

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: Culture, Tourism & Sport Board
Date: Thursday 6 February 2014
Venue: Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

Councillor		Council
Flick Rea MBE	Chair	Camden Council
Simon Henig	Vice Chair	Durham County Council
Andrew Lewer MBE	Deputy Chair	Derbyshire County Council
Geoff Knight	Deputy Chair	Lancaster City Council
Sir William Lawrence		Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Roger Begy OBE		Rutland County Council
Peter Golds		Tower Hamlets Council
Tom Fitzpatrick		North Norfolk District Council
Colin Organ		Gloucester City Council
Caitlin Bisknell		High Peak Borough Council
David Phillips		Swansea City and County Council
Simon Blackburn		Blackpool Council
Terry O'Neill		Warrington Council
Isobel Bowler		Sheffield City Council
Mike Bell		North Somerset Council
Amanda Martin		Council of the Isles of Scilly

Apologies: East Lindsey District Council

Observers: Iain Varah CLOA

Officers: Paul Raynes, Laura Caton, Siraz Natha, Tamsin Maddock & Donna Davidson

1 Note of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meetings were agreed.

The Chair asked for a member to attend meetings of the Magna Carta planning group once Daniel Goodwin leaves the LGA. Cllr Peter Golds offered to do this.

Members suggested encouraging BT to offer free broadband for libraries.

Actions

- Cllr Rea to write a letter of thanks to Jon Zeff.

2 Boosting the Visitor Economy

The Chair welcomed Peter Hampson, Chief Executive of British Destinations, to address the Board.

Mr Hampson spoke about the work of his organisation in helping local authorities with destination management in order to boost their visitor economy. Topics he covered included:

- The visitor 'welcome'
- Tourism skills qualifications
- Engagement of the private sector in tourism
- Issues with LEPs
- Business rates and the high street
- The tourism workforce

In the discussion that followed, members raised:

- VAT and Air Passenger Duty
- British Destinations' relationship with VisitBritain and VisitEngland
- The multiplicity of tourism organisations

Actions

- Board members to be sent discussion points for Cllr Rea's meeting with Helen Grant MP.

3 The Value of Culture

The Chair reported to the Board about the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport's keynote speech on the value of culture. Following the speech, Cllr Rea wrote to the Secretary of State about the effort and money local government puts into culture and her disappointment that this was not recognised in the speech. Cllr Rea also spoke with the Secretary of State at a breakfast meeting and reiterated these points. The Secretary of State wrote a warm reply in which she recognised the contribution of local government.

Actions

- Circulate the letters to Board members.
- Cllr Rea to reply to the letter.

4 Libraries

The Chair updated members on the recently created libraries panel. While the LGA has not been invited to take part in it, the panel membership is not particularly surprising and it is not thought they will propose anything radical.

5 English Heritage Review

The Chair reported to members that a draft response had been approved by lead members for submission to the English Heritage consultation and welcomed comments from members.

Members made the following points:

- Their concern that the accent is always placed on property portfolios rather than the archives publications.
- Their concern about regulatory functions.
- The possibility of working with English Heritage on a new publication.

6 CTS Conference

Laura Caton updated members on Conference planning. The delegate number has now surpassed 100 and the dinner is full. Members need to decide as soon as possible if they will be attending. Members congratulated officers on the good agenda line-up.

7 Outside Bodies

Cllr Lower reported back to the Board on the event hosted by the Legacy Trust and Kings Cultural Institute. He explained that the document presented there had only made one reference to local government and he had raised this as an issue during the question and answer session.

The Chair discussed her session giving evidence at the Warwick Commission and said that Warwick University are keen to host a joint event with the Board. A suggestion was made that instead of publishing reports the Board she be establishing relationships with registrars and Vice-Chancellors of universities in order to work together.

The Chair explained that the In Battalions Delhi Study event was to launch a report into the difficulties faced by subsidised theatre.

The Chair reported that her meeting with Lord Coe had gone well and he was keen for the LGA to support his initiative to tackle physical inactivity.

8 Update on Current Issues

The Chair told members that she was considering whether to give evidence to the select committee enquiry into Arts Council England (ACE) funding. Members reported issues with funding for projects being withdrawn with little notice.

Members expressed enthusiasm for inviting the new Broadband Chief Executive to a Board as early as possible as he takes up the new role.

Actions

- Cllr Rea to contact ACE Regional Representatives regarding ACE funding.
- Fixed odds betting terminals to form an agenda item at the April Board meeting.

9 CLOA Case Studies - Visitor Economy

Iain Varah updated the Board on CLOA activity. CLOA held an executive meeting last week which ACE attended. CLOA has been successful in getting a grant from SportEngland for work on commissioning.

Action

- Iain to pass notes from Executive meeting to Laura Caton

10 LGA Governance Arrangements

Members noted the report.

11 AOB

Actions

- Cllr Rea to thank Peter Hampson for attending the Board.
- Invite Maria Miller and Helen Grant to visit areas that might not be familiar with.