

Item 6

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. Libraries
2. 2012 Games and sport
3. Regulated entertainment and events
4. Culture and education
5. Superfast broadband

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the update.

Action

Secretariat / CLOA Advisory Panel as appropriate.

Contact officer: Justine Wharton

Position: Adviser

Phone no: 020 7664 3198

E-mail: justine.wharton@local.gov.uk

Item 6

Update on current issues

Libraries

ACE's consultation on the future of libraries

1. Arts Council England (ACE) opened the first stage of their consultation on the future of libraries. At the end of the consultation process a final report will consolidate the findings of this research, enabling the Arts Council to shape their vision for the future of public libraries.
2. The LGA's response explained that the current and future funding cuts to the public sector mean unavoidable changes to the way local government delivers its services, and library services are no exception. The LGA feel it is impossible to envisage a single vision for what future library services in 2022 will, or should, look like because libraries are a local service and each council will have different local leadership, communities, needs and resources.
3. To read our full response: [http://environment003-
uat.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=f3921653-9880-44f6-b483-
5508e7dae97d&groupId=10171](http://environment003-uat.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=f3921653-9880-44f6-b483-5508e7dae97d&groupId=10171)

2012 Games and sport

Olympic Torch Relay

4. The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) organised a dress rehearsal for the Olympic Torch Relay on 20 April, between Leicester and Peterborough. The dress rehearsal was intended to test out the logistical arrangements for the Torch Relay and overall it was successful. A number of operational issues and lessons were captured and shared, such as ensuring effective communication between the councils along the route and also to the public about possible traffic delays. The LGA is liaising with the GOE and London 2012 (LOCOG) to ensure that councils receive adequate support to deal with these issues and other issues that they have raised, such as activities planned by the sponsors.

Commissioning workshop

5. The LGA is working in partnership with Sport England, Arts Council England and the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) to develop a Commissioning Resource Pack for Members and Officers. The Resource Pack will shortly be available on-line for Members to access and it will provide information and support on how cabinet/portfolio holders with responsibility for culture and sport can better position their service to be commissioners and be commissioned, especially from other council service areas, such as Adult Social

Item 6

Care, Public Health and Children and Young People's Services. The resource pack will be launched at a workshop for Members on 9 July at the LGA.

Regulated entertainment and events

Letter to Rt Hon John Penrose MP on the government's response to the regulated entertainment consultation

6. The LGA has written to Rt Hon John Penrose MP ahead of the government publishing its response to the regulated entertainment consultation (letter **attached** as **Appendix A**). The letter reinforced the LGA's offer to work with the government to ensure that proportionate deregulation is achieved.
7. The letter emphasised that there are many common sense proposals in the consultation which councils support. However it summarised a number of concerns that the LGA have regarding these proposals, which were included in our consultation response and reinforced at the LGA's Licensing Conference on 26 January. The concerns were:
 - 7.1 Numbers are not the only factor determining risk.
 - 7.2 A reliance on reactive powers removes the opportunity to work with an organiser in advance of an event to mitigate risk.
 - 7.3 The proposals would reduce councillors' ability to respond to residents' concerns.
 - 7.4 The powers available to respond to public nuisance issues from deregulated events are extremely limited.
8. The letter also requested a meeting with the Lead Members of the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board in advance of the publication of the government's response in order to discuss to what extent councils' concerns have been taken on board.

Community events: A councillor handbook

9. In this month's issue of *First* magazine, Councillor Rea, Chair of the Culture, Tourism and Sport (CTS) Board announced the publication of an LGA handbook on community events for elected members. The handbook aims to provide useful information on everything residents need to consider when planning community events, share good practice to new approaches, as well as signposting to valuable further resources.
10. A copy of the handbook can be found here:
<http://email.local.gov.uk/t/6289/667100/7937/0/>

Item 6

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

11. The changes introduced by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 came into force at the end of last month. Although this act introduces key initiatives such as police commissioners, it also introduces a number of reforms to make it easier to apply to hold a temporary event, while ensuring that councils have the ability to protect residents. It also introduces a new ability for environmental health officers to comment on proposals, allowing potential noise from an event to be taken into account. The LGA will be working with the Home Office to ensure councils get the support and advice they require as they work with businesses and organisers to implement the changes.
12. For the full briefing: http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/home/-/journal_content/56/10171/3126088/ARTICLE-TEMPLATE

Culture and education

Henley Review of Cultural Education

13. The Henley Review of Cultural Education was published in March, including a new national plan for cultural education. It aims to ensure that all children, especially those from poorer backgrounds, are able to access the arts. The Department for Education (DfE) will invest more than £15 million over three years to implement the report's recommendations. The LGA has responded to the numerous and wide-ranging Henley recommendations. The LGA's concern would be that such recommendations should not be implemented in a top-down or prescriptive way.
14. A copy of our full response can be found here: <http://email.local.gov.uk/t/6289/667100/7952/0/>

ACE announce music education hubs

15. Arts Council England has announced the network of 122 music education hubs that will be responsible for working with local partners to ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to sing and learn a musical instrument and play with other children as part of an ensemble or choir. Funding has been transferred from ring-fenced grants to councils through the Standards Fund (and since the 2010 Spending Review via the Federation of Music Services), to funding on a 'per pupil basis' allocated to music education hubs. The LGA raised concerns about the additional bureaucracy created by the central bidding system, the limited transitional protection for areas that will see substantial reductions in funding as a result of the move to the 'per pupil' basis of funding and the small percentage of the allocation based on deprivation factors, which will see a funding shift away from areas suffering from high levels of deprivation.

Item 6

16. You can read ACE's full press release here:
<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news/arts-council-news/we-announce-successful-music-education-hub-applica/>

Museum Development Fund

17. ACE has also announced the nine museums that will provide a national network of professional advice to all museums, particularly supporting smaller museums. They will receive £8 million between 2012 and 2015. The organisations and the amounts they will receive over the three years are:

17.1 Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery & Archives; Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery; Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery; South West Federation of Museums & Galleries - £1,192,000

17.2 Herefordshire Heritage Services; The Marches Network - £832,000

17.3 Leicestershire County Council - £719,887

17.4 Manchester Partnership (with Cumbria Museums Consortium) - £880,000

17.5 Museum of London - £650,190

17.6 Norfolk Museum & Archaeology Service - £1,141,000

17.7 Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove; HCC Arts & Museums; Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust; Oxfordshire County Museums Service - £1,400,000

17.8 Tyne & Wear Archive & Museums - £416,000

17.9 York Museums Trust - £840,000

18. The Museum Development Fund primarily targets those museums not covered by other strands of Renaissance funding. Support provided will include developing collections and engagement, skills and training, aligning museums with local priorities and strengthening leadership. The LGA has consistently emphasised to ACE the importance of supporting smaller museums and we are in discussions about joint activity to support portfolio holders with responsibility for museums.

New partnership between ACE and The National Archives

19. The National Archives and ACE have announced a new partnership to help benefit archives, museums and libraries and the people who use them. The two bodies have signed a memorandum of understanding, which marks a commitment on both sides to a shared vision for increasing access to information and improving services.
20. We welcome this partnership after the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board have long encouraged a single cultural conversation spanning the arts and cultural sector. The LGA are keen to support this partnership to work closely with local government in helping councils provide better cultural services to their residents.

Item 6

21. For ACE's press release: <http://email.local.gov.uk/t/6289/667100/7945/0/>

Superfast Broadband

22. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is inviting applications from the most isolated communities to access £20 million of the Rural Community Broadband Fund. It complements the Government's £530 million Broadband Delivery UK programme to provide superfast broadband to 90 percent of every county. The Rural Community Broadband Fund allows for communities in the remaining ten percent to develop projects for a superfast broadband connection.
23. The LGA is urging government to give local areas the flexibility to align the funding and procurement timescales of the Rural Community Broadband Fund with other funding streams so that councils can secure maximum value for money for local taxpayers.



**Culture, Tourism and
Sport Board**
23 May 2012

Item 6

23 May 2012

Item 6

Appendix A – Letter to Rt Hon John Penrose MP

Rt Hon John Penrose MP
Minister for Tourism and Heritage
Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
SW1Y 5DH

8 May 2012

Dear John

I understand that the government will publish shortly its response to the consultation on regulated entertainment. I wanted to reinforce the Local Government Association's (LGA) offer to work with you to ensure that proportionate deregulation is achieved.

Councils are fully in favour of making it easier for people to hold concerts, plays and public events and we support the aim of making the process as easy, transparent and free from red tape as possible. Our written submission emphasised that there are many common sense proposals in the consultation which councils support.

Our submission also highlighted a number of concerns. These were unanimously reinforced at the LGA's Licensing Conference on 26 January, which was attended by over 100 councillors and senior officers from across the country, and addressed by Don Foster MP and Stuart Roberts from DCMS.

In summary, these are:

- Numbers are not the only factor in determining risk. Other factors which need to be taken into account include the impact of public nuisance and noise on the surrounding area, crowd behaviour and control, the suitability of the venue and the logistics of people safely arriving at and leaving a venue. Councils were equally clear that in general 5,000 is too large a number for blanket deregulation and highlighted the increased risks of outdoor events. The practical difficulties of counting the number of people attending an event were raised. Canterbury City Council said that even lowering the threshold to 500 people would have a significant impact because it would exempt the majority of their premises due to the prevalence of smaller venues.
- A reliance on reactive powers removes the opportunity to work with an organiser in advance of an event to help identify potential problems, minimise the risk of these occurring and ensure any key issues are covered within appropriate licence conditions. Advance notification of events is critical.
- Any changes to the licensing laws should strike a balance which ensures democratically elected councillors are still able to protect people who attend public

23 May 2012

Item 6

events as well as those who work and live nearby. Councillors said that the proposals would reduce their ability to respond to residents' concerns.

- The powers available to respond to public nuisance issues from deregulated events are extremely limited. Public nuisance relates to a whole range of issues that would not meet the definition of statutory nuisance and are often far wider than noise nuisance, such as control of patrons queuing to get in a premises, street congestion, rowdy behaviour, control of noise from smoking areas, car stereos, revving engines and dispersal arrangements. These issues can currently be controlled under the licence conditions and hours, with the associated threat of a licence review if issues persist.

Finally, councils emphasised their strong track record of working in partnership with and providing advice to communities to run successful events that can be enjoyed by all. Delegates also emphasised their willingness to continue to work with government in developing proposals that strike a better balance between cutting red tape and protecting people.

In particular the LGA would welcome working with DCMS to identify areas where the national framework can be reviewed to remove red tape, reduce excessive paperwork and provide the opportunity for local flexibility to ensure low risk community events can really flourish.

Lead Members of the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board would welcome a meeting in advance of the publication of the government's response to discuss to what extent councils' concerns have been taken on board. Please be assured that the LGA is committed to working in partnership with DCMS to resolve councils' concerns and to support thriving and safe entertainment in local areas.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Flick Rea
Chair LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Copied to:

Don Foster MP, Co-Chair Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Policy Committee on Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport

Councillor Simon Henig, Vice Chair LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Councillor Andrew Lewer, Deputy Chairman Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Councillor Geoff Knight, Deputy Chairman Culture, Tourism and Sport Board