

# Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Agenda

Tuesday, 3 March 2015  
11.00 am

Cavil Room 1,2 and 3,  
Radisson Blu Hotel  
Frankland Lane  
Durham  
DH1 5TA

**To:** Members of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board  
**cc:** Named officers for briefing purposes

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board  
3 March 2015

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There will be a meeting of the Culture, Tourism & Sport Board at **11.00 am on Tuesday, 3 March 2015m Cavil Room 1, 2 and 3**, Radisson Blu, Durham, DH1 5TA

A sandwich lunch will be available at 12.00 pm.

**Attendance Sheet:**

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

**Political Group Meetings:**

Meetings at 10.00 am will be held at the hotel for the Labour, Conservative and Independent Groups.

Kist 1- Conservative Group

Kist 2- Labour Group

Drift 1- Independent Group

**Apologies:**

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

<b>Labour:</b>	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:aicha.less@local.gov.uk">aicha.less@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Conservative:</b>	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264	email: <a href="mailto:luke.taylor@local.gov.uk">luke.taylor@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk">Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

A map showing the location is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

David Symonds, 020 7664 3107. [David.symonds@local.gov.uk](mailto:David.symonds@local.gov.uk)

**Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.50 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

**Social Media**

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgacts

## Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Membership 2014/2015

Councillor	Authority
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Simon Henig (Vice-Chair)	Durham County Council
Cllr Alyson Barnes	Rossendale Borough Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Muhammed Butt	Brent Council
Cllr Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Terry O'Neill	Warrington Council
Cllr David Phillips	Swansea City and County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Sonja Crisp	City of York Council
<b>Conservative ( 6 )</b>	
Cllr David Burbage MBE (Deputy Chair)	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Peter Golds	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
Cllr Greg Smith	LB Hammersmith and Fulham
Cllr Doreen Stephenson	East Lindsey District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr David Hall	Somerset County Council
Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Colin Organ	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Paul Yallop	Worthing Borough Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Flick Rea MBE (Deputy Chair)	London Borough of Camden
Cllr Mike Bell	North Somerset Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
<b>Independent ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Ian Stephens (Chair)	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Amanda Martin	Council of the Isles of Scilly
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Apu Bagchi	Bedford Borough Council
Cllr Adrian Naylor	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council

## LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Attendance 2014-2015

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>16.09.14</b>	<b>2.12.14</b>				
<b>Labour Group</b>						
Simon Henig	No	Yes				
Alyson Barnes	Yes	No				
Caitlin Bisknell	No	No				
Muhammed Butt	Yes	No				
Barrie Grunewald	No	Yes				
Terry O'Neill	Yes	Yes				
David Phillips	No	Yes				
<b>Conservative Group</b>						
David Burbage MBE	Yes	Yes				
Tom Fitzpatrick	Yes	No				
Peter Golds	Yes	Yes				
Sir William Lawrence	Yes	Yes				
Blake Pain	Yes	Yes				
Greg Smith	Yes	Yes				
Doreen Stephenson	Yes	Yes				
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>						
Flick Rea	Yes	Yes				
Mike Bell	No	Yes				
<b>Independent</b>						
Ian Stephens	Yes	Yes				
Amanda Martin	Yes	Yes				
<b>Substitutes</b>						
Sonja Crisp	Yes	Yes				
Barry Lewis		Yes				
Colin Organ		Yes				

## Agenda

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### Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Tuesday 3 March 2015

11.00 am

Radison Blu, Durham

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Item	Page	Time
1. Welcome and Minutes from the last Board	1 - 6	11:00
2. Durham's Cultural, Sporting and Visitor Economy Offer - Cllr Simon Henig, Leader Durham County Council and Vice Chair CTS Board		11:05
3. 100 Days and Culture, Tourism and Sport- report attached	7 - 14	11:35
4. Libraries Task Force- Confidential report attached	15 - 26	12:05
5. 2015 Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference- report attached	27 - 32	12:10
ITEMS FOR NOTING	Page	12:30
6. Update on Current Issues- report attached	33 - 50	
7. Outside Bodies- report attached	51 - 62	
8. Any other Business		
MAP	Page	

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday, 22 June 2015, 1.00 pm, Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



## Note of last Culture, Tourism & Sport Board meeting

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**Title:** Culture, Tourism & Sport Board  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 December 2014  
**Venue:** Room S, Portcullis House, Bridge Street, London SW1A 2LW

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome and declarations of interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed members to the board meeting and thanked Lord Bew for joining them.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made.</p>	
2	<p><b>Notes from the last meeting</b></p> <p>Members <b>approved</b> the minutes of the last meeting.</p> <p>Members <b>noted</b> that a response had not yet been received from the Culture Secretary of State following Cllr Rea's letter regarding the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta.</p> <p>Post Meeting note: The Secretary of State's response is attached at <b><u>Annex A</u></b> and officers are following up with the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Cllrs Crisp, Organ and Henig requested that the attendance be amended to show they were present at the meeting.</p>	
3	<p><b>Magna Carta 800th and the 750th Montfort Parliament anniversaries Lord Bew, Co-Chair of the Speakers' Advisory Group for the 2015 Anniversaries, and Caterina Lorriggio, 2015 Anniversaries-Senior Parliamentary Campaign Manager</b></p> <p>Lord Bew welcomed the members of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board to Portcullis House and thanked them for their support. The Speaker's Advisory Group is working to ensure that the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Magna Carta has as much impact as possible.</p> <p>Lord Bew said that both the Magna Carta and the De Montfort Parliament anniversaries are critical dates to celebrate as they are central to the evolution of our democracy. These anniversaries raise issues of national and local concern that, it is hoped; encourage discussions of rights, freedom and representation.</p>	

Caterina Loriggio, Senior Parliamentary Campaign Manager, discussed the role of her team in increasing public awareness and understanding of parliament and special anniversaries, working with Councils across the country.

Following the presentation, members discussed the opportunity to engage the whole country in the Magna Carta anniversary and supported the suggestion that LiberTeas (celebrations based on the 2012 street party model) was an excellent way to secure this wider engagement. Members also said that early communications was important.

#### **Action**

Copies of the presentation slides to be circulated to board members.

#### **4 Culture, Local Enterprise Partnerships and driving growth**

Laura Caton introduced the report which provided an analysis of the extent to which culture and the visitor economy feature on LEP agendas.

Culture, Tourism and Sport has good coverage on LEP agendas. This is improved in areas where there is a tangible asset and is patchier in Strategic Economic Plans because centrally imposed funding criteria prioritise transport, housing and infrastructure.

Members discussed the situation in their local areas and focused on ways to increase strategic recognition of Culture, Tourism and Sport such as working closely with the Treasury, DCLG and the LGA Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board.

In particular, members raised:

- The importance of culture in and of itself being championed by LEPs
- The impact of VAT on the industry
- The need for best practice guidance on LEPs support of the visitor economy

#### **Decision**

Members **agreed** the next steps at paragraph 16 of the report.

#### **Action**

Officers to take forward the next steps in their work with LEPs.

#### **5 William Sieghart's Review of Public Libraries**

Members discussed the latest situation ahead of the publication of Mr Sieghart's review of public libraries.

#### **6 Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 2015**



Laura Caton introduced the report, which gave an update on the upcoming CTS Annual Conference.

Members discussed the addition of the Study Tours and speakers.

The Chair asked all board members to promote the annual conference to colleagues and peers. The Board thanked staff at the LGA and in Durham for their work in arranging annual conference.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

## **7 Update on Physical activity and driving health**

Siraz Natha introduced the report which provided an update to members on the work being done, both locally and nationally, to create a physical activity legacy following the 2012 games.

Sport England has reported that the number of people undertaking 30 minutes of physical activity once a week has increased by 1.7 million since 2005. Councils are at the centre of driving increases in participation.

Members discussed:

- Portfolio Holders events with Sport England
- The 'Moving More, Living More' initiative
- Public Health England Roadshows
- Leadership Essentials programmes.

Members also took the opportunity to share best practice in their local areas.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

### **Action**

Members are encouraged to bring forward best practice from their local areas so that this information can be shared with the sector.

## **8 Outside Bodies: feedback from Members**

Laura Caton introduced the report which provided an update to members on meetings of outside bodies and taken by members since the last Board and until the end of the year.

### **Decisions**

Members **noted** the report.

Members **noted** that the date of the Chair's meeting with Ed Vaizey MP,

Culture Minister, will take place on 14 January 2015.

**9 Current issues paper**

Siraz Natha introduced the report which provided updates on tourism and visitor economy, heritage, broadband and digital inclusion and sport and physical activity.

Members discussed the LGA submission to the Historic England draft Corporate Plan.

**Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

**10 CLOA Case studies paper- First World War commemorations**

Laura Caton introduced the report which detailed case studies of activities undertaken by councils to commemorate the First World War.

Members discussed the case studies in the report and further examples of commemoration from their local areas.

**Decision**

Members noted the report.

**Action**

Members are encouraged to bring forward best practice from their local areas so that this information can be shared with the sector via the LGA.

**11 Any other business**

There was no other business.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
Deputy-Chairman	Cllr David Burbage MBE Cllr Flick Rea MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough Camden Council
Members	Cllr Barrie Grunewald Cllr Terry O'Neill Cllr David Phillips Cllr Peter Golds OBE Sir William Lawrence Bt Cllr Blake Pain Cllr Greg Smith  Cllr Doreen Stephenson Cllr Mike Bell Cllr Amanda Martin Mr Iain Varah	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council Warrington Council Swansea City and County Council Tower Hamlets Council Stratford-on-Avon District Council Harborough District Council Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council East Lindsey District Council North Somerset Council Council of the Isles of Scilly CLOA
Apologies	Cllr Alyson Barnes Cllr Caitlin Bisknell Cllr Muhammed Butt Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	Rossendale Borough Council High Peak Borough Council Brent Council North Norfolk District Council



## **100 Days and culture, tourism and sport**

### **Purpose**

Ahead of the general election, this report takes stock of the LGA's 100 Days campaign and how culture, tourism and sport stands to benefit from our programme for radical reform of public services and local government funding.

### **Summary**

#### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to discuss and give any further steer on the issues raised in paragraph 18.

#### **Action**

To be taken forward by Officers as directed by Members.

**Contact officer:** Laura Caton  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3514  
**Email:** [laura.caton@local.gov.uk](mailto:laura.caton@local.gov.uk)

## 100 Days and culture, tourism and sport

### Background

1. At the 2014 LGA Annual Conference, LGA launched the 100 Days campaign and published *Investing in our Nation's Future: The First 100 Days of the Next Government*. Based upon extensive consultation with local government, the campaign focuses on some of the practical steps any new government needs to take to transform public services and help meet the funding challenges we still face. The policies in the 100 days document are fully costed and could save £11 billion on the cost of the public sector and empower local communities to have a real say in their own future.
2. The work of any new government must be underpinned by a number of principles if the reforms LGA set out in 100 Days are to truly transform public services:
  - 2.1 More devolution of power to elected councillors to enable them to rewire public services.
  - 2.2 Community Budgets as the preferred local delivery mechanism for government departments.
  - 2.3 Financial settlements tied to the lifetime of Parliament for all of the public sector.
3. To maintain momentum ahead of the general election, LGA has recently launched the Future Funding and DevoNext campaigns.

### 100 Days

4. The 100 Days campaign has helped to frame the work of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board this year. The table below summarises the links between the 100 Days proposals and the benefits they could deliver for culture, tourism and sport.

Proposal	Better outcome made possible	Link to culture, tourism and sport
Refocusing employment, skills and back to work support by merging councils and Jobcentres	Help reduce long-term unemployment by a third	Ensure that skills training and apprenticeships for young people better matches local economic need, including culture, heritage, tourism and sport
Strengthening the central role of councils in integrated welfare, employment and skills support	Help reduce long-term unemployment by a third	
Consolidating and devolving funding to councils for local youth transition services	Halve youth unemployment and help young people contribute to the economy	
Devolving economic powers and all growth, regeneration, skills and employment funding through	Boost the delivery of jobs, housing and growth through a coordinated	
		Greater flexibility to prioritise and incentivise investment in local growth sectors,

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Better outcome made possible</b>	<b>Link to culture, tourism and sport</b>
councils to LEPs	local approach	including culture, the visitor economy and the creative industries
Giving all councils in England the same traffic management powers as London and Wales	Councils can help tackle the disruption, costs and around three quarters of a billion kilograms of unnecessary greenhouse gases caused by congestion	A good transport infrastructure and high quality environment is essential for the visitor economy
Allowing councils to set fees, charges and subsidies	Councils can support those who need it most	Increase councils' ability to encourage culture and sporting participation
Letting councils set rates and discounts for council tax and business rates	Councils can better respond to local circumstances	Increase councils' ability to incentivise local growth sectors, including the visitor economy
Allowing councils to retain 100 per cent of business rates growth	Councils are further incentivised to grow local economies	
Launching a better roads fund funded by localisation of 2p in every litre from existing fuel duty	Address the road repair backlog and improve the state of our roads	A good transport infrastructure is essential for the visitor economy
Enabling Health and Wellbeing Boards to commission primary, secondary and social care services	Everyone has access to a seamless health and care service	Culture and sport are increasingly being commissioned by health and social care to help achieve wellbeing outcomes
Giving councils powers to address local public health challenges	Councils are better equipped to tackle issues such as obesity or excessive drinking	Councils will be better able to work with local partners to encourage people to get more active
Allocating a fifth of the VAT from soft drinks, fast food and confectionery, and a fifth of duty from tobacco and alcohol	Councils can better help overweight and obese children, help people live healthier lives and tackle the harm caused by smoking and excessive drinking	The money would be reinvested in local physical activity opportunities
Announce a fundamental review of the NHS tariff system to unlock a potential five per cent saving on	Incentivise prevention, not treatment, keeping people healthier throughout their	Councils and health partners would have greater flexibility to invest in culture and sport

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Better outcome made possible</b>	<b>Link to culture, tourism and sport</b>
NHS acute spending through moving to a more preventative approach	lives	as part of a more preventative approach to health care
Rewarding volunteers with a small discount in council tax	Recognise the important contribution of volunteers	Greater recognition will help to retain volunteers, who play vital roles in the arts, heritage libraries, museums and sport

**Future Funding**

5. At the LGA’s annual Finance Conference on 6 January, Cllr David Sparks OBE, LGA Chair, launched the Future Funding campaign, which will run up to the 2015 Spending Review. The campaign will focus on the frontline impact of spending cuts for local communities. With councils facing a fall in core central government funding of 40 per cent by the end of this Parliament and having made £20 billion worth of savings since 2010, there is limited scope to keep protecting services through making further efficiency savings. If spending reductions follow a similar pattern in the next Parliament, councils will be facing a £12.4 billion funding gap by the end of the decade.
6. The campaign has already highlighted that even if adults’, children’s and waste services were protected for social care authorities, funding for ‘other’ activities – including libraries, sport, the arts, heritage, community centres and bus routes – would fall by £11 billion by 2020. In cash terms, this represents a cut of nearly 50 per cent. But for some councils the reduction would be as high as 81 per cent.
7. The campaign will present a radical agenda for reform that includes whole-place budgets, fully funded social care and new ways in which councils can raise income to plug the funding gap. CTS Lead Members have asked officers to consider the tourism industry’s long-standing ask that a reduction in tourism VAT would help to boost the visitor economy. Officers will feedback at the meeting and seek a steer on the next steps in the context of the LGA’s funding campaign.

**Devolution**

8. The CTS Board has highlighted the links between the Magna Carta 800 anniversary and the LGA’s campaign to reverse years of centralising control. We argue that a financially sustainable, democratically healthy system depends on proper devolution of powers to the local level, so that those who best understand the needs of a particular area have the powers they need to address them.
9. As devolution continues to gather place across the country, the LGA Executive has agreed that the City Regions and People and Places Boards will lead the detailed work of shaping a vision and route map for achieving devolution within the UK over the course of the next parliament, drawing upon the work of the other Boards. The LGA’s DevoNext online resource gives detail about what powers councils have



already been given and what they are doing with these powers, as well as tools to help councils negotiate further devolution.

10. The devolution debate has mainly focused on growth, skills, transport and infrastructure. This is because the deals have been driven by Combined Authorities, which have a statutory footing and operate to promote the economic development of an area and must be comprised of councils forming a functional economic area. As has already been stated, culture, tourism and sport stands to gain from these changes. But there are signs that culture and the visitor economy will play an increasingly visible role in negotiations between local and central government.
11. For example, Greater Manchester's devolution deal recognises the vital role of culture in regenerating place and boosting growth, and included £78 million of central government funding to help create the Factory theatre and exhibition centre.
12. Similarly, North East councils have for many years highlighted the critical importance of the visitor economy to the region's economic fortunes and worked together to strengthen place brand. The North East Combined Authority's prospectus for devolution, published in January 2015, calls for "devolved business support budgets, delivered through a coordinated North East Business Growth Hub; joint accountability for UKTI activity in the region; devolved funding from re-investment of the region's Access To Finance programme; and new powers and funding to support our vibrant culture and visitor economy."
13. The proposed plan for a Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority highlights how an integrated approach to economic development and transport across 10 local authorities would benefit the visitor economy and strengthen partnership working with the LEP. We can expect to see further developments in non-Metropolitan areas as more Combined Authorities and other similar arrangements are formed across the country.
14. The devolution arrangements in Scotland and Wales provide a useful starting point for considering what powers and funding English local government might ask for. In terms of this Board's direct policy interests, the 2012 Silk Commission on Devolution to Wales, and the 2014 Smith Commission on further devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament, both called for the devolution of Air Passenger Duty (APD). The underpinning analysis for both commissions recognised the potentially negative impact on English tourism. Some English councils and tourism businesses have expressed significant concern at the Scottish Government's planned 50 per cent reduction in APD. The Smith Commission also called for a formal consultative role for the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament in the process of reviewing the BBC's Charter.
15. The LGA's recent 2015 budget submission was clear that greater power must be devolved to local communities through their democratically elected local representatives so they can decide how their services should be run. The submission also emphasised the importance of Ministers following through on their commitment to devolve the spending decisions for European Structural Investment Fund to the 39 LEP areas. CTS Lead Members have highlighted the importance of this for councils' ability to growth the local visitor economy.

16. Devolution also means that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agencies are starting to operate in a very different sub-regional landscape, and this might be an area Members feel there would be value in exploring further. For example, in their response to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's inquiry into Arts Council England, the Core Cities made the case for the devolution of cultural budgets as part of a placed based approach to local funding and floated the suggestion that this should include national lottery funding.

### **Independent Commissions**

17. In addition, the LGA has contributed towards or commissioned a number of independent reviews to help set the policy agenda ahead of the general election on devolution, public service reform and local government finance.

- 17.1 In October 2014, the RSA's City Growth Commission published its final report and concluded that devolution of growth, skills, infrastructure, planning and some taxes would unlock huge economic benefits for cities. Although the visitor economy and culture are not mentioned explicitly, the sector stands to gain from the Commission's vision for devolution.
- 17.2 In May 2014, the LGA set up the Independent Commission on Economic Growth and the Future of Public Services in Non-Metropolitan England to seek ways to stimulate economic growth regionally, create new jobs and help people live their lives better. The Commission published its interim report in November 2014 and the final report will be published shortly. One of their emerging views is that government needs to continue with its current direction of travel and devolve more transport funding decisions to LEPs and councils. But, according to the Commission, this also needs to reflect the policy debate on the role of regional airports in global trade and tourism in the light of the emerging findings of the Airports Commission and others. The Commission also highlights the importance of digital infrastructure to tourism businesses and believes that government and business need to work together on the next generation of digital connectivity while there is time to do so.
- 17.3 In June 2014, the LGA and the Chartered Institute for Public Finance (CIPFA) commissioned an independent review to make recommendations for the reform of local government finance and find better ways to fund local services and promote economic growth in England. The Commission published its final report on 18 February. The recommendations include single-place budgets and devolving more taxes to sub-national areas, including stamp duty, airport taxes and tourism taxes. This would give local partners and business much greater ability to influence fiscal levers in support of the visitor economy.

### **18 Members are invited to:**

- 18.3 Share how devolution conversations are developing in your local areas and what role, if any, culture, tourism and sport are playing?**

- 18.4 Give any further steer on how we can maximise the opportunities for culture, tourism and sport to benefit from the LGA's campaign asks in the run-up to the 2015 Spending Review?**
- 18.5 Consider whether there is value in further work to map the impact of devolution on both councils' investment in, and support for, culture, tourism and sport, and councils' relationship to the DCMS agencies?**

**19 Next steps**

- 19.1 The next Culture, Tourism and Sport Board is 22 June 2015 and it is suggested that Members reflect upon the Board's lobbying priorities in the light of the general election and the LGA's vision for devolution.

**Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.



Document is Restricted



## **2015 Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference**

### **Purpose**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

We are looking forward to welcoming over 120 councillors, officers and high-profile speakers from across the country to this year's Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Durham. We are very grateful to Durham County Council for all their support with organising the event.

Full conference delegate packs with details of room venues and supporting information will be available at the Board meeting. Officers will brief Members on the latest practical arrangements at the Board.

The programme and study tour descriptions are attached at **Annex A**.

### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to note the conference details and ask any questions about the conference.

### **Action**

To be taken forward by officers, in line with Members' steer.

**Contact officer:** Laura Caton  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3154  
**Email:** [laura.caton@local.gov.uk](mailto:laura.caton@local.gov.uk)

**Day 1 Tuesday 3 March: A New Magna Carta? The power of culture, tourism and sport to transform places and renew democracy**

11.45–1.00	Registration and lunch
1.00–1.05	Welcome to Durham Chair's welcome and introduction <b>Cllr Ian Stephens</b> , Chairman, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board
1.05–1.15	<b>Cllr Simon Henig</b> , Leader, Durham County Council and Vice-Chair, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board
1.15 – 1.45	Power of sport to transform lives <b>Steve Cram CBE</b> , Chancellor, Sunderland University, former athlete and TV presenter
1.45–3:45	<a href="#">Study tours descriptions- please see Annex A</a> <b>ST1:</b> Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground <b>ST2&amp;3 combined:</b> Durham Cathedral, Castle and University <b>ST4:</b> Deerness Valley Gymnastics Club
3.45–4:15	Plenary address <b>Rosie Millard</b> , Chair, Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and journalist
4:15 – 5:15	Panel Debate – The English Question What are the opportunities for culture, tourism and sport from the current debate on English devolution and identity? <b>Penelope Viscountess Cobham</b> , Chairman VisitEngland <b>Sir Peter Bazalgette</b> , Chairman Arts Council England <b>Sir Laurie Magnus</b> , Chairman, English Heritage <b>Nick Bitel</b> , Chairman, Sport England
5.15–6.00	<b>A manifesto for culture, tourism and sport: Workshops round 1</b> How can culture, tourism and sport help an incoming government to tackle some of the biggest social and economic challenges the country faces?  Workshop 1: Growth, jobs and Local Enterprise Partnerships Culture, tourism and sport drives local growth, helping to attract visitors and businesses, boosting jobs, steering footfall to city and town centres, and revitalising rural communities. A growing number of Local Enterprise Partnerships are recognising culture and tourism as crucial to future growth. Through sharing work in the North East and West of England, this session will debate our sector's compelling offer to business leaders and Government on economic growth. <b>Dick Penny</b> , Managing Director, Watershed <b>Professor Jonathan Blackie CBE</b> , Culture Partnership Manager, Association of North East Councils <b>Chaired by: Diana Shelton</b> , Head of Leisure and Tourism, West Oxfordshire District Council and Vice-Chair, Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association (°CLOA)  Workshop 2: Ageing well and better health With adult social care and health soaking up ever bigger proportions of local government expenditure, culture and sport has a powerful offer to make to commissioners.



**Item 5**

Participation in culture and sport can reduce demand on other public services and prevent costly problems from developing in the first place. This session will debate what more local cultural and sport leaders can do to position their services as central to tackling probably the biggest challenge facing councils.

**Cllr Jonathan Owen**, Deputy Leader, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

**Dr Justin Varney**, National Lead for Adult Health, Public Health England

**Workshop 3: Revitalising democracy and engaging communities**

2015 is a pivotal year for our political system. Against the backdrop of a vigorous debate on devolution, the country will mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, and go to polls in national and local elections. What better time to reflect on the health of our democracy? This session will explore how councils are using the Magna Carta anniversary to reinvigorate local democracy.

**Cllr Helyn Clack**, Cabinet Member for Communities, Surrey County Council,

**Caterina Loriggio**, 2015 Anniversaries, Senior Parliamentary Campaign Manager, UK Parliament

6.00 - 6.30	Political Group Meetings
7.00 -8.00	Drinks reception at Chapter House, Durham Cathedral
8.00 - onwards	Dinner at Undercroft restaurant, Durham Cathedral

**Day 2: A New Magna Carta? The power of culture, tourism and sport to transform places and renew democracy**

9.00–9.30	Registration (for new delegates) and refreshments
9.30–10.30	<p><b>A manifesto for culture, tourism and sport: Workshops round 2</b></p> <p>How can culture, tourism and sport help an incoming government to tackle some of the biggest social and economic challenges the country faces?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth, jobs and Local Enterprise Partnerships</li> <li>• Ageing well and better health</li> <li>• Revitalising democracy and engaging communities</li> </ul>
10.30–10.45	Refreshments
10.45–10.55	<p>Chair's welcome</p> <p><b>Cllr Ian Stephens</b>, Chairman, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board</p>
10.55–11.40	<p>Panel Debate – The first 100 days for culture</p> <p><b>Dave Moorcroft OBE</b>, Join In Director of Sport and former athlete</p> <p><b>Iain Watson</b>, Director, Tyne &amp; Wear Archives &amp; Museums</p> <p><b>Ufi Ibrahim</b>, Chair, Tourism Alliance and Chief Executive, British Hospitality Association</p> <p><b>Jeff James</b>, Keeper and Chief Executive, The National Archives</p> <p><b>Cllr Simon Henig</b>, Leader, Durham County Council and Vice-Chair, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board</p>
11.40–12.45	Innovation Sessions round 1

**Workshop 1: Commissioning**

The importance of effective commissioning has never been greater for local government. It is fundamental to ensuring that citizens can access the services they need in a climate of continued austerity. Culture and sport has a powerful offer not only to health and social



**Culture, Tourism and Sport Board**

3 March 2015

**Item 5**

care commissioners, but across all local authority services, and has made great strides with evidencing its impact and influencing commissioners. This session will share the learning from two ground-breaking projects: the Sport England / CLOA programme “Commissioning support for local authorities” and the Arts Council England funded Cultural Commissioning Programme, which is delivered by a partnership of NCVO (lead), NEF and NPC.

**Cllr Mike Hill OBE**, Cabinet Member for Community Services, Kent County Council  
**Laura Bailey**, Arts & Regeneration Officer, Kent County Council  
**Stephen Howell**, Head of Culture & Sport, Durham County Council  
**Julie Russell**, Culture & Sport Strategic Manager, Durham County Council

**Workshop 2: Transformation**

Culture, tourism and sport has a long track record of innovation, adaptability and resilience. The sector pioneered trusts, has achieved efficiency savings through new ways of working, forged new partnerships, grasped the opportunities from co-location, and been at the forefront of working with volunteers. This session will share successful examples of culture and sport led transformation.

**Paula Williams**, Head of Cultural Services, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
**Mark Allman**, Head of Sport and Active Lifestyles, Leeds City Council and Vice-Chair, Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA)

**Workshop 3: Digital Innovation**

The proliferation of digital content and platforms is having a dramatic effect on how people engage with heritage and culture. Projects such as the Imperial War Museum and The National Archives Operation War Diary are reaching new audiences and involving people to enrich our understanding of the First World War.

**Mary Gledhill**, Director of Commercial and Digital, The National Archives  
**Simon Delafond**, Acting Head of Digital Media, Imperial War Museum

**Workshop 4: Libraries**

Following the publication of William Sieghart’s Independent Review of Public Libraries, this workshop will debate the implications for the sector. We will also hear from Vision Redbridge about their libraries transformation programme and from the Society of Chief Librarians about how they are developing a shared strategy for the future through the Universal Offers.

**Iain Varah**, Chief Executive of Vision Redbridge and Chair - Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA)  
**Paul Blantern**, Chief Executive, Northamptonshire County Council and Chair, Leadership for Libraries Task Force  
**Ciara Eastell**, Head of Libraries, Culture and Heritage, Devon County Council and President of Society of Chief Librarians

12.45–1.40	Lunch and networking
1.40–2.10	Living Knowledge: The British Library’s Future Vision <b>Roly Keating</b> , Chief Executive, The British Library
2.10–2.40	Plenary address <b>Fin Kennedy</b> , Artistic director of national touring theatre company Tamasha and award-winning playwright
2.40–3.40	Innovation sessions round 2
3.40	Conference close

## **Annex A- Study Tour Descriptions**

### **ST1) Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground**

Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground (EDICG) is home to Durham County Cricket Club, England's newest and perhaps most successful professional Club. The EDICG developed in 1995, staged an Ashes Test in 2013 and will stage World Cup cricket in 2019. The Club is helping to attract visitors, encouraging development of the wider area and generating income outside of the cricket season. The study tour will consider the development of the venue alongside the growth of the Club, its role in the community and boosting the local economy, the support of the local authority and the challenges in developing a sustainable asset.

### **ST 2 and 3 combined) Durham Cathedral, Castle and University**

The Durham World Heritage Site comprises the stunning Durham Cathedral and Castle, and also Palace Green Library, home to Durham University's archives and special collections and newly developed exhibition galleries, learning space, and conservation studio. These developments complement the Cathedral's capital development project Open Treasure, designed to transform the way visitors enjoy the Cathedral and gain inspiration from it. The current phase includes the creation of world-class exhibition spaces in some of the Cathedral's Claustral buildings, due to open in 2016.

Palace Green Library will be the focus for Durham's commemoration of the Magna Carta anniversary when it opens its exhibition ***Magna Carta and the Changing Face of Revolt*** on 1 June. Showing the only extant 1216 issue of the charter, on loan from the collections of Durham Cathedral, the exhibition will follow from 2013's hugely successful *Lindisfarne Gospels Durham* project, and once again show how University, Cathedral and Council work together to deliver significant learning, engagement and economic impacts through cultural projects.

This study tour will be run as a carousel including: a presentation by the University's Dr Keith Bartlett, Director of Culture, and Ruth Robson, Head of Marketing and Events from Durham Cathedral on partnership working on the Durham World Heritage Site with a focus on the development of new facilities and the legacy of Lindisfarne Gospels Durham; a 'show and tell' of some of the items going into this summer's exhibition with Dr Sarah Price, Head of Learning and Engagement, Durham University; and a brief highlight tour of Durham Cathedral.

### **ST4) Deerness Valley Gymnastics Club**

Deerness Valley Gymnastics Club is one of Britain's top gymnastics clubs, with over 100 international gymnasts winning more than 70 World and European medals, including seven World and six European Champions. In 2011, following Durham County Council's decision to close a number of leisure centres, the coaching team, with the support of more than 100 volunteers, bid to not only save the gymnastics club, but also to take on responsibility for running a new gymnastics centre on the site of the former council run Leisure Centre as a charitable not for profit organisation. The centre has gone from strength to strength and is run as a gymnastics community facility for everyone. We hope that our elite gymnasts can help to inspire people to find out about the sessions we offer, from baby gym right through to high-level international performers, as well as adults who want to come along and do some gymnastics activity to help them to keep fit. The study tour will share how we achieved this and our plans for the future.



## Update on current issues

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:

- Physical activity and sport
- Heritage
- Libraries
- Visitor Economy
- Culture and Arts

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the update.

### Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

**Contact officer:** Siraz Natha

**Position:** Adviser

**Phone no:** 078999 74298

**E-mail:** [siraz.natha@local.gov.uk](mailto:siraz.natha@local.gov.uk)

## Update on current issues

### Physical activity and sport

#### Active People Survey 8

1. Sport England has published its Active People 8 results, which measured participation rates in sport/physical activity between October 2013 – October 2014. The results show that:

- 1.1 15.57 million people aged 16 years or over played sport for at least 30 minutes at least once a week. This represents an increase of 1.63 million compared with 2005/06 (APS1) but a decrease of 125,100 compared with the October 2013 result.
- 1.2 The main reason for the decrease in participation is that 245,000 fewer people are swimming weekly in the period between October 2013 and October 2014. This is obviously a concern because swimming is the nation's most popular sport by far. As a priority Sport England is following up the discussions they had at a recent Swim Summit and working with the sector, including local government partners, to see how together we can address the decline. Athletics, cycling and team sports reported an increase in participation.
- 1.3 Gender has a big influence on sports take-up. More men play sport than women. Currently 40.8% of men play sport at least once a week, compared to 31.0% of women.

Age is also a factor in participation. It is very encouraging that the number of young people playing sport regularly has increased:

- 4.72 million 14-25 year olds (57.6 per cent) play sport once a week, an increase of 55,900 in the last 12 months.
- 3.78 million 16-25 year olds (54.7 per cent) play sport once a week, an increase of 21,200 in the last 12 months.

2. However, the figures also show that there are 121,700 fewer disabled people playing sport regularly, with 1.58 million now taking part.
3. The LGA is working closely with Sport England and partners to understand the reasons behind this latest set of results. Members have previously highlighted the need to take a tough line with National Governing Bodies who fail to meet grassroots participation targets.
4. The full set of results can be viewed at: <http://tinyurl.com/qbpkt9s>.

Community Sport Funding

5. The Community Sport Activation Fund Round 4 opened on 20 January 2015 and closes at 5pm on 20 April 2015, with £10 million available. The Fund, created in response to local demand, will create grassroots activity at the local level.
6. The LGA was pleased that Sport England recognised the economic climate remains very challenging for councils and communities and relaxed the requirement for partnership funding for projects which will directly benefit the most deprived communities in England based on the English Indices of Deprivation.
7. For more details <http://tinyurl.com/ls9t84j>

'This Girl Can' campaign

8. In response to the gender gap in sport and physical activity participation, Sport England has launched a multi-media national campaign "This Girl Can". The campaign seeks to give women more confidence to exercise and is based upon extensive consultation and research. The tone of the campaign is positive and inclusive. It emphasises informal opportunities that do not cost money, such as building physical activity into daily routines.
9. The campaign has been very well received. More than 12 million people have watched the campaign's film online and hundreds of thousands of women have reacted positively on social media and online.
10. Sport England wants to work with councils across the country to help activate the campaign locally and over 100 have already downloaded the marketing toolkit, which gives local clubs and organisations access to the This Girl Can brand. Councils can register for the toolkit at <http://tinyurl.com/kjufs5y>.
11. Attached at **Annex A** is Jennie Price's, Sport England Chief Executive, recent article for the LGA's First magazine.

**Heritage**

LiberTeas

12. To coincide with the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sealing of Magna Carta (15 June 1215), the Houses of Parliament in partnership with the National Trust are asking communities across the UK to organise a local event, to create a simultaneous moment of reflection and celebration of their freedoms and rights. The LGA is promoting the opportunity to councils who are very well placed to promote the opportunity to local communities. Councils can register an event at <https://liberteas.co.uk/supporters/event-submission/>

New Chief Executive for English Heritage

13. In April 2015, English Heritage will become a charity and Kate Mavor will become its Chief Executive. The charity will look after the National Heritage Collection of historic sites. Historic England will champion England's wider heritage and give expert advice

with the new Chief Executive announced in the Spring. More at  
<http://tinyurl.com/lvj4ons>

14. The LGA has previously welcomed the new model, emphasising the importance of English Heritage as a key strategic partner for local government and local councils in the management, conservation and promotion of local heritage.

#### Magna Carta unification exhibition

15. The four copies of the 1215 Magna Carta manuscripts were loaned to Parliament for one day to launch the exhibition '*Magna Carta & Parliament*'. The exhibition charts the constitutional journey from Magna Carta to today's parliamentary democracy. The exhibition will be at Parliament between 9 and 26 February 2015.
16. The LGA continues to support the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Committee through representing councils at the highest level as well as encouraging councils to stage events marking the anniversary and sharing good practice case studies.
17. See the LGA's Magna Carta resource <http://tinyurl.com/n2x2ram>

#### World War One Commemorations

18. The National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) has set in motion its inaugural annual Single Commemorative Act to mark the anniversary of World War One. This unique project will bring together the nation's Civic family in one common symbolic act of remembrance.
19. The date of the event is Monday 9 March 2015 at 10.30 am. Full details at [www.naco.uk.com](http://www.naco.uk.com)

#### British Library vision

20. The British Library has launched an exciting new vision for the future – Living Knowledge. The vision makes the case for the vital and growing importance of libraries of all kinds to the UK's whole national infrastructure of knowledge and innovation.
21. The vision sets out the British Library's commitment to deepening its partnership working with the UK public library network. This would build upon the Business & Intellectual Property Centre national network, which is a collaboration between the British Library, the Intellectual Property Office and six city libraries (Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield) with existing business and intellectual property collections and expertise.
22. The Chief Executive of the British Library, Roly Keating, is one of the speakers at the CTS Annual Conference in Durham and he is also a member of the Libraries Task Force.



### European Funding for Tourism

23. In November, CTS Lead Members highlighted the use of European funding to support tourism and the involvement of local partners in the delivery of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in 2014-20. CTS Lead Members wrote to Greg Clark MP and Lord Ahmad on 13 January and their letter and the Ministers' reply is attached at **Annex B**.
24. After the exchange of letters, the national Growth Programme Board agreed on 23 January that the 39 LEP area partnerships will have an 'advisory' rather than 'strategic' role, with no guarantee their work will be funded, and the LGA's proposal for a small number of those partnerships to select projects were not accepted. This goes against the grain of devolution, and does not deliver cross-Whitehall ministerial commitments for local partners to make 'strategic' decisions on ESIF.
25. On 11 February, the LGA Chairman, Cllr David Sparks OBE, wrote to the DCLG Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government plus relevant ministers across Government to set out our views on governance decisions regarding the £5.3 billion European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for 2014-2020. The letter highlights concerns about the decisions made, potential unintended consequences, and seeks a reconsideration of decisions. Unless the Government changes its position, LEPs and local partners will have less ability to influence ESIF priorities across policy areas, including the visitor economy. Cllr Sparks letter is attached at **Annex C**.
26. New figures reveal that the UK's Creative Industries, which includes the film, television and music industries, are now worth £76.9 billion per year to the UK economy. This massive contribution is an all-time high and equates to £8.8 million per hour, or £146,000 every minute, helping to drive growth.  
Read the report at **<http://tinyurl.com/n5xsd98>**
27. The LGA is working with Creative England and VisitEngland to promote and support councils' leadership role creating the conditions for the creative and tourism industries to thrive and connecting businesses to Local Enterprise Partnerships and the wider economic landscape. The Chairman of Visit England, Viscountess Penelope Cobham, is among the speakers at the CTS Annual Conference.

### **Culture and Arts**

#### Children's music and arts receives a boost

28. A range of projects that support children's music, filmmaking, dance and local-heritage activities are to receive funding worth more than £109 million in the 2015 to 2016 financial year, Education Secretary Nicky Morgan and Culture Secretary Sajid Javid have announced.

29. More than £4 million will be distributed to a number of organisations to support cultural education programmes, including the:
- BFI Film Academy
  - National Youth Dance Company
  - Sorrell Foundation's Art and Design Saturday Clubs
  - English Heritage
30. To support every child to have access to good music lessons and the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, the network of 123 music education hubs that supports schools with this task is set to benefit from £75 million of funding in the 2015 to 2016 financial year. An additional £1.1 million will be allocated this year to support education through 6 In Harmony programmes, and National Youth Music organisations such as the National Youth Orchestra and Music for Youth's School Proms.
31. In addition, funding for the Music and Dance Scheme that supports exceptionally talented young musicians and dancers will increase to £29 million.
32. The LGA is working to ensure that councils are fully involved in activating the Government's plans locally. The LGA has also worked in partnership with Arts Council England to deliver the very successful Leadership Essentials Culture events, which aim to place arts and cultural activities at the heart of council activities to help improve the quality of life for its communities and achieve wider outcomes such as engaging young people.
33. Further information on the announcement is available at <http://tinyurl.com/lqr4mpj>

## **Annex A**

### **No hurdle but an opportunity**

**29 January 2015**

**Sport England has a new campaign that's got hundreds of thousands of women talking enthusiastically about exercising as it's gone viral here and around the world. Local authorities can capitalise on this wave of positivity towards sport.**

It's called 'This Girl Can' and is designed to break down the psychological barriers that women face when thinking about being active. There's a significant gender gap in sport. Two million fewer women than men exercise regularly, despite 75 per cent of women saying they would like to do more.

Our research showed that time and cost were common factors. But we also identified another unifying theme: the fear of judgment: fear of being the wrong size, not fit enough and not skilled enough.

That's why Sport England launched this campaign and why we're keen for local authorities to get involved.

I know that we share this agenda, but recognise that it can be difficult to prioritise it at a time when local authority budgets are so stretched. But I also know that getting people more active plays a significant role in building stronger, more engaged and healthier communities.

Launching a campaign is just the beginning. To get more women active, we need partners like local authorities to embrace it and take action locally to turn this wave of new interest into regular participation.

Already this month, 500 local authorities, county sports partnerships and schools have signed up. If your council hasn't, I'd urge you to do so. Resources are scarce for everyone so we've created a free marketing toolkit.

Women in your communities are watching the campaign right now and telling us, and each other, how positive they feel about exercising. This is a golden opportunity.

We've created something powerful here and working together, we can make a real and positive impact on women's lives.

**Jennie Price is Chief Executive of Sport England.**



The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET  
[mpst.clark@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mpst.clark@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon  
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)  
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11 November 2014

Dear Sirs,

### European funding for the visitor economy

Councils have long recognised, and supported, the visitor economy's value to local growth and prosperity, and its potential to generate local jobs. To date, European funding has played an essential role in supporting this activity, and I am writing to emphasise the need for this to continue.

I therefore welcome your commitment to devolve spending decisions for England's £5.3 billion European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for 2014-2020 to the 39 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas. It is critical this is used wisely, and delivers what is needed on the ground.

To make that happen, councils have done a tremendous amount of work with LEPs to put in place local ESIF strategies outlining their spending plans, source match funding and establish local arrangements. What is clear is that local partners need maximum autonomy over the way in which the funds are spent, and certainty that funds will flow as soon as possible from January 2015.

The LGA continues to play a pivotal role through the shadow Programme Growth Board to help you put in place arrangements to make this to happen. I understand arrangements have yet to be finalised, particularly on the Operational Programmes, which will determine what can be funded and the role local partners will have in determining spend.

I would like to reinforce LGA's view that local plans, priorities and decision making arrangements must not change as a result of your ongoing negotiations with the EC, and highlight that the visitor economy continues to be boosted by EU investment. I have pleasure in sharing a copy of the recent LGA submission to the Culture, Media and Sport

Committee's Inquiry into the visitor economy, which sets out LGA's analysis on the value of tourism to growth.

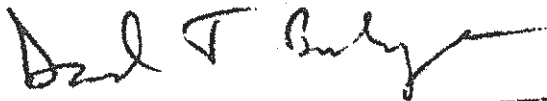
Yours sincerely



Cllr Ian Stephens  
Chair, LGA Culture Tourism and Sport Board, and Leader, Isle of Wight Council



Cllr Simon Henig,  
Deputy Chair, LGA Culture Tourism and Sport Board



Cllr David Burbage,  
Deputy Chair, LGA Culture Tourism and Sport Board



Cllr Flick Rea,  
Deputy Chair, LGA Culture Tourism and Sport Board

cc

Helen Grant MP, Tourism Minister, Department for Culture, Media and Sport



**Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government**



**Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills**

Councillor Ian Stephens  
Chair  
LGA Culture Tourism & Sport Board & Leader, Isle of White Council

Councillor Simon Henig  
Deputy Chair  
LGA Cultural Tourism and Sport Board  
Local Government House  
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SW1P 3HZ

**Department for Communities and  
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London SW1P 4DF

**Department for Business Innovation  
and Skills**  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our ref: MCB2014/25745/00

13 January 2015

Dear Councilor Stephens and Councillor Henig,

Thank you for your letter of 11 November, concerning the use of European funding to support the visitor economy and the involvement of local partners in the delivery of European Structural and Investment Funds in 2014-20.

In our earlier letter of 21 October 2014 we pointed out that it is in everyone's interests to have their respective roles and responsibilities clearly defined and we reiterate that we look forward to working with you and other delivery partners to agree these as soon as possible.

The proposed delivery arrangements for the funds have been developed in close consultation with local partners; the Government shares their desire to be effectively involved in the design and delivery arrangements for the Funds. The Commission has some concerns about the Government's proposed delivery arrangements. Government is discussing these with the Commission and local stakeholders via the Growth Programme Board to try reach a compromise which is acceptable to all. Lord Ahmad attended the Growth Programme Board on 9 December when these matters were discussed.

We know the LGA and LEP Network are seeking views from LEPs on whether they want to take on some form of IB status. We are awaiting detailed proposals from the LGA/LEPs to see exactly how this might work, including how potential risks and liabilities might be managed if Managing Authority functions are delegated. At the moment, we do not envisage any mainstream Intermediate Bodies outside London. Some core cities will have intermediate body status in respect of project selection for Sustainable Urban Development projects only.

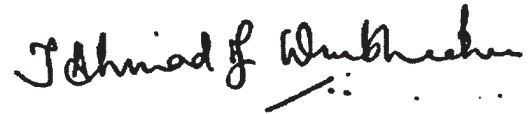
As you point out, governance arrangements are yet to be finalised as part of the Operational Programmes negotiations with the Commission. Growth Programme Board members and partners will be given the opportunity to input into the discussions on governance. Our approach in discussions with the European Commission and one which we wish to see reflected in the Operational Programmes is

that any arrangements put in place should enable partners to play a meaningful role in shaping and delivering the programmes

Thank you for sharing with us a copy of your recent submission to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's inquiry into the visitor economy.



**THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP**



**LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON**

Cc: Helen Grant MP, Tourism Minister, Department for Culture, Media and Sport





Cabinet Office

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Minister for Universities,  
Science and Cities



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills

Cllr David Sparks OBE  
Chairman Local Government Association  
Alex Pratt OBE  
Chair of the LEP Network Management Board  
Local Government House  
Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HZ

1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Our ref: MCB2014/22130

21 October 2014

*Den David*

Thank you for your letters of 28 August and 1 October on the development of the UK Partnership Agreement and the involvement of local partners in the delivery of European Structural and Investment Funds.

We are grateful for the support and input of local partners in reaching the point where the Partnership Agreement can be formally submitted to the European Commission.

You raise important issues about the role of the Programme Management Committee. It has a mixture of decision making and advisory powers. Its functions are set out in European statute and its remit is driven by those regulations. Within those statutory functions we want to make the most of the expertise the Committee can offer.

As you point out, it was agreed at the Growth Programme Board on 23 September that the Partnership Agreement should not include any detailed text about the delivery arrangements in England, because it is a strategic document and the detailed delivery arrangements will need to be audited before they can be approved. This cannot happen until the Operational Programme negotiation. It is in all of our interests to have our respective roles and responsibilities clearly defined and we look forward to working with you and the other delivery partners represented on the Board to bring these to a final form.

We would however like to reassure you that Government remains committed to the view that these funds will provide an important source of support for local growth and jobs and that it is essential any arrangements we put in place should enable partners to play a meaningful role in shaping and delivering the programme. This is the approach we are pursuing in our discussions with the European Commission and will be fully reflected in the Operational Programmes.

We have also firmly pressed the case for having the flexibility to undertake targeted investment in enabling activities such as broadband and transport where it is consistent with the Commission regulations.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further the matters you have raised at our meeting on 9 December.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP

LORD AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON





From the Chairman of the Association  
Cllr David Sparks OBE

Chair of the LEP Network Management Board  
Alex Pratt OBE

1 October 2014

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)  
1 Victoria Street,  
London, SW1H 0ET  
[mpst.clark@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mpst.clark@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon  
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF  
[pslord.ahmad@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pslord.ahmad@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Ministers

We are writing to you following the detailed discussions on proposed governance arrangements for devolved European funding, at the ESIF Growth Programme Board (GPB) on 23 September. We were pleased to hear that the GPB agreed the following important actions:

- The future ESIF Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be a decision making body, rather than an advisory committee, and that it will have a key role in examining and scrutinising the performance of opt-in organisations.
- The revised England chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement (UK PA) must highlight that the roles and responsibilities of local partners will be detailed in the ERDF and ESF Operational Programmes (OPs) and expanded upon in the Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Local Sub-Committees. Each document should be cross referenced, and the role of local partners should be consistently upheld within each.
- The scheduling of monthly extraordinary GPBs up to December to review formal European Commission (EC) feedback on UK PA and OPs.

However, we do understand that during the discussion representatives from the EC raised a number of serious questions about governance arrangements which facilitate local partners' roles and responsibilities. This is of concern as the local and central balance in decision making have been agreed with Managing Authorities (MAs) over many months of negotiation. For LEPs and councils, they are the cornerstone of our agreement and commitment to the programme.

Local partners are naturally very concerned by this. Indeed, they have been working towards implementing such a model, which is now under question, and this is at a crucially important time when we are so close to a potential 'go-live' date for the programme. We are sure that this uncertainty is not your intention, given Baroness Stowell's "absolute commitment to real local delivery" and assurances that there would be "no dilution of local partners' roles" given by the Minister at the June GPB meeting.

We are of course awaiting the EC's formal comments. If governance changes are suggested to maintain local responsibilities, this is an issue for the whole GPB to discuss and agree. The ambition sought by many areas to take formal responsibility for particular roles within the programme, working with MAs, remains. This is especially pertinent as the last few weeks have clearly demonstrated that there is a real appetite for greater local decision-making in England.

Our view is that the local responsibilities must be preserved, as without them, we would have to reconsider our role in the programme as a whole. We are most keen to find a solution that avoids any risk to the programme's start and reassures the EC that UK partners' commitment to the programme remains steadfast.

We are committed to working in partnership with you through the Growth Board to find common solutions and we would be happy to meet to discuss this issue in detail.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor David Sparks OBE  
Chair, Local Government Association



Alex Pratt OBE  
Chair, LEP Network Management Board

cc:

LGA & LEP Network GBP members  
Bernadette Kelley and Tim Courtney, BIS  
Julia Sweeney and Carole Sweetenham, DCLG

From the Chair of the Association  
Councillor David Sparks OBE

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government  
DCLG  
2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

11 February 2015

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to inform you about unintended consequences of Her Majesty's Government (HMG) decisions regarding governance and delivery arrangements for England's £5.3 billion 'devolved' European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for 2014-2020.

The decisions I refer to were made on 23 January at the national Growth Programme Board (GPB) and include the 39 LEP area partnerships having an 'advisory' rather than 'strategic' role, with no guarantee their work will be funded, and our proposal for a small number of those partnerships to select projects not being accepted. These go against the grain of devolution, and do not deliver cross-Whitehall ministerial commitments for local partners to make 'strategic' decisions on ESIF.

BIS committed to devolve the funds, and DCLG committed to make it happen – and negotiate arrangements which satisfied the European Commission, LEPs, councils and local partners. This intent has been stifled by Whitehall bureaucracy which has struggled to develop a new central-local partnership. The LGA worked in good faith with Ministers and officials to put forward solutions, and offer to help negotiate this in Brussels. It is extremely unfortunate that neither were taken up, and the issue has been drawn out for sixteen months in Brussels and England, with such high expectations, but with such a disappointing decision.

Most concerning of all is that it will severely constrain HMG's commitment to increasing growth, jobs and productivity, as local efforts to lever in ESIF with national funding through City and Growth Deals will be very difficult. **ESIF can still be held up as exemplary in demonstrating this Government's devolution credentials. For this to happen, three commitments are needed:**

**1. A guarantee that all 39 LEP areas have 'strategic' decision making powers on ESIF**

**It is clear that the Government has struggled in their negotiations with the European Commission to secure the strategic role promised for local partners. We have since been assured by Ministers and officials that in the absence of this, the 'full and active role of local partners' will be 'locked into the process' to ensure their intelligence and expertise feed into decisions. Local politicians and LEPs have been reassured this will happen. They now expect it, but to date, we have seen no evidence to support it, and this need this to be forthcoming.** With sufficient influence, LEPs, councils and local partners will deliver the growth they articulated in their plans, and use and coordinate activity to regenerate towns and cities across England, equipping people with the skills needed for jobs created locally, so everyone benefits from and contributes towards growth.

If on the other hand, we are given no influence, local growth is at risk if we are subject to protracted HMG-local negotiations which will slow down project selection. Confidence and buy-in from business, LEPs and elected members will quickly dissipate, and you risk them walking away. It is critical that

you recognise our concern is shared by locally elected members and local business leaders alike. I know this is the case given my role as LEP director and daily discussions with councils.

## **2. Ministers should invite some local areas to pilot ability to select all ESIF projects**

The LGA helped pioneer the concept of devolved ESIF through our joint endeavour with central government to secure Whole Place Community Budgets. This paved the way for EU mechanisms such as Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) and Intermediate Body (IB) to enable a single pot of EU funds to be managed (all or in part) by a body - often a regional or local authority. We do not understand why HMG decided to use these mechanisms so sparingly given they chime so well with your devolution commitment. Across England, only London has full IB status, Cornwall has ITI (but limited decision making power), and Core City LEPs have the ability to select projects for only 10% of their ERDF projects, which was necessary under EU rules, despite making a clear case for full IB. By contrast a staggering 20 EU Members States have made significant use of ITIs and IB.

Our LGA/LEP network proposal for Ministers to award IB status to a small number of LEP areas to select projects on all ESIF projects was rejected on the basis it was not possible under EU rules and that it was too risky. The principles of our model are no different to the model which you adopted for the Core City LEPs, and which has been accepted by Brussels. We also do not accept the risk issue, given our model fully respected Government's technical and contracting role, which is where the risk lies. The decision is highly regrettable and in contrast with the Government's devolution record. **Not granting IB status is a retrograde step for many areas who have already secured devolved national funding through their Growth Deals, much of which is dependent on devolved EU funding also. This will be to the detriment of many domestic growth initiatives. I therefore recommend that a small number of pilots are re-considered.**

## **3. A guarantee that all 39 LEP areas are resourced to make the programme work locally.**

Significant resource has already been invested by councils, LEPs and local partners in planning for ESIF locally. I understand their ability to secure Technical Assistance (TA) is based on their ESIF role, yet since we have not seen how these have been defined, I am very concerned about their ability to access it. I am sure it is not HMG's intention for them to perform duties unfunded, especially given councils will have been dealt a 40 per cent real terms cut in core government grant funding by April 2016. **I recommend the total amount of TA available for local development - 2% of the budget - is devolved to fund these activities. In addition we seek written Ministerial assurance and a clear plan of action to show exactly how the Government will mitigate job losses due to delays between this programme starting and the previous 2007-2013 programme ending.**

I hope you recognise that we have proactively helped you in every way possible to get this programme up and running, and share your desire that it is not subject to continued delays. I would however ask for your assistance in working across Government to help us achieve these three commitments. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely



Cllr David Sparks OBE  
Chair, Local Government Association

Cc: LGA GPB Members – Cllr Ian Stewart, Cllr Sir Albert Bore; The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP; The Rt Hon Esther McVey MP; The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP; and David Gauke MP; Lord Ahmad, Julia Sweeney - DCLG; Bernadette Kelly – BIS; Carolyn Downs and Ian Hughes – LGA.

## **Outside bodies feedback from Members**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This report has three parts:

- A - Report back on Member meetings since the CTS Board on 2 December 2014.
- B - Forthcoming meetings.
- C – Chair’s Report from Cllr Ian Stephens, to Councillors’ Forum.

### **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.

**Contact officer:** Laura Caton  
**Position:** Senior Advisor  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3154  
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**A – Report back on Member meetings since the CTS Board on 2 December 2014**

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
<b>Cllr Flick Rea, Cllr Doreen Stephenson and Cllr Sonja Crisp led the LGA/Arts Council England Culture Leadership Essentials Programme, Coventry 4-5 December 2014</b>		
To represent the LGA and introduce the event, facilitate and speak about good practice within councils	Cllr Rea gave an overview of the LGA's work. Case study presentations included Cllr Stephenson sharing East Lindsey's culture led regeneration and new cultural trust. Cllr Crisp facilitated the event, supported by Cllr Richard Morris.	Fourteen culture portfolios supported to lead transformational change.
<b>Cllr Flick Rea attended a Positioning Community Sport Workshop in London on 9 December 2014</b>		
To introduce the event and set it within the context of the LGA's wider work.	A number of case studies and interactive sessions covered topics, including links to public health, commissioning, working with National Governing Bodies and improving facilities.	Thirteen sport portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change of sport services.
<b>Cllr David Phillips attended the Local Authority World Heritage Forum at Portcullis House on 9 December 2014</b>		
To represent the LGA.	The meeting focused on plans to set up a new charity. Cllr Phillips said that the LGA greatly values our engagement with the Forum and very much wants this to continue with the charity. We can help to connect the charity to wider LGA work, support members to seek wider local engagement, for example from Local Enterprise Partnerships, raise the profile and relevance of World Heritage Sites to local government nationally, share good practice more widely and advance shared advocacy messages through our strong relationships with Ministers, VisitEngland and English Heritage.	Raised awareness about how the LGA is supporting councils to make the most of their heritage assets and how the LGA might support the new Charity.



Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
<b>Cllr Sonja Crisp attended the Tourism Alliance on 9 December</b>		
To represent the LGA.	Cllr Crisp raised awareness about local government's vital role driving further growth from the visitor economy how the sector will benefit from the LGA's call to devolve funding and decisions on transport, skills and economic development to English cities and counties. Cllr Crisp also made the case for local government representation on the Tourism Council.	Raised awareness of the role that local government and English devolution can bring to improving the visitor economy.  Cllr Stephens has written to Helen Grant MP, Tourism Minister, to make the case for local government representation on the Tourism Council. The letter is attached at <b><u>Annex A</u></b> .
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens attended the British Destinations Meeting on 14 January</b>		
To represent the LGA.	The meeting was an opportunity for British Destination members to share policy updates. Cllr Stephens shared the LGA's key views as set out in our recent written evidence on the visitor economy to the Culture, Media, and Sport Committee.	Raised awareness amongst British Destination members about the LGA's key positions on the visitor economy.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens met Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, on 14 January</b>		
Introductory meeting.	Cllr Stephens and the Minister mainly discussed libraries. Cllr Stephens said it was encouraging that Mr. Sieghart's libraries report recognised the locally-led nature of the library service and sector led improvement. Both confirmed their support for the rollout of public Wi-Fi.	Cllr Stephens and the Minister agreed the governance arrangements and next steps for the Libraries Task Force.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens attended "Invigorating Our Libraries"- a panel discussion with William Sieghart" hosted by the Libraries All-Party Parliamentary Group on 14 January</b>		
To represent the LGA.	Lord Tope, Chair of the Libraries APPG, chaired the debate. Panel Members, including William Sieghart, Joanna Trollope OBE and Paul Martin, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Wandsworth, debated the state of public libraries and next steps for the Sieghart	Cllr Stephens reinforced that the Libraries Task Force will be sector led.

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
	Report. The debate recognised existing locally-led innovation.	
<b>Cllr Peter Golds attended “Parliament in the Making” at the House of Commons on 20 January 2015</b>		
To represent the LGA.	Mr Speaker, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP and the Lord Speaker, The Rt Hon the Baroness D’Souza hosted an event to launch “Parliament in the Making”, a year-long programme of activities to mark the Magna Carta 800 and De Montfort Parliament 750 anniversaries.	Raised awareness about how LGA is supporting councils to involve communities in marking the 2015 Anniversaries.
<b>Cllr Sir William Lawrence attended the launch of the Society of Chief Librarians and the Reading Agency’s Books on Prescription for Dementia on 26 January</b>		
To represent the LGA at the launch event.	Public libraries in England have launched the latest Reading Well Books on Prescription scheme to support people with dementia and their carers. This builds upon the first national Books on Prescription scheme in England launched in June 2013	Nearly every public library authority has signed-up to the scheme, and the LGA is sharing widely across local government.
<b>Cllr David Burbage gave oral evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on the visitor economy on 27 January</b>		
To give oral evidence to the Committee.	Cllr Burbage emphasised the vital leadership role of councils in creating the conditions for the visitor economy to thrive – from planning to infrastructure, investment in culture heritage and sport, and supporting local businesses.	Raised awareness amongst the Committee about how councils up and down the country are boosting local growth through the visitor economy.
<b>Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee on 28 January 2015</b>		
To represent the LGA.	Key organisations involved in the anniversary, including the 10 Charter Towns and Cities, shared their latest plans for marking the anniversary.	Greater awareness about the relevance of the anniversary for all councils and improved coordination between national and local plans.

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens met Jeff James, Keeper and Chief Executive, The National Archives on 2 February 2015</b>		
Introductory meeting.	Cllr Stephens and Mr. James discussed shared priorities including the impact of budget pressures on the capacity of local archive services, innovative delivery models, historic anniversaries, and the introduction of the 20 year rule. Cllr Stephens emphasised the importance of New Burdens Funding for councils covering the total costs of the shift from the 30 to 20 year rule.	Launched a new set of joint case studies sharing innovative approaches to local archive services. Agreed to continue seeking out and sharing good practice. Mr. James and colleagues are speaking at the CTS Conference.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens attended the LGA / ACE Library Seminar for portfolio holders on 5 February 2015</b>		
To introduce the event and set it within the context of the LGA's wider work.	Cllr Stephens updated portfolio holders on the Sieghart Libraries review and spoke about the vital role of political leadership in driving reform and making the connections that will enable public libraries to thrive in a challenging fiscal climate. The event included case studies from Devon County Council and Somerset County Council, with a focus on links to health.	Thirteen library portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change.
<b>Cllr Sonja Crisp attended the LGA/Sport England Leadership Essentials Programme on 11-12 February 2015</b>		
To introduce the event and set it within the context of the LGA's wider work.	A number of case studies and interactive sessions covered topics including links to public health, commissioning, working with National Governing Bodies and improving facilities.	Nine sport portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change of sport services.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens met Emma Chappel, Senior Production Services Manager, Creative England, on 16 February</b>		
To discuss how Creative England works with councils to support and promote	Cllr Stephens and Ms Chappell discussed how the creative industries can boost local economies. Cllr Stephens said that	Greater awareness about councils' leadership role driving economic growth and the importance of Creative

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
film, television, games and digital content production in England, outside London.	with councils having to find £2.6 billion of savings in 2015/16, we encourage Creative England to keep focusing on how the creative industries can boost local growth, and keep forging partnerships with councils who can make the connections to the wider economic landscape.	England funding reinforcing locally determined priorities.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens attended the launch of the Warwick Commission report “Enriching Britain: Culture, Creativity and Growth” on 17 February at the Shard.</b>		
To represent the LGA at the launch event.	The Warwick Commission report makes the case for continued public investment in culture and the creative economies. Commissioners including Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair Arts Council England, and Roly Keating, Chief Executive The British Library, attended the launch event.	Vikki Heywood, chairman of the Warwick Commission and RSA, is keen to discuss the recommendations with LGA.
<b>Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Stakeholder Network Event on 20 February 2015</b>		
To represent the LGA.	The six monthly stakeholder events bring together a range of organisations representing local government, central government, churches, academics and the legal profession, as well as Anniversary Committee Members to update on latest plans.	Greater awareness about how the LGA is supporting councils across the country to involve communities in the anniversary.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens spoke at VisitEngland / Isle of Wight visitor economy event 24 February</b>		
To represent the LGA	Cllr Stephens outlined how the LGA is supporting councils to drive local growth through the visitor economy.	Raised awareness about councils’ vital leadership role creating the conditions for the visitor economy to thrive.

**B – Forthcoming meetings at the time of writing**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
English Heritage event to outline the projects that English Heritage and Historic England will undertake after they split into two bodies	26 February	To be determined
Parliamentary launch of VisitEngland and Creative England report <i>Quantifying the Economic Value of Screen Tourism in England</i> .	10 March	Cllr Ian Stephens
RSA event to discuss the RSA's work on a new contract for arts and culture	11 March	To be determined
Tourism Alliance Parliamentary reception	16 March	Cllr Sonja Crisp
Local Authority World Heritage Forum	16 March	Cllr Phillips
Farrell Review 'One Year On' Parliamentary reception	17 March	To be determined
Magna Carta 800 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	22 April	Cllr Peter Golds
Tourism Alliance	19 May	Cllr Sonja Crisp

## **C - Chair's Report from Cllr Ian Stephens, to Councillors' Forum, 22 January 2015**

### Libraries

1. CTS Lead Members met William Sieghart, Chair of the Independent Libraries Panel commissioned by the Culture and Communities Departments, on 14 October. The meeting was an opportunity to reinforce the locally-led nature of libraries and the need to build upon existing innovation. It was very encouraging that the LGA's views were clearly referenced in Mr. Sieghart's report, which was published on 18 December. Mr. Sieghart also recommended setting up a local government led Task Force, which is jointly accountable to LGA elected Members and Ministers, to take forward the recommendations. I have exchanged letters with the Culture Minister to confirm that we will work together to set up the Task Force.

### Magna Carta and Culture, Tourism and Sport Board 2 December

2. Lord Bew, Co-Chair of the Speaker's Advisory Group on the 2015 Anniversaries hosted the Board at Portcullis House. This was an excellent opportunity to shape how Parliament will be working with councils to mark the Magna Carta 800 anniversary next year. The Board continues to give the highest priority to the anniversary with Cllr Peter Golds representing the LGA at the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Committee and Cllr Sparks, LGA Chair, updated councils on the latest plans in the 7 December edition of First magazine.
3. Members also agreed to work with the Environment, Housing, Economy and Transport Board to explore how to secure greater cross-Government recognition of the vital contribution of culture and the visitor economy to jobs and growth.

### Culture

4. I was very pleased to have my introductory meeting with Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chairman of Arts Council England (ACE), on 29 October. We reinforced our shared commitment to supporting effective local political leadership, seeking out and sharing the latest innovation and making a compelling case about how culture can help councils to achieve wider community outcomes.
5. I was also delighted to speak at the LGA / ACE Culture Leadership Essentials Programme 4 -5 November, which was attended by 14 culture portfolio holders. A further 15 portfolio holders attended the December programme, which was addressed by Cllr Flick Rea, Deputy Chair.
6. Cllr David Burbage, Deputy Chair, represented the LGA at the ACE-funded Cultural Commissioning Programme's roundtable on health and social care on 14 October. The round table was chaired by Lord Bichard and Sir Peter Bazalgette was among the attendees. Cllr Burbage raised awareness about the role of elected councillors in the commissioning process.

### Sport

7. I was very pleased to have my introductory meeting with Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, on 29 October. We reaffirmed shared priorities, including our joint Sport Leadership Essentials Programme, supporting links with health and securing greater recognition that investing in sport can save money upstream by preventing costly ill health.

### Heritage

8. I was delighted to speak at English Heritage's conference for Heritage Champions on 12 November. My speech was an opportunity to highlight how heritage can be embedded across a council's priorities and I was joined by colleagues who shared case studies from Norfolk and Cheshire West and Chester.

### CTS Conference

9. We are working very closely with Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council and Vice Chair of the CTS Board, to plan the annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 3 – 4 March in Durham. Of course, Magna Carta will be a key theme. Confirmed speakers include Sir Robert Worcester, Chairman the Magna Carta 800 Committee, Viscountess Penelope Cobham, Chairman of VisitEngland, Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair of English Heritage, Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, Steve Cram MBE, Chancellor of Sunderland University and former athlete, Ufi Ibrahim, Chief Executive of the British Hospitality Association and Dr Justin Varney, Public Health England.

### Upcoming Meetings

10. I am meeting Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, and attending the Libraries All Party Parliamentary Group on 14 January, and meeting Jeff James, Chief Executive and Keeper of The National Archives on 15 January, and will report back at the Forum.





Helen Grant, MP  
Minister for Sport, Tourism and Equalities  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

13 January 2015

Dear Minister

We are very pleased that Central Government and the tourism industry have joined forces to set up the new Tourism Council. The Council has real potential to raise the profile of the visitor economy and help drive even more growth.

The visitor economy is all about supporting and developing authentic and high quality destinations. Given this vital local dimension, we suggest that the impact of the Tourism Council could be further strengthened by local government representation.

Councils help to ensure the quality and development of the core infrastructure of places, such as transport facilities, superfast broadband and clean, safe and attractive public spaces. We invest £2.8 billion every year in culture and heritage and support major cultural, business and sporting events, all of which are key attractions for tourists. Local government also provides strategic leadership on the spatial planning, skills, regulation and infrastructure that underpins a thriving visitor economy.

In a rapidly changing economic landscape, councils connect-up Destination Management Organisations to Local Enterprise Partnerships, and the wider local economic landscape. Our views are set out in more detail in the enclosed submission to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's Inquiry into the visitor economy.

Councils' leadership is central to unlocking future growth. We are at your disposal and look forward to continuing to work with you and industry.

Yours sincerely

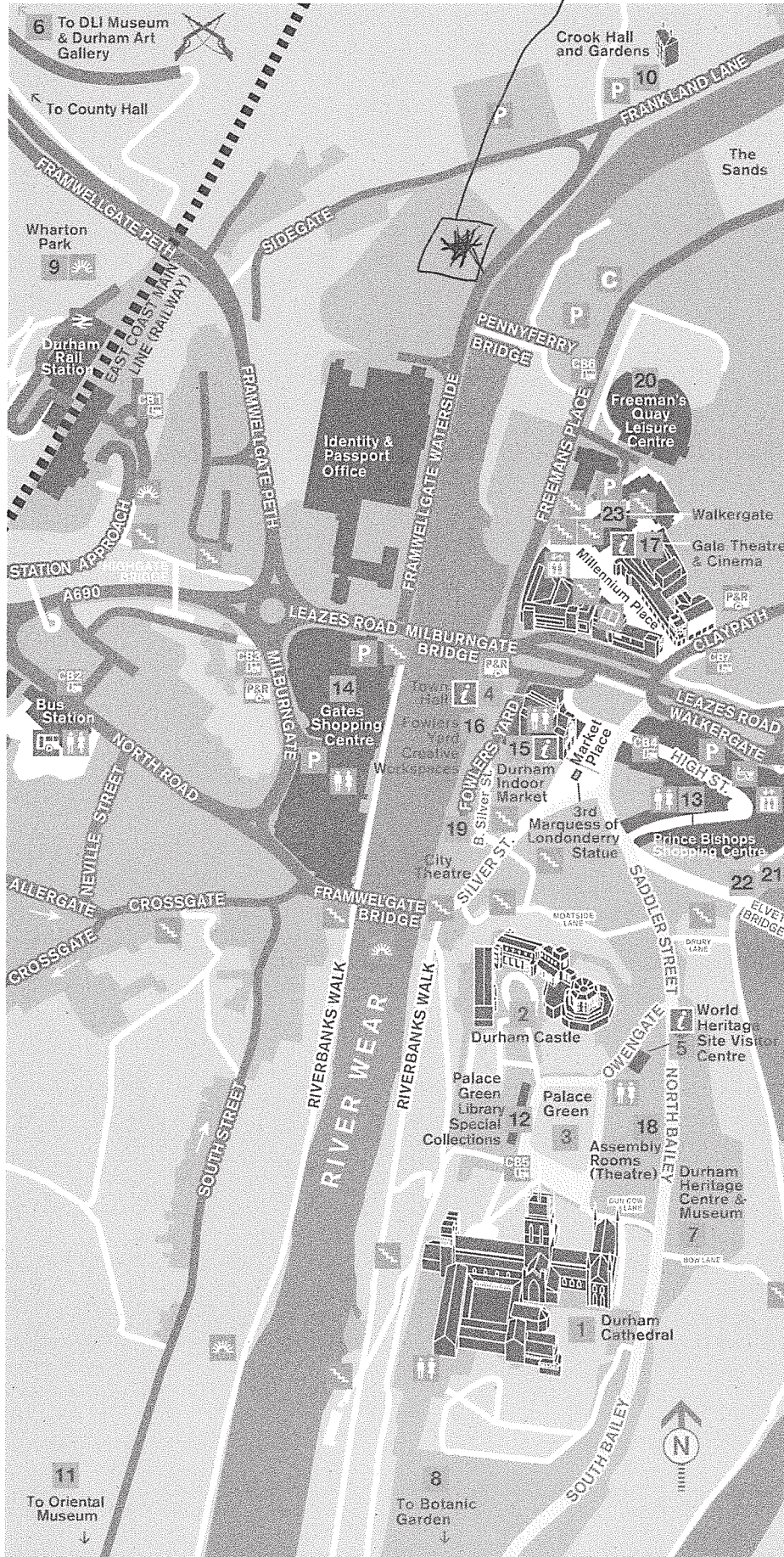


Cllr Ian Stephens  
Chair LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board



# City Centre Map

Agenda Annex  
RADISSON BLU  
HOTEL



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Please note that not all roads and settlements are included on the map.

