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Outside bodies feedback from Members

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 reports to LG Group Councillors' Forum in June and July, which details the Chair's and Lead Members' activities undertaken on behalf of the Board, are also **attached** as **Annexes A and B**.

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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Outside bodies feedback from Members

Recent

Title	Date
Ed Vaizey MP	6 June 2011
Cllr Chris White emphasised to the Minister the importance of quickly taking forward a second phase of Future Libraries projects.	
Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity	7 June 2011
Cllr Chris White emphasised that the LG Group will help where it can to create a unified, far-sighted institute that can lead by example and help address the coming challenges for the whole sector.	
Nations and Regions Joint Member and Coordinator meeting	9 June 2011
Cllr Chris White and Cllr Stephen Castle attended the Members' meeting of the Nations and Regions Group, which is responsible for ensuring that the benefits of the Games are spread across the UK. They highlighted the opportunities presented by One Year To Go to give a final push to galvanise councils behind the Games.	
Partners for England Forum	16 June 2011
Cllr Chris White emphasised that the way forward for the visitor economy must be on encouraging the private sector to play a much bigger role and incentivising public sector investment.	
Social Legacy Board	12 May 2011
Cllr Stephen Castle highlighted the role of councils in enabling community celebrations during Games-time, such as street parties. He also emphasised the importance of communicating to councils about opportunities as early as possible.	
Sandie Dawe, Chief Executive, VisitBritain	6 July
Cllr Chris White and Sandie Dawe agreed that it was important for the LG Group to maintain a strategic relationship with VisitBritain that reflects VB's new focus on global marketing campaigns. Common areas include securing a visitor economy legacy from the 2012 Games.	
Meeting with the National Casino Industry Forum	6 July
Cllr Chris White discussed recent developments in gambling policy with the National Casino Industry and emphasised our hope that industry continues to work with the 16 new casino areas to ensure that they start to benefit from long-promised regeneration.	

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Forthcoming

Title	Date	Attendees
Meeting with Sodexo	26 July 2011	Cllr Chris White
Broadband UK Seminar	26 July 2011	Cllr Chris White
Richard Lewis and Jennie Price, Chair and Chief Executive of Sport England	28 July 2011	Cllr Stephen Castle
DCMS Informal Local Government Network	13 July 2011	Lead Members are invited
Nations and Regions Members' Meeting	8 September 2011	Cllr Chris White and Cllr Stephen Castle

Please note that at the time of writing officers are in the process of arranging Cllr Henig's and Cllr Castle's meeting with LOCOG and Government Olympic Executive.

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Annex A

**Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board – report from
Cllr Chris White to LG Group Councillors’ Forum, June 2011**

Ed Vaizey MP, Minister for Culture

1. I had one of my regular catch-ups with the Culture Minister on 6 June. We discussed progress with the MLA / Arts Council transfer and I emphasised my support for continuing the Future Libraries Programme and my concerns that the Arts Council seemed not to be progressing this as fast as was needed. I also made the case for local museum partnerships that will commission locally appropriate solutions for improving performance and ensure that resources are devolved to the frontline to keep museums open.

Libraries

2. I have written to Dame Liz Forgan, Chair of the Arts Council, to emphasise councils’ support for continuing the Future Libraries Programme (FLP) into a second phase. In the context of continued financial pressures on councils the best way to continue to protect frontline library services, and avoid getting into the territory of statutory inquiries, must be through expanding the FLP, which is a proven model of sector-led improvement. I also emphasised councils’ strong support for the potential of the Arts Council’s wider responsibilities to make possible a single conversation with councils spanning libraries, museums and the arts.

Social Legacy Board

3. Cllr Stephen Castle attended the Social Legacy Board where the items discussed included LOCOG’s plans for using new technology to engage communities in the run-up to the Games, making the most of One Year to Go and disability legacy. In particular Cllr Castle highlighted the role of councils in enabling community celebrations during Games-time, such as street parties. He also emphasised the importance of communicating to councils about opportunities as early as possible.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board 24 May

4. Members received a presentation from Oliver Morley, Chief Executive of The National Archives, about how TNA is getting ready to take over national support and leadership of the archives sector after the closure of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) in April 2012. Members agreed to set up a joint working group to represent councils’ views in the transfer. Members also

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agreed the LG Group's response to the government's tourism policy, and agreed a number of actions to mark One Year to Go until the start of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in July.

East of England LGA Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder Network

5. I was invited to give a presentation about the implications of national culture and sport policy for councils. As well as highlighting the financial pressures councils are under, I talked about the opportunities presented by wider developments, such as community budgets, councils' bigger role in public health and strategic commissioning.

Everyday participation in culture

6. I attended a workshop sponsored by the Arts Council to scope out a major new national research programme into everyday cultural participation. Subject to resources the Board will be keen to support this initiative.

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Annex B

**Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board – report from
Cllr Chris White to LG Group Councillors’ Forum, July 2011**

Libraries

1. The LG Group has successfully lobbied the Arts Council for a second phase of the Future Libraries Programme (FLP), the sector led improvement programme for libraries. Over 36 councils participated in the first phase and the LG Group has shared the learning widely across the sector. I have consistently argued that the best way to support councils to modernise libraries and to avoid getting into the territory of statutory inquiries must be to continue the approach of the FLP. Officers are working with the Arts Council to scope the next phase with a view to launching it in September.

LG Group annual conference

2. I chaired two very well-attended sessions at the Group’s annual conference in Birmingham. Over 50 delegates attended a workshop on getting ready to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, where Cllr Stephen Castle highlighted how councils are using the inspirational power of the Games to inspire participation in sport and culture, encourage volunteering and learning and boost the local economy. Over 40 delegates attended a lunchtime fringe session on culture, libraries and the Big Society. Delegates heard from Essex County Council and Birmingham City Council about how they are modernising their libraries and museums respectively and the lively debate highlighted the value of sharing good practice across the sector.

Partners for England Forum

3. I attended the last meeting of the Partners for England Forum in its current form on 16 June. John Penrose, the Tourism Minister, outlined the government’s vision for the visitor economy. The Forum, which brings together the tourism industry, is being re-focussed on VisitEngland’s new strategic framework. The LG Group will continue to be members of the new group in recognition of the vital role of councils in leading local partnerships with the tourism industry to create a thriving visitor economy.

Museums

4. I have written to Dame Liz Forgan, Chair of the Arts Council, setting out the LG Group’s vision for sector-led improvement in the museums sector. The Arts Council is reviewing the Renaissance Programme and I have argued that councils should be invited to form local museum partnerships, where they don’t already exist, to drive locally appropriate solutions for improving performance

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and to ensure that resources are devolved to the frontline to keep museums accessible to the public.

A social legacy from the 2012 Games

5. Councillor Stephen Castle has written to Charles Allen, chair of the government's Social Legacy Board, setting out how councils across the country are helping to achieve a social legacy from the Games. The letter also said that LOCOG could help to encourage even more local activity by giving councils sufficient lead-in time to maximise the impact of LOCOG's projects and milestone events and by changing the "can't do" culture that sometimes acts as a barrier to local activity.

New chartered institute for sport

6. I attended the inaugural event of the new Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (IMSPA) on 7 June where Hugh Robertson, Sports Minister, welcomed its creation. IMPSA is the new single professional body for sport and leisure and is also strongly supported by councils. The LG Group has offered to help where it can over the coming months, to create a unified, far-sighted institute that can lead by example and help address the coming challenges for the whole sector.

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