

Note of Previous Meeting

Title:	Culture, Tourism and Sport Board
Date and time:	10 September 2012, 1.00pm
Venue:	Smith Square 1 and 2, Local Government House

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chair:	Flick Rea	Camden LB
Vice chair:	Simon Henig	Durham CC
Deputy chairman:	Andrew Lewer	Derbyshire CC
Deputy chair:	Geoff Knight	Lancaster City
Members:	Roger Begy OBE	Rutland CC
	Sir William Lawrence	Stratford-on-Avon DC
	Doreen Stephenson	East Lindsey DC
	Ian Gillies	City of York
	Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets LB
	James Hockney	South Cambridgeshire DC
	Chris Knowles-Fitton	Craven DC
	Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak BC
	Richard Mordey	Sunderland
	Veronica Ward	Southwark LB
	Sonja Crisp	City of York
	Stewart Golton	Leeds
	Paul Crossley	Bath & NE Somerset
Apologies:	David Phillips	City & County of Swansea
	Simon Blackburn	Blackpool
Speakers:	Viscountess Penelope Cobham	VisitEngland
	James Berresford	VisitEngland
Other Attendees:	Richard Hunt, cCLOA (Observer)	
LGA Officers:	Paul Raynes, Laura Caton, Siraz Natha, Justine Wharton, Stephen Service	

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Item Decisions and actions

Action by

Cllr Flick Rea welcomed the new board for 2012/13 and invited Members to introduce themselves. She encouraged Members to fill in the questionnaire at item 5 Appendix C to indicate their areas of interest.

Cllr Rea acknowledged the work of councils in making the Olympic and Paralympic summer of sport such a success.

On the recent cabinet reshuffle, Cllr Rea summarised changes to date and said that a letter of congratulation would be sent to the new Secretary of State for Culture from Sir Merrick Cockell as Chairman of the LGA.

Cllr Rea also noted Peter Bazalgette's recent appointment as Chairman of Arts Council England and confirmed that she had already sent a letter of congratulation.

1 Note of last meeting and matters arising

All the actions arising from the previous meeting held on 18 July 2012 had been completed and the note was approved.

Decision

All actions were noted as completed.

**Members / Laura
Caton**

2 Visitor Economy

As part of this item, Cllr Rea asked Members for contributions to the question and answer session with VisitEngland in advance of item 3.

Working with VisitEngland

3

Cllr Rea welcomed Viscountess Cobham and James Berresford, the Chair and Chief Executive of VisitEngland to the meeting.

Viscountess Cobham thanked Members for the opportunity to attend and said that VisitEngland continued to work with LGA on a range of issues. Overall the visitor economy is strong and performing well compared to other economic sectors. The slightly lower visitor numbers for this Summer are due in part to the poor weather.

James Berresford summarised the work of VisitEngland to date, emphasising sustainable growth as a key priority. He announced that VisitEngland are about to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Arts Council concerning arts tourism. VisitEngland is also working closely with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills to ensure a commonality of approach regarding Local Enterprise Partnerships.

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VisitEngland then took questions from the Board. Issues discussed included VisitEngland's Board Membership (where Members felt local government representation was important), national leadership on tourism, the potential of tourism to drive economic growth, the importance of superfast broadband to boosting rural tourism and councils' serious concerns about proposed changes to the Blue Flag Scheme. Members also noted the complexity of the visitor economy landscape and the importance of simplifying structures where possible.

Members noted that the joint LGA / VisitEngland seminar for councillors on 19 October was already at full capacity and an opportunity to engage the wider sector in our work.

Members agreed to respond to DCMS's consultation on VisitEngland's Board membership.

Decision

Members noted the presentation.

Action

Offices to draft for Members' clearance a letter in response to the consultation on VisitEngland's Board membership.

Laura Caton

4 Update on Libraries

Members noted the report and in particular the partnership between LGA and ACE to support councils to share learning and examples of new delivery models. Members felt that supporting councillors to lead transformational change in libraries should be our priority.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

Officers to take forward amendments to library priorities as directed by Members.

Laura Caton

5 2012/13 CTS Board Priorities

Cllr Rea requested comments from Members on the Board priorities presented in the paper. Members agreed strongly that the visitor economy was their top priority as this aligned the Board to the LGA's overarching growth campaign. Members also emphasised the importance

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of giving prominence to superfast broadband.

Members asked how outcomes of the work programme would be measured. Cllr Rea responded that a 6 monthly report would go to the Board to review progress, detailing the timescales and means of evaluating delivery.

Cllr Rea asked Members to note that the date of the Visitor Economy seminar would be 16 October, not 19 October as stated in the paper.

Decision

Members agreed that the work programme be amended to reflect the importance of superfast broadband as a priority.

Action

Officers to revise the work programme, taking account of Member comments.

**Laura Caton/
Steve Service**

6 Superfast Broadband

Members received a tabled report updating them on recent developments regarding this issue.

Cllr Rea said that the real barrier to the roll-out of superfast broadband was the Government's failure to secure state aid clearance, not the planning system. Members agreed on the importance of keeping this high on the Board's agenda.

Decision

Members noted the report.

7 2013 Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference

Officers confirmed that the CTS Board would meet at lunchtime on the first day of the conference.

Members asked if Board Members had to pay to attend the conference. Officers confirmed that LGA policy is Board Members pay for their conference spaces unless they are chairing or speaking at workshops.

Decision

Members noted the report.

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8 Outside Bodies feedback from Members

Cllr Rea updated Members on the latest Outside Body activity. A note will be circulated confirming Outside Body representatives for the forthcoming year.

**Laura Caton /
Stephen Service**

Decision

Members noted the update.

9 Update on Current Issues

Decision

Members agreed for a report on the Olympic legacy to be presented at the next Board.

**Paul Raynes /
Laura Caton**

Subject to a meeting not already having been arranged on the issue elsewhere, Members asked Officers to investigate the possibility of the LGA hosting a roundtable of senior figures within Culture, Tourism and Sport organisations to get a rounded view of the Olympic legacy.

LGA Officers

10 cCLOA Case Studies: Visitor Economy and Growth

Members received a paper presenting case studies about councils' leadership role in the visitor economy.

Decision

Members noted the case studies.

11 Any other business

Cllr Rea asked Members to note that Baroness Kay Andrews, Chair of English Heritage has been invited to the next CTS Board.

**Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 21 November 2012 at 11.00am
Local Government House**