

Item 3

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 current Chair's report is attached as **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

Members currently representing the 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

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell attended the Tourism Alliance Board on 12 March		
To represent councils' interests to the tourism industry	The Alliance discussed Tourism Business Improvement Districts, the tourism regulation taskforce and Visit England's latest campaign: Growing tourism locally, which is assisting areas to develop locally tailored marketing campaigns that capitalise on interest generated by the Diamond Jubilee and 2012 Games.	<p>LGA agreed to work with VisitEngland to share learning from the Core Cities about Tourism Business Improvement Districts.</p> <p>LGA responded to the tourism regulation taskforce, which recently reported to the Tourism Minister. Whilst supportive of cutting top-down red tape, our response highlighted concerns that deregulation of certain licensing conditions could make it more difficult to tackle under-age drinking.</p> <p>LGA promoted the growing tourism locally campaign through the CTS bulletin.</p>
Cllr Simon Henig spoke at the LGA / Sport England Leadership Academy on 14 March		
To support Portfolio Holders for sport to understand the implications for sport of changes including the Localism Act, commissioning, Sport England's new strategy and	<p>Cllr Henig emphasised that councils fund the majority of this country's community sports infrastructure.</p> <p>Presentations from Sport England updated councillors on Sport England's new strategy, and the support that they offer to councils, including relationship managers, improvement tools and access to data about sports participation and facilities in local</p>	Supported 15 Portfolio Holders to develop further their understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by local government funded and supported sport.

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
public health reforms	<p>areas.</p> <p>Discussion focussed on the extent of the transformation that is required in the planning, delivery and development of sport services within councils.</p>	
Cllr Flick Rea met Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, on 20 March		
Introductory meeting	<p>The Minister and Cllr Rea discussed key points from the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's evidence sessions on library closures. In particular, Cllr Rea highlighted the impact of budget pressures on councils and reinforced the need for LGA, DCMS and ACE to work together to share good practice examples of library service delivery.</p> <p>The Minister updated Cllr Rea on government plans to offer a free library card to every year 3 pupil.</p> <p>Cllr Rea also raised councils' concerns about the government's end of year deadline for the procurement of superfast broadband in rural areas. 30 to 40 projects will be going out to tender at a similar time and it is unclear whether the market can sustain this and competitive deals be negotiated.</p>	<p>Ed Vaizey agreed to attend the CTS Board in July.</p> <p>DCMS agreed to discuss further with LGA the proposal to give every Year 3 pupil a library card.</p> <p>The Minister noted concerns about the superfast broadband timetable.</p>
Cllr David Lloyd attended the World Heritage Forum AGM on 11 April		
To represent the LGA	<p>As this was an AGM, a number of administrative matters were discussed. This was followed by discussion on key policy developments, including the impact of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on sites of historic importance. Cllr Lloyd said that the NPPF clearly encourages the sector to give strong consideration to the benefit and opportunities of heritage and historic entrainment issues. The NPPF is also clear that Local Plans should be the starting point for all planning decisions. Local authorities will always need to find a balance between these particular issues and the wider social economic and environment needs and</p>	<p>Shared LGA position on the NPPF.</p>

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
	ambitions of their communities.	
Cllr Flick Rea attended Arts Council England's (ACE) External Reference Group on 11 April		
To represent councils' interests at the first meeting of ACE's External Reference Group, which was set up to consult on the impact of a 50% reduction in ACE's administration costs	<p>ACE presented on the funding challenges they face and how they are consulting sectors, including local government.</p> <p>Cllr Rea encouraged ACE to support a sector-led approach to improvement for local government arts, museums and libraries that enables as much funding as possible to reach the frontline to keep services open.</p>	Shared LGA key position on encouraging councils to lead their own improvement.
Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Stephen Castle (Chair of LGA 2012 Games Task and Finish Group) met with Angela Salt (NRG) and Sarah Bartholomew (LOCOG) on 17 April		
To discuss latest preparations with NRG and LOCOG and to raise any concerns	Members highlighted the importance of sharing information about Local Leaders events with councils so that organisers can be supported to ensure events are safe and successful.	<p>LGA argued successfully for a distinction to be made between private and public events on the Local Leaders website.</p> <p>LGA launched events handbook for councillors and new events case studies on Knowledge Hub.</p>
Cllr Flick Rea attended the DCMS 2012 disability sport summit on 19 April		
To highlight local government's role in helping to increase participation in disability sport	The Summit was attended by leading sporting figures to discuss how to tackle the low levels of disabled participation in sport. Cllr Rea highlighted the role that councils have played over many years to promote disability sports participation and encouraging more awareness of the barriers faced by disabled people. She also said that councils are using the 2012 Paralympic Games to raise the profile of disability sport.	<p>LGA to continue sharing case studies.</p> <p>Continued discussions with Sport England to ensure that there is greater local sports connectivity to increase opportunities for disabled people.</p>
Cllr Flick Rea met Lady Penelope Cobham, Chair of VisitEngland, on 24 April		
Introductory meeting	Cllr Rea and Lady Cobham discussed the important role local government plays in the visitor economy. Cllr Rea emphasised the importance of	<p>Lady Cobham to speak at the CTS Board in November.</p> <p>The LGA and VisitEngland to</p>

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
	encouraging strong partnerships between Destination Management Organisations and Local Enterprise Partnerships.	continue to work together to share good and innovative approaches to strengthening the visitor economy, including a Member seminar in Autumn 2012.
Cllr Flick Rea met Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England, on 30 April		
Introductory meeting and to discuss Jennie Price's attendance at the CTS Board in May	Jennie Price outlined Sport England's new strategy – in particular the emphasis on 14 to 25 year olds and funding available to support local investment in sport. Cllr Rea emphasised the importance of strengthening local political leadership, supporting councils to develop and share different delivery models and encouraging National Governing Bodies to work more closely with councils.	Sport England has agreed to deliver a joint political leadership programme, building on the success of last year's Leadership Academies. We hope to work with around 100 councillors through a programme of events, peer support and sharing good practice.
Cllr Flick Rea attended a roundtable on libraries, hosted by Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, on 1 May		
To bring the local political perspective to an officer discussion	<p>The main librarian professional bodies and the directors of four library services shared their reflections on the changing role of professional librarians. All agreed that volunteers were an important part of delivering library services. The professional bodies emphasised that volunteers perform a very different role and bring a different skill set than volunteers.</p> <p>Cllr Rea said that the LGA is working with ACE to share case studies about different aspects of library delivery.</p>	LGA, DCMS and ACE agreed to explore opportunities to promote examples about how councils are supporting creative approaches to developing the libraries workforce.
Members of the 2012 Games Task and Finish Group (Cllr Flick Rea, Cllr Simon Henig, Cllr Stephen Castle and Cllr Apu Bagchi) met Hugh Robertson MP, Sports Minister, and Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities, to discuss the Torch Relay		
To discuss latest preparations for the Olympic Torch Relay, which starts on 19 May	Members' emphasised that councils are very positive about the torch relay and 2012 Games. They contributed fully to the recent Olympic Torch Relay Dress Rehearsal, although there remain some concerns around	LGA to continue gathering intelligence from councils on any concerns and to raise these with LOCOG and Government.

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
	increasing costs for staging the torch relay.	
Cllr Flick Rea met Andrew Murrison MP, appointed by the Prime Minister to plan for the commemoration of World War 1 in 2014 – 18, and the Heritage Lottery Fund, on 2 May		
To discuss the role of councils in World War 1 commemorations	Andrew Murrison MP said that the focus of the commemoration will be young people and education. Cllr Rea emphasised that councils will commemorate World War I in different and locally appropriate ways. The Heritage Lottery Fund has some funding available to councils, schools and community groups, and Cllr Rea offered to share details through LGA bulletins. She also said that the LGA has already produced several useful tools and resources around community events for the Diamond Jubilee and Games 2012 which we can refresh and re-publicise for World War 1 events.	DCMS and CLG officials will keep LGA up to date on plans to mark the commemoration, and any funding sources. LGA will share this information with councils through the CTS and CYP bulletins.

Forthcoming (at the time of writing the Board papers)

Title	Date	Attendees
Meeting with Mark Taylor (Director of the Museums Association)	16 May 2012	Cllr Flick Rea
South East Cultural Improvement Forum on Skills and Apprenticeship event, LGA	18 May 2012	Cllr Flick Rea speaking
Tour of Olympic Park	29 May 2012	Cllr Sir William Lawrence, Cllr Roger Begy, Cllr Ken Maddock, Cllr Florence Nosegbe, Sir Merrick Cockell and Members of the 2012 Games Task and Finish Group
Leading Learning Event	11 June 2012	Cllr Flick Rea speaking
Sport Workshop at LGA Annual Conference	26 June 2012	Cllr Simon Henig chairing
Libraries Workshop at LGA Annual Conference	27 June 2012	Cllr Flick Rea chairing
Tourism Alliance Board AGM	4 July 2012	Cllr Caitlin Bisknell
Culture and Sport Commissioning Event	09 July 2012	Cllr Flick Rea speaking

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Appendix A

**Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Flick Rea
(Chair)**

The Visitor Economy

1. On 24 April, I met with Lady Penelope Cobham, Chair of VisitEngland. We discussed the important role local government plays in the visitor economy, which is the country's fifth biggest industry and a major source of jobs. I emphasised the importance of encouraging strong partnerships between Destination Management Organisations and Local Enterprise Partnerships. The LGA and VisitEngland will continue to work together to share innovative approaches to strengthening and investing in the visitor economy. I invited Lady Cobham to speak at a future meeting of the CTS Board.

Libraries and Culture

2. On 1 May, I attended a roundtable on workforce issues regarding libraries, hosted by Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister. Discussion focussed on the role of professional librarians in public libraries; how it is changing and what this means for service provision. I emphasised the importance of capturing and sharing the different ways in which the libraries' workforce is adapting.
3. I attended the first meeting of Arts Council England's (ACE) External Reference Group on 11 April, which was set up to consult on the impact of a 50% reduction in ACE's administration costs. I encouraged ACE to support a sector-led approach to improvement for local government arts, museums and libraries that enables as much funding as possible to reach the frontline to keep services open.

2012 Games and Sport

4. I met Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England, on 30 April and am pleased to report that Sport England has agreed to fund a joint political leadership programme, building on the success of last year's Leadership Academies. We hope to work with around 100 councillors through a programme of events, peer support and sharing good practice.
5. Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Stephen Castle met senior officials from London 2012 (LOCOG) and the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) on 17 April to discuss final preparations for the 2012 Games. Members highlighted the importance of sharing information about Local Leaders events with councils so that organisers can be supported to ensure events are safe and successful.

6. I attended the DCMS Disability Sports Summit on 19 April. The Summit was attended by leading sporting figures and we discussed how to tackle the low levels of disabled participation in sport. I highlighted the role that councils have played over many years to promote disability sports participation and encouraging more awareness of the barriers faced by disabled people. Councils are also using the 2012 Paralympic Games to raise the profile of disability sport. I am continuing discussions with Sport England to ensure that there is greater local sports connectivity to increase opportunities for disabled people.
7. On 2 May, I attended a meeting alongside Councillors Castle, Henig and Bagchi with Hugh Robertson MP, Sports Minister, and Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at CLG, to discuss the role that councils have played in the lead up to the torch relay and 2012 Games. We emphasised that councils are very positive about the torch relay and 2012 Games and contributed fully to the recent Olympic Torch Relay Dress Rehearsal, although there remain some concerns around increasing costs for staging the torch relay.
8. Councils have already received about 6,500 road closures applications from people wishing to celebrate the Jubilee, building on the success of the 5,000 events from last year's Royal Wedding. I used an article in *First* magazine to launch a new events handbook for councillors, which will help colleagues to think through how their council has responded to events and share some of the new ways of working that have emerged. It also showcases those councils that have truly gone the extra mile in supporting residents and removing traditional barriers to events, helping to challenge the many myths about council red tape blocking community events.

World War I Commemoration meeting

9. On 2 May, I attended met with Andrew Murrison MP, who has been appointed by the Prime Minister to lead the Government's planning for World War I commemorations in 2014-18, and the Heritage Lottery Fund. I emphasised that councils will commemorate World War I in different and locally appropriate ways and that the LGA would be happy to promote potential funding sources to councils.

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