

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 last two Chair's reports are attached as **Annex A** and **Annex B**.

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 Flick Rea led a workshop on the role of culture in the night-time economy at an LGA Conference on 26 September		
To stimulate discussion on the role of culture in the night-time economy.	Cllr Rea highlighted the contribution of festivals, the use of museums and libraries as evening entertainment spaces, and the potential of the Live Music Act to help create a vibrant, locally appropriate and safe night-time economy.	Delegates shared the role of culture in their own night-time economies and highlighted the importance of close working between councils, communities, cultural organisations and local businesses.
Cllr Flick Rea spoke at the LGA's commissioning leadership seminar in Birmingham Town Hall on 16 October		
To support councillors to understand better the commissioning landscape and how to enable their culture and sport services to better engage with the commissioning process locally.	Cllr Rea set the scene by emphasising the contribution of culture and sport to other political priorities. This was followed by a discussion about what commissioning is and the role of elected members. There was a discussion on health reform and the event concluded with a discussion about supporting culture and sport to position itself in the commissioning process.	12 councillors supported and the key points will be shared widely through Knowledge Hub.
Cllr Flick Rea, Cllr Andrew Lewer and Cllr Simon Henig met Alan Davey, Chief Executive Arts Council England on 18 October		
To discuss how national cultural policy can reinforce culture's contribution to wider political outcomes, especially growth, and encourage local collaboration within and beyond cultural services.	Members and ACE agreed a shared focus on seeking out and sharing innovation, supporting local political leaders to drive economic growth through culture and encouraging greater collaboration between libraries, museums and the arts.	A statement of purpose between LGA and ACE that commits us to a practical offer for councils that will support collaboration and growth through culture.

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllr Sir William Lawrence attended a meeting of the British Board of Film Classification on 18 October		
To represent the LGA.	As usual, the Council watched a film and offered independent advice to the British Board of Film on classification.	Uniformity to the classification of film nationally, which remains a local government statutory power.
Cllr Andrew Lewer and Cllr Flick Rea chaired the LGA / VisitEngland Visitor Economy Leadership Seminar on 19 October		
To kick start the CTS Board's year of focus on growing the visitor economy and shape the LGA's offer on supporting local areas drive their visitor economy forward.	There is no one size fits all for growing local visitor economy but councils can play a strong leadership role in co-ordinating and facilitating the complex new landscape with numerous partners and, with current budget pressures, the need for the private sector to increase their investment in growing the visitor economy. Also, how councils can increase productivity and grow the huge opportunities for inward investment and business tourism.	Over 20 councillors attended. Members had a dialogue with VisitEngland on key issues, and shared good practice on councils' leadership role in boosting the local visitor economy. Hearing from members has shaped the LGA's offer on supporting local areas drive their visitor economy forward and is feeding into our 'Local Growth' campaign.
Cllr Doreen Stephenson attended the APPG Leisure Group meeting on 24 October		
To represent local government to MPs and Peers in attendance.	Cllr Stephenson highlighted the leading role of councils in Olympic and Paralympic legacy, shared examples of projects to increase young women's participation in sport, and the importance of the leisure industry working in partnership with councils to maximise economic impact.	Raised awareness about the vital role of councils in leisure and influenced the focus of the APPG's work to ensure a strong focus on legacy.
Cllr Flick Rea attended the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Stakeholder Event on 26 October		
To emphasise that councils across the country will be extremely keen to engage with the	There was an overview of the national events being planned for 2015 and the Magna Carta Charter Towns shared their plans for local	The Magna Carta Committee will work in partnership with LGA to raise awareness about the

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Magna Carta celebrations.	cultural, celebratory and educational events and activities.	anniversary to councils across the country.
Cllr Flick Rea spoke at the LGA / Arts Council England libraries political leadership seminar on 5 November		
To share good practice and debate the big issues facing public library authorities.	A range of innovative models for library services emerging across the country and opportunities and challenges inherent in them. Greater understanding of what the statutory duty for councils to provide a comprehensive and efficient means for councils and what help councils want from the LGA and Arts Council.	Increased awareness of how members can re-design their services, alongside a better understanding of the tools and support available to help from the LGA and Arts Council.
Cllr Flick Rea spoke at the London CLOA annual meeting on 6 November		
To share the LGA's position on key issues for culture, tourism and sport.	Cllr Rea highlighted the importance of positioning and evidencing the contribution of culture, sport and tourism to wider outcomes including growth, cohesion, wellbeing, health and employment.	Strengthened links between London CLOA and LGA.
Cllr Veronica Ward represented the LGA at the National Youth Libraries Board on 8 November		
To represent the views of the LGA and member councils at this advisory meeting.	Cllr Ward shared how the LGA is working with the Arts Council to promote and share examples of how councils are supporting libraries to improve outcomes for young people.	Improved understanding about the LGA's improvement work on libraries.
Cllr Flick Rea and Cllr Henig attended the LGA 2012 Games Task and Finish Group on 8 November		
To represent the CTS Board at the group, which was established by the LGA Executive to provide strategic oversight on operational Games issues across the LGA boards.	The group discussed how councils had played a very significant part in the success of the Games, and that they were ideally placed to lead local legacy. Members emphasised the importance of capturing and sharing the learning from the national local authority resilience programme, and re-	The group agreed recommendations for the LGA Executive and in particular a focus for the CTS Board on supporting the physical activity, tourism and community celebration legacy.

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
	emphasised the importance of LGA Boards mainstreaming legacy into their work.	
Cllr Flick Rea spoke at the LGA / Sport England Leadership Academy for Councillors on 10 November		
To support councillors with responsibility for sport and leisure to share good practice and debate the big issues facing public sport.	Councillors discussed the current political landscape facing local government and the challenges and opportunities that exist for the sport and culture services. Councillors discussed how localism, commissioning and the transfer of public health responsibilities to local government provided significant opportunities for sport and culture to contribute to these priorities. Councillors also heard how they can be further supported by the LGA.	15 councillors were supported with the latest knowledge and good practice on how councils can positively deal with current financial pressures and challenges facing sport and leisure services.
Cllr Flick Rea spoke at the LGA workshop at English Heritage's conference for councillors on 12 November		
To explore the role of political leadership in influencing the change processes taking place in councils.	The session explored how councillors can ensure heritage services are engaged more effectively in the priorities of councils and delivered more efficiently in the future. Councillors shared the issues they faced and there was strong emphasis on linking heritage with economic growth.	Over 80 councillors shared learning and were supported to improve the positioning and the efficiency of the heritage offer in councils. LGA and English Heritage to discuss scope for more joint work to support local leadership of heritage.

Forthcoming

Title	Date	Attendees
Ed Vaizey MP, Culture and Heritage Minister	4 December	Cllr Flick Rea
Meeting with Keep Britain Tidy	4 December	Cllr Flick Rea and Cllr Doreen Stephenson
LGA / Arts Council England libraries political leadership seminar	12 December	Cllr Flick Rea
LGA / Arts Council England Museums Leadership Academy	24 / 25 January	Cllr Andrew Lewer

Annex A

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Flick Rea (Chair), October 2012

Visitor Economy

I have written to the Chief Executive of Keep Britain Tidy to highlight coastal councils' serious concerns about changes to the Blue Flag Scheme. The Blue Flag scheme plays an important role giving people information about the quality of bathing water and helping to attract visitors who make a vital contribution to local economies. However, tougher EU water quality standard criteria are being introduced two years earlier than planned, meaning councils and their partners have less time to get ready for the changes. This is compounded by the fact this summer's unusually high levels of rainfall is already making it more difficult for councils to obtain and retain Blue Flag status for their beaches. I have urged Keep Britain Tidy to postpone the introduction of the tougher water quality standard to allow councils and their partners the full time they had scheduled for making water quality improvements and to help support the economic recovery of local businesses and communities.

Following the Government's reshuffle, Rt Hon Hugh Robertson MP adds tourism to his portfolio, and I have written to highlight both councils' vital leadership role in the visitor economy, one of the few sectors experiencing economic growth, and their commitment to using the legacy of the 2012 Games to make a long-term difference to participation in physical activity.

The Night-Time Economy

I led a workshop about the role of culture in the night-time economy at the LGA's Managing the Night-Time Economy conference on 26 September. I highlighted the contribution of festivals, the use of museums and libraries as evening entertainment spaces, and the potential of the Live Music Act to help create a vibrant, locally appropriate and safe night-time economy. Delegates shared the role of culture in their own night-time economies and highlighted the importance of close working between councils, communities, cultural organisations and local businesses.

Arts Council England

I have written to Sir Peter Bazalgette, the new Chair of Arts Council England from February 2013. I highlighted that together councils and the Arts Council are this country's biggest public investors in culture, and that a strong national and local partnership between the Arts Council and councils is essential if publicly funded culture is going to thrive in tough financial times.

Annex B

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Flick Rea (Chair), November 2012

Visitor Economy

Cllr Lewer and I chaired the LGA / VisitEngland visitor economy seminar on 19 October, which was attended by over 20 councillors and industry representatives. The seminar kick-started the CTS Board's year of focus on supporting councils to boost the economy through tourism. Councillors emphasised that they are closer to tourism businesses than any other part of the state and so are ideally positioned to take a lead role in joining up support for, and listening to, industry, providing information and reflecting their role within local strategic planning and priority setting. We will be developing further a visitor economy contribution to the LGA's growth campaign.

Arts Council England

CTS Board Lead Members met Alan Davey, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, on 18 October. We reinforced to ACE how important it is that its priorities and ways of working should reflect the fact ACE and councils are, together, this country's biggest public investors in the arts, libraries and museums. We agreed a shared focus on seeking out and sharing innovation, supporting local political leaders to drive economic growth through culture and encouraging greater collaboration between libraries, museums and the arts. To take this forward we have agreed a statement of purpose that commits us to supporting national and local collaboration and helping councils to boost growth through culture.

Sport and 2012 Games Legacy

I spoke at the LGA / Sport England leadership academy on 10 November. The event supported 15 portfolio holders for sport to develop further their understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by local government funded and supported sport. This is the fourth leadership academy we have hosted with Sport England and again we received very positive feedback from delegates.

Cllr Henig and I attended the final meeting of the LGA's 2012 Games Task and Finish Group on 8 November, where Members noted the huge role councils played in ensuring the Games were such a success. The CTS Board will lead the LGA's work supporting councils to secure a sporting, tourism and community engagement legacy from the Games.

Commissioning

As part of our political leadership offer on culture and sport, 12 councillors attended a commissioning workshop on 17 October. Its purpose was to support councillors to

understand better the commissioning landscape and how to enable their culture and sport services to better engage with the commissioning process locally.

Libraries

I spoke at the latest in a series of joint LGA / Arts Council leadership seminars for library portfolio holders on 5 November. 15 councillors attended and shared innovative delivery models. The seminar increased awareness of how members can re-design their libraries, alongside a better understanding of the tools and support available to help them from the LGA and Arts Council. We are on track to support nearly all library portfolio holders through seminars or peer support by the end of this financial year.

The LGA responded to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's inquiry into library closures by highlighting the impressive level of innovation and commitment shown by councils. We also said the LGA has been and will continue to work closely with its members, the Arts Council and central government to encourage and support further improvement and innovation. The future of libraries is best served by councils continuing to innovate and work with their communities to come up with services which meet local needs.

Heritage

I attended the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Stakeholder Event on 26 October. From specially commissioned symphonies to Magna Carta tours, BBC dramas and local street parties; organisers hope there will be hundreds of events – big and small – taking place across the whole country in 2105. The Magna Carta towns, where key events took place and/or original or later copies survive, are already very advanced in their local planning. I emphasised that councils across the country will be extremely keen to engage with the celebrations, and the Committee agreed to work with the LGA to achieve this. As well as leading libraries, museums and archives services, councils are very experienced at convening the local partners who will be essential to local celebrations and learning opportunities.

I was delighted to address over 80 councillors at English Heritage's annual conference for heritage champions on 12 November. I led a session on how councillors can ensure heritage services are engaged more effectively in the priorities of councils and delivered more efficiently in the future. We are looking forward to discussing how the LGA and English Heritage can build upon this when Baroness Andrews, Chair of English Heritage, attends the CTS Board on 21 November.

London CLOA

I gave the keynote address at the annual meeting of London Borough directors of sport, tourism and culture on 6 November. My speech was an opportunity to highlight the work of the LGA representing councils' interesting nationally and to emphasise the importance of positioning culture and sport as central to achieving wider political priorities, especially economic growth.