these issues.	
<b>2012 Games Social Legacy Delivery Board</b>	<b>8 February 2011</b>
Cllr Chris White attended a meeting of the 2012 Games Social Legacy Delivery Board at DCMS which focussed on the Opportunity 2012 initiative and efforts to influence attitudes towards disabled people through the 2012 Games. Cllr White highlighted that local authorities already have a good track record as employers of people with disabilities and that there are many examples of local authorities using community sport to influence perceptions of disabled people.	
<b>National Youth Libraries Board</b>	<b>9 February 2011</b>
Cllr Flick Rea attended a meeting of the National Youth Libraries Board, which	

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reported on its achievements over the past year, especially the Big Secret campaign.	
<b>DCMS Informal Local Government Network</b>	<b>10 February 2011</b>
<p>Cllr Stephen Castle co-chaired a meeting of the DCMS Informal Local Government Network, with Ed Vaizey MP and Jonathan Stephens, DCMS Permanent Secretary. In introductory remarks, Cllr Castle outlined the key challenges facing local cultural services, and emphasised the importance of local government working together to improve services. The rest of the meeting focussed on public libraries. There were a number of presentations from councils who are pioneering new ways of delivering library services, and from organisations, such as the Asset Development Trust, who are supporting this work.</p>	
<b>NILGA – Annual Conference and Executive meeting</b>	<b>10 and 11 February 2011</b>
<p>Cllr Chris White attended the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) Annual Conference in Belfast on 10 and 11 February. Cllr White spoke in a plenary session at the Conference on 11 February about the LGA's work in relation to 2012 and the opportunities presented by the Games for local government and communities in Northern Ireland. Cllr White also attended a meeting of the NILGA Executive on 11 February to discuss how local authorities in Northern Ireland can maximise the sporting, economic and social benefits for local communities from the 2012 Games.</p>	
<b>LGA meeting with Ed Vaizey MP</b>	<b>23 February 2011</b>
<p>Cllr Chris White met the Minister on 23 February to discuss a range of topics. In particular, Cllr White updated the Minister on LG Group actions to share the learning from phase 1 projects of the Future Libraries Programme and emphasised our support for extending the Programme. Cllr White also said that the MLA / Arts Council transfer is an opportunity to embed sector-led improvement beyond libraries, and updated the Minister on proposals to establish an LGA / Ministerial Community Services Group to discuss joint working on connected issues including, the modernisation of the post office network, digital inclusion, superfast broadband, service delivery from community buildings and the future of the library service.</p>	

**Forthcoming**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
<b>LG Group Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference</b>	3 / 4 March 2011	All Board Members are invited
<b>Olympic Resilience Member-Level</b>	8 March 2011	Cllr Chris White and Cllr

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<b>Steering Group</b>		Stephen Castle
<b>2012 Games Nations and Regions Group</b>	12 March 2011	Cllr Chris White and Cllr Stephen Castle
<b>Lady Penelope Cobham, Chairman, VisitEngland</b>	24 March 2011	Baroness Margaret Eaton DBE and Cllr Chris White

## **Culture Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Chris White (Chair), January 2011**

### **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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## **Culture Tourism and Sport Board – report by Cllr Chris White (Chair), February 2011**

### **Meeting with Future Libraries Programme (FLP) projects and Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister**

1. On 24 January, three of the councils involved with the FLP (Suffolk, Manchester and Kensington and Chelsea) gave presentations on progress to date. The councils are leading the way with finding more efficient ways of delivering library services by, for instance, giving local volunteers the opportunity to run libraries, sharing back office functions and developing a single library service across three London Boroughs. The learning from these projects and the other seven projects in the first wave is being shared widely across the sector.
2. I also emphasised the importance of securing a second wave of FLP projects to continue to support the modernisation of libraries, and the need for clarity about how the transition from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) to the Arts Council will be managed.

### **Tourism issues**

3. Baroness Eaton and I met John Penrose MP on 11 January to discuss tourism and joint working with English Heritage on new and more efficient ways of working for local heritage services. The government is publishing a new tourism strategy next month.
4. As a result of this meeting, and with the express approval of the Board, I have written to tourism portfolio-holders suggesting ways in which councils might be able to support Destination Management Organisations which were in danger of folding.
5. We are currently discussing with Visit England how the highly successful national tourism partnership, Partners For England - which brings together RDAs, DCMS, Visit England, the industry and local government - can be reshaped to fit the new tourism landscape.

### **Local government's engagement with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

6. At the end of January I wrote a letter to Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport and the Olympics, to highlight our concerns around local authority engagement with the 2012 Games in the light of Regional Development Agencies winding down their support of the Nations and Regions Groups (NRGs). I emphasised the

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need to retain a strategic layer of engagement between the local and national level to ensure that critical cross-boundary issues are dealt with. I argued that wherever possible NRGs should be supported to continue in their present form and, where this is not possible, it should be up to local partners to agree a way forward. I suggested that after the Games, local enterprise partnerships should take the lead on maximising the legacy benefits to local communities, where this is prioritised locally.

**Meeting with County Sports Partnership (CSP) Network, 11 January**

7. Cllr Stephen Castle and I met Richard Saunders, Chair of the County Sports Partnership Network to discuss LG Group proposals for a new approach to community sport. Reflecting good practice, we are proposing that CSPs, which bring together local partners such as health, schools, councils and local sports clubs, play a brokerage role to commission the efficient delivery of local sport. We agreed to work together to identify and share best practice in support of this approach.

**LG Group annual 2012 Games Conference, 2 February 2011**

8. I chaired the annual LG Group 2012 Games conference, which focussed on how local authorities can maximise the benefits of the Games for their local communities, including the local cultural, sporting and volunteering legacy of the Games. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss the practical challenges facing councils in relation to the Games, from helping ensure that the Games are well run and safe, to ensuring that the pressure placed on local public services during the Games does not disrupt delivery. Cllr Stephen Castle spoke in a plenary panel session on how local authorities can maximise local volunteering opportunities through the Games and chaired a workshop on maximising the sporting and physical activity legacy of the Games.

**Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board Meeting, 19 January 2011**

9. The Board received a presentation from James Berresford, Chief Executive of VisitEngland, about working with councils and local enterprise partnerships to strengthen the visitor economy, agreed to promote the Race Online campaign to councils and agreed headline policy and improvement priorities for culture, tourism and sport to inform the LG Group's business planning process for 2011/12.

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