

# Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 23 September 2020  
1.00 pm

Online via Zoom

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

## **Culture, Tourism & Sport Board**

23 September 2020

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There will be a meeting of the Culture, Tourism & Sport Board at **1.00 pm on Wednesday, 23 September 2020**

### **Attendance:**

Member Services will read out a register at the start of the meeting.

### **Apologies:**

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

<b>Conservative:</b>	020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:Martha.Lauchlan@local.gov.uk">Martha.Lauchlan@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.group@lga.local.gov.uk">independent.group@lga.local.gov.uk</a>

### **LGA Contact:**

Thomas French, Member Services Officer.

### **Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of £9.00 per hour or £10.55 if receiving London living wage 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.

## Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Membership 2020/2021

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 7 )</b>	
Peter Golds (Deputy Chairman)	Tower Hamlets Council
Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
Matthew Lee	South Kesteven District Council
Cath Homer	Northumberland Council
Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Phil Seeva	Cornwall Council
Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
David Jeffels	North Yorkshire County Council
Colin Morgan	Daventry District Council
Karen Rampton	Borough of Poole
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Clare Coghill (Deputy Chair)	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Peter Kelly	Preston City Council
Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Muhammed Butt	Brent Council
Dhanisha Patel	Bridgend County Borough Council
Jane Black	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Guy Nicholson	Hackney London Borough Council
Danny Myers	City of York Council
Jacqueline Burnett	Luton Borough Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Chris Hogg	South Lakeland District Council
<b>Independent ( 2 )</b>	
Julian German (Vice-Chair)	Cornwall Council
Tom Hollis	Ashfield District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Natalie McVey	Malvern Hills District Council

## Agenda

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### **Culture, Tourism & Sport Board**

Wednesday 23 September 2020

1.00 pm

Online via Zoom.

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 9 December 2020, 1.00 pm

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

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**Title:** Culture, Tourism & Sport Board  
**Date:** Friday 12 June 2020  
**Venue:** Online Meeting, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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**1 Welcome, declarations of interest and apologies**

The chair welcomed members to the final board of 2019/20 and thanked members and LGA Officers for their work on the board.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting**

Members agreed the minutes from Friday, 12 June 2020.

**3 Sport England & Community Leisure UK**

Chris Perks, Sport England gave a presentation on the work Sport England have been doing to support to local government sport and services through funding and guidance. Chris Perks highlighted the support that will be offered to local government during the recovery phase of COVID-19.

Mark Tweedie, Community Leisure UK, gave a presentation on the work of Community Leisure UK has been actioning in support of local government. Mark Tweedie highlighted the COVID-19 - Support for Leisure/Cultural Trusts & their Partners themes:

1. Reaction
2. Reopening
3. Recovery
4. Reimagine - Strategy to *'Build back Better'*

Members made the following comments

- What is the financial settlement needed to support the leisure sector and how can local government ensure the argument is made to keep this sector going?
- Local Government needs to understand the issues that the leisure sector is facing, so we able to get through the recovery period and keep these services up and running
- Keeping culture and leisure services open is a public health concern, particularly within the BME communities. Well run services is an equality issues

and correct funding for these sectors needs addressing. Local Government needs to speak up and ensure these concerns are heard.

- The cost of opening leisure centres will soon outweigh the income generated, concerning social distancing. Councils cannot financially support those services on an ongoing basis in the long term.
- Our Leisure centres act as a community hub and drop in for people with all kinds of health issues. They are encouraged to use the sport facilities and access mental health services. These provides a wealth of opportunities which helps their social inclusion as well as healthy lifestyles.

Chris Peraks responded

- A lot of work is going into making services as robust as possible and guidance has been given to councils on an ongoing basis. Keeping communication open right now will be key, as we enter the recovery phase.
- There is a broad challenge of inequalities within the sector, and within the next four years there will be a challenge of investing appropriately to ensure these issues are addressed. A governance code will also ensure partners have standards to work to on the equality agenda.

Mark Tweedie responded

- Debt recovery will be vital for leisure services right across the rest of the financial year. Councils need to be having realistic discussions about what the local picture is with providers.
- Funding needs to be bespoke to ensure that communities that need access to our services can, during the recovery.

### **Decision**

Members noted the presentations.

## **4 Creative Industries guide**

Ian Leete introduced the report and detailed how the report was commissioned as a handbook to support councils in growing their local creative economy.

Patrick Towell and Richard Leeming from Golant gave a presentation on the handbook and how it is designed to help local authorities understand the sector and take them through a design process that will lead to positive results for their communities.

Members made the following comments

- How can we make the case for investing in creative industries during the COVID-19 recovery?
- Parts of the creative industries have been embracing online spaces during the lockdown. But outside of the lockdown, councils should be opening local

government spaces for the sector to put on events.

- This guide needs to have a new, Covid-19 theme running through it.
- Rural parts of the creative sector need support to grow, outside of urban areas.
- Town centres and business rates will struggle to develop to further support the creative industry.

**Decision**

Members noted the presentation, approved the progression to design phase and approved the delivery of a mini-conference webinar.

**5 Culture Tourism and Sport Workplan**

Ian Leete introduced the Culture Tourism and Sport Board Workplan to members, focusing on issues from the Covid-19 pandemic and the reopening and recovery period of the culture, sport and tourism sectors.

Members made the following comments

- Tourism and sport need to have an increased role within the workplan, to go along with the strong cultural aims.
- Sport will be a big part of the recovery, post covid-19 period, as it is as much of a public health issue as an economic driver.

**Decision**

Members noted the report and agreed the priorities in paragraph 14 of the report.

**6 End of Year Report**

Ian Leete provided an overview of the issues and work the board has overseen during the last year.

Members wished to thank officers for supporting the board throughout 2019/20.

**Decision**

Members noted the achievements against the board's priorities in 2019/20.

**7 Outside Bodies- feedback from Members**

Members gave their final reports from the Outside Bodies, summarising the important work that has been carried out in the Culture, Tourism and Sport Sectors.

**Decision**

Members noted the updates.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chair	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
Vice-Chair	Cllr Julian German	Cornwall Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Deputy-chair	Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Matthew Lee	South Kesteven District Council
	Cllr Cath Homer	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Phil Seeva	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Peter Kelly	Preston City Council
	Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Muhammed Butt	Brent Council
	Cllr Dhanisha Patel	Bridgend County Borough Council
	Cllr Jane Black	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Tom Hollis	Ashfield District Council

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board: Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose of report**

For information and approval.

### **Summary**

This report sets out how the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board operates and how the LGA works to support the objectives and work of its member authorities.

Members are asked to agree their Terms of Reference.

### **Recommendations**

- That the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board agrees it's Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**).
- Appoint to Outside Bodies, as directed by members (**Appendix B**)
- Consider the Equalities Advocate for the board (**Appendix B**)

### **Action**

As directed by Members.

**Contact officer:** Thomas French  
**Position:** Member Services Officer  
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## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board: Terms of Reference**

### **Background**

1. The LGA's boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the [LGA's Business Plan](#).
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the LGA's business plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.

### **2020/21 Terms of reference**

3. The CTS Terms of reference are set out at **Appendix A** for agreement and noting respectively.

## **Appendix A**

### **Remit**

The purpose of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board is to engage with and develop a thorough understanding of the issues affecting culture, tourism and sport services, including how legislation does or could affect councils and their communities. The Board is also responsible for maintaining relationships with relevant stakeholders, and identifying support offers or policy campaigns to assist councils with their service delivery. The Board will provide strategic oversight of all the LGA's policy and improvement activity in relation to libraries, the visitor economy, sport and physical activity, the arts, museums, public parks, and heritage, in line with wider LGA priorities.

### **Objectives**

The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board has the following objectives:

- Champion the role that cultural, sporting, tourism and heritage services play in making places where people want to live, visit and work.
- Support portfolio holders and officers to lead transformational change of cultural, tourism and sport services and seize the opportunities presented by wider public sector reform, including devolution and the government's Industrial Strategy.
- Ensure that the LGA is well positioned to advance our arguments on culture, tourism and sport nationally to government and others and that our advocacy is shaped by robust intelligence from councils.
- Support other LGA Boards to recognise how culture, tourism and sport helps to achieve their priorities
- Contribute to wider LGA work any risks or opportunities that may arise for the culture, tourism and sport sectors from leaving the European Union and act on them as required.
- Ensure that the Board's programme of events continues to give national profile to the innovation that councils are leading and influences national policy and debate through giving a platform to leading people from the sector.

### **Operational accountabilities**

The Board will seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities (through forums, policy groupings, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement); essentially operating as the centre of a network connecting to all councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector.

The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the priorities of councils are fed into the business planning process.

- Developing and overseeing a work programme to deliver their brief, covering lobbying, campaigns, research, improvement support and events and linking with other boards where appropriate.
- Sharing good practice and ideas to stimulate innovation and improvement.
- Representing and lobbying on behalf of the LGA, including making public statements on its areas of responsibility.
- Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.
- Involving representatives from councils in its work, through task groups, Commissions, SIGs, regional networks and mechanisms.
- Commissioning LGA officers and resources, where appropriate, to respond to specific issues referred to the Board by one or more member councils or groupings of councils.

The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board may:

- Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with the Political Conventions.
- Appoint member champions and spokespersons from the Board to lead on key issues.

### **Work Programme**

The Board to set its own work programme which is agreed at the start of each meeting cycle in early Autumn.

### **Quorum**

One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least two political groups represented on the body are present.

### **Political Composition**

The composition by political party is recalculated each year and reflects the political proportionality of the wider group of councils from which their membership is drawn. The current composition is:

Conservative group: 7  
Labour group: 7  
Liberal Democrat group: 2  
Independent group: 2

Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

**Frequency per year**

Meetings to be five times per annum.

**Reporting Accountabilities**

The LGA Executive Advisory Board provides oversight of the Board. The Board may report periodically to the LGA Executive Advisory Board as required, and will submit an annual report to the LGA Executive Advisory Board's July meeting.

## **Appendix B**

### **Outside Bodies**

1. The Following Outside Bodies need appointing to:
  - 1.1. Tourism Alliance
  - 1.2. London Marathon Charitable Trust
  - 1.3. Theatre Champion
  - 1.4. LGA coastal SIG
  - 1.5. Social Prescribing

### **Equalities Advocate**

2. The Executive Advisory Board have asked each Board to identify a member to be an Equalities Advocate within each Board to raise the profile of any equalities issues within that Board's workstream. The advocates will work together to coordinate the messaging across the organisation and to report back to the Executive Advisory Board. Due to this cross-board work the decision has been made that these appointments should be politically balanced and therefore LGA Group Offices will be making appointments for each board over the next few weeks.

## **Culture Tourism and Sport Workplan 2020/21**

### **Purpose of report**

For information, discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This paper outlines the Board's workplan in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, as agreed at the June 2020 Board. It also updates the Board on progress since June.

### **Recommendations**

Board members are asked to review the workplan, note progress, and identify any changed priorities. Any proposed changes will have resourcing implications and the Board will also need to identify what work is deprioritised.

### **Action**

Officers will allocate time and resources as directed.

**Contact officer:** Ian Leete  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
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## **Culture Tourism and Sport Workplan**

### **Background**

1. Covid-19 and the related recovery period will impact on priorities for the culture, tourism and sport sectors for a significant period.
2. Funding and financial viability is expected to be the main concern for both council services, and the stakeholders they rely on to provide a leisure and tourism offer within their communities.
3. Experience over the past ten years suggests that discretionary services are the forefront of budget reductions when budgets are constrained. For instance, a number of parks services saw budgets reduced to zero over the past few years. All culture, tourism and leisure services are discretionary, with the exception of providing a comprehensive library service, and some aspects of archives services.
4. While services like parks and online cultural provision have assumed a very visible and important profile during the period of lockdown, it is unclear that this will translate to an increased recognition of the need to fund them.
5. If social distancing remains in place, or there are repeated occurrences of Covid-19 outbreaks, then many leisure facilities and tourism destinations will be unable to operate at levels that make them financially viable.
6. For council services, such as libraries and leisure centres, this will potentially result in asset consolidation, with lower reach or ageing facilities closed and disposed of. There will also be a need for transformation of service approach. For instance, library services may continue their shift online. However, it is clear this would also come at a cost of some of the benefits of physical assets, such as tackling loneliness.
7. Current economic projections suggest a recession is likely, although projections differ on the extent and duration. In this instance, there will be a clear role for councils' cultural and leisure provision in supporting mental wellbeing and skills retraining.
8. Services with a clear offer in terms of economic regeneration and growth, skills retraining, and supporting mental health will be of more value and sustainable during the expected financially constrained period.
9. In this context, the previous work of the Board means we are well placed to support local and central government to understand the contribution of CTS sectors, having recently published:

- 9.1. [Cultural strategy in a box](#) – outlining how to take a strategic approach to cultural provision and the cultural ecology,
  - 9.2. [Culture-led regeneration](#) – setting out the economic contribution and social benefits from taking a cultural approach to regeneration,
  - 9.3. [Revitalising town centres](#) – including the contribution of culture and leisure to reviving town centres. This guide is being refreshed in light of Covid-19 and will include additional elements related to creative shared spaces and studios, and cultural innovation hubs,
  - 9.4. [Making the most of your museums](#) – outlining how museums can contribute to corporate objectives, and become more creative and commercial.
  - 9.5. [Creative industries guide](#) – creative industries are expected to be one of the fastest industries to recover post-Covid, and this guide helps councils understand how they can use existing levers to help them grow.
10. The Board has also developed a Social prescribing guide. The publication of this guide was planned for April but has been postponed as most service referrals have ceased during lockdown. However, new practice has also emerged, and we will incorporate this prior to publication, which is now likely to be in the Autumn or Spring 2021, depending on the timeline for most of the best practice activities being able to resume.
11. Over the past six months, the team has also provided support to the sector in the form of:
- 11.1. [Advice note on supporting leisure providers](#) alongside parliamentary and media lobbying, and commissioning Local Partnerships to provide contract support to councils who commission with one of four providers – over 40 councils are benefiting from this work,
  - 11.2. [Guidance on parks management during the Covid-19 period](#),
  - 11.3. [Response to DCMS select committee into the impact of Covid-19 on DCMS sectors](#),
  - 11.4. [Developed a think piece on the future of CTS services for First magazine](#),
  - 11.5. Worked with local government partners and Sport England to produce a [thinkpiece on the future of public leisure provision](#),
  - 11.6. Developed a [joint statement with ACE and local government partners on how we will work together during Covid-19](#),

- 11.7. Written to the Secretary of State for DCMS about the support needed for the cultural and creative sector,
  - 11.8. Conducted 30 interviews with councils published summary [findings about the financial impact of Covid-19 on their cultural, tourism and leisure provision](#),
  - 11.9. Collated and published [innovative practice developed by CTS services](#) during lockdown,
  - 11.10. Held over 10 webinars for councillors and officers on all aspects of CTS, with a further 16 planned,
  - 11.11. [Represented councils in the media](#), particularly around parks provision,
  - 11.12. Negotiated an extension to our Sport England improvement contract worth £279,120,
  - 11.13. [Briefed on a museums debate in Parliament](#),
  - 11.14. Contributed to DCMS working groups that are drawing up reopening guidance for libraries, museums, and sport.
12. Our contributions will be targeted at the areas where the LGA can make the biggest difference, which are:
- 12.1. Lobbying parliamentarians and influencing national budgets and policy, including through the media,
  - 12.2. Convening officers and councillors to develop thinking and share best practice about service developments and contributions,
  - 12.3. Identifying trends within local government and our CTS partners,
  - 12.4. Targeted influence and support at issues that affect a large number of authorities, defined as one third of councils and above.

### **Team responsibilities**

13. Our key priorities are:
- 13.1. Build the evidence base and identify immediate common issues, gaps in support, and advice needs

13.2. Work with partners to communicate national advice and, where appropriate, develop advice with specialist bodies for situations like facility closure,

13.3. Feed in issues to colleagues within the LGA, including:

13.3.1. Core briefing for ministerial meetings

13.3.2. Issues log

13.3.3. Programme Management Team

13.3.4. CEX/Leaders bulletins

13.4. Feed up information to DCMS (CTS Team), MHCLG and HMT (via LGA programme team) about key issues affecting CTS sectors and possible forms of solution/support.

14. Our core responsibilities will be:

14.1. Sonika Sidhu – strategic oversight and liaison with LGA senior team

14.2. Ian Leete – strategic coordination and stakeholder management; tourism policy

14.3. Lauren Lucas/Samantha Ramanah – developing the evidence base and mapping; culture policy

14.4. Samantha Ramanah/Lauren Lucas – coordinating with funders and identifying funding solutions; sport and physical activity policy, including parks

14.5. Maria Collinge – delivering our improvement offer; communications with the sector

14.6. Nathan Parton – press and media

14.7. Laura Johnson – public affairs and parliamentary business.

### **Sector issues and agreed CTS response**

15. **Service adaptation** – services have already changed some of their offer online in response to Covid-19. However, it is expected that there will also be changes to consumer behaviour as lockdown ends, including a reluctance in some audiences to attend formerly crowded venues, such as leisure centres and theatres. Feedback from the sector is that leisure provision is the largest area that will need to adapt, and need support to do so.

16. **Action 1** – Develop a vision for the future of leisure provision, reflecting changed patterns of consumer behaviour and demand, and connections to the climate change, active travel, and obesity agendas. Contribute to thinking by specialist sector bodies like

Libraries Connected, CLOA, and Museums Association about the direction of their sectors, including communicating and securing input from senior decision makers to their thinking. We will continue our work with Local Partnerships to provide collective support on leisure contracts. £10 000.

17. **Progress on Action 1** – Scoping work is being undertaken in discussion with partners, and a conference on the future of public leisure is being planned for 20 October. Officers have included proposals for connecting leisure provision with active travel and climate change in the LGA's Comprehensive Spending Review submission. Officers have commissioned and conducted a further 10 interviews with councils on progress made with reopening leisure centres, and the divergence between the pre- and post-covid offer.
18. **Action 2** – Extend and enhance our webinar and online events offer to facilitate sharing of ideas and practice between councils, and provide support for officers and councillors as they develop local visions for their provision. This will complement the Sport England Improvement Contract. £5 000.
19. **Progress on Action 2** – A webinar on the role of cultural services in skills development and retraining took place on 18 September. The future of public leisure conference (See para. 17) is being developed, and we are in discussion on a football-focussed event, connected to a Government grant fund, with the Football Foundation. Arts Council England have confirmed funding for a series of improvement events on culture and libraries, and these are being developed, and will be covered in the accompanying improvement paper.
20. **Provider and partner failure** – a number of leisure providers are on the verge of failure. In these instances, councils will in many cases be responsible for the assets and may have to TUPE staff over. Some key organisations, such as theatres, may also cease trading and councils will need to consider options for the assets. There is existing, but localised, expertise in bringing assets and services back in house. Some councils may also consider community transfers as ways to retain a facility for community use where it is no longer appropriate or the most financially effective way for the council to provide the service.
21. **Action 3** - Work with the LGA commissioning and procurement team to either revise existing guidance on bringing assets back in house, developed following the collapse of Carillion, or develop new guidance aimed at the cultural and sporting sectors. This will include linkages with the LGA's guidance on community assets, which will also be reviewed to meet a post-Covid context. £10 000.
22. **Progress on Action 3** – Scoping discussions are underway with partners, with officers interviewing councils who have experience of this scenario. The final product is expected to now take the form of a series of web-based resources launched over a period of time,

with the first product being an immediate checklist to work through when notification of closure is received from the provider.

23. **Digital skills** – services have developed a strong online offer during the period of lockdown, including streaming rhymetimes, online classes and clubs, and podcasting. As we move towards mainstreaming this work, there is a need to develop greater consistency and provide training support for the officers who are delivering this.
24. **Action 4** – work with the LGA’s improvement team to develop a digital offer that is relevant to culture, tourism and sport officers, making use of ACE’s digital champions network. Additionally, work with professional bodies to support their delivery of continuous professional development and sector-specific skills strategies.
25. **Progress on Action 4** – This work has not yet begun.
26. **Low recognition and understanding by national government** – while there has been constructive engagement on the libraries, arts and culture parts of DCMS, including ministerial level, there has been very limited or no engagement on the sport and visitor economy sides. Similarly, local government has not yet been called to give evidence to the DCMS select committee, although we are pursuing this. This has led to delays in government recognising critical threats to local government services, and limiting councils’ ability to maximise their contribution to reopening and recovery, which they should be leading.
27. **Action 5** – work with public affairs and media colleagues to further develop and deliver the parliamentary and media engagement work, and respond to emerging opportunities such as future debates and select committee inquiries.
28. **Progress on Action 6** – We continue to represent the LGA on working groups on libraries, museums, and sport; and on the Ministerial Economic Recovery Group and associated rural and visitor economy sub-group. We have worked with MPs and Peers to submit parliamentary questions on leisure provision, and have submitted evidence to the DCMS select committee, Treasury committee enquiry into the impact of Covid. We have also briefed on debates on [supporting seaside resorts cope with increased domestic visitors](#), and [support for the tourism industry post Covid-19](#).
29. Since the last Board, we have also issued press responses on [the government’s arts funding announcement](#), [the reopening of gyms and leisure centres](#), [the importance of investing in leisure to achieve obesity goals](#), [the DCMS select committee inquiry into the impact of Covid-19 on DCMS sectors](#) (which included a recommendation that Government urgently provide funding to council leisure centres), [the launch of this year’s Keep Britain Tidy campaign](#), [additional emergency funding for culture](#), and [the role that the creative industries can play in economic recovery](#).

### **Implications for Wales**

30. We are liaising with cross border partners about the implications for Wales. While many of the issues are the same, the Welsh Assembly have different structures in place and are offering different support packages. The WLGA and Culture and Leisure Officers Wales are best placed to provide immediate responses on this, and the LGA will provide targeted support where needed.

### **Financial Implications**

31. The CTS Board has fully committed the £40 000 it is allocated to spend on policy and/or improvement work between April 2020 and March 2021.

32. All budgeted items are on track and expected to be delivered within budget.

### **Next steps**

33. Officers will continue to deliver on the workplan and commission work as directed by the Board.

34. The situation regarding Covid-19, and the landscape of surviving culture, tourism and sport organisations, are continuously shifting. We therefore propose that this workplan is reviewed at each future board, to ensure it is responding effectively to the latest needs and developments.

## **LGA Improvement Activity 2020/21**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

The LGA culture, tourism and sport team have been running improvement activity for both officers and councillors, through existing partnerships with Sport England and Arts Council England (ACE) for a number of years.

Contracts have now been awarded from both Sport England and ACE to deliver a series of virtual online improvement activity between September 2020 and March 2021. This report updates members about the plans for improvement activity which is scheduled to take place across both contracts.

### **Recommendation**

That the Board note the report.

### **Action/s**

Officers will work with Sport England and Arts Council England to co-design and deliver Improvement activity until March 2021.

**Contact officer:** Maria Collinge  
**Position:** Project Support Officer  
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## **LGA Improvement Activity 2020/21**

### **Background**

1. In partnership with Sport England and Arts Council England (ACE), the LGA has been delivering improvement activity to support the professional development and leadership skills of both officers and councillors for a number of years, through its flagship Leadership Essentials programme
2. Throughout the crisis, Sport England has continued to fund the LGA to deliver online improvement activity for officer alumni of the flagship Leadership Essentials programme, with a total of 22 events taking place between April and September. The purpose was to identify the challenges of COVID-19, learn from delegates about what they were experiencing, whilst developing leadership skills to act as leaders of place.
3. The challenges and responses discussed are being built into a new refreshed LGA/Sport England programme to gear up a new Leadership Essentials officer cohort to be able to deal with these issues.
4. During COVID-19, our regular work with ACE has been a paused during the lockdown period as ACE repurposed all available funding to their emergency response package. However, they have since made available £40,000 in recognition of the value of the LGA's improvement work with local government.
5. In partnership with ACE, the LGA is keen to provide support to its member councils by developing the knowledge and skills of both councillors and officers to champion cultural activity in their local areas during a period of recovery, when leadership is needed most. This funding will be used to deliver improvement activity until March 2021.
6. Due to current Government regulations and guidelines, all improvement activity across both Sport England and ACE contracts are scheduled to take place virtually between September 2020 and March 2021.

### **Issues**

#### Sport and physical activity:

7. Through engagement with officers, Sport England and the LGA have identified a series of key challenges facing the sport and leisure sector. In brief these include:

- 7.1. The extent to which entrenched health inequalities affect communities from more deprived backgrounds and BAME groups, and the impact social distancing will have for people with accessibility issues.
- 7.2. A new financial operating environment – lockdown measures have had and will continue to have a huge financial impact on leisure trusts; risking the closure of many leisure facilities. Councils are also facing unprecedented funding challenges as they face a financial gap of £11bn. The collapse of leisure trusts will result in councils having to bring services back in house under crisis conditions. The challenging financial situation facing councils also means they will have to make tough decisions about which services are prioritised going forward, which may lead to cuts to discretionary services.
- 7.3. There is an increased awareness and sentiment from the public and Government around the importance of exercise which has been backed by strong messages from the Government and a commitment to tackling obesity. This has created an opportunity to mainstream and embed sport and physical activity, and the contribution it plays to wider council service areas and corporate agendas. It is understood that doing so will change the perception of sport and physical activity and highlight its potential to deliver transformational change, and reframe its contribution to health inequalities, climate change, obesity, inactivity and burdens on health and social care.

#### Culture and libraries

8. The LGA, in partnership with ACE, have identified a series of needs within the culture and libraries sector. In brief, these include the fact that:
  - 8.1. Libraries have innovated rapidly in response to COVID-19 from the start of lockdown and continue to do so as many are in the process of reopening. It is important that the learning from this innovation is captured to support library services during a period of recovery.
  - 8.2. COVID-19 has highlighted the valuable role that libraries play in relation to a wide range of social outcomes, including public health, education, skills and economic renewal. However, the anticipated financial pressures on local authorities in a post COVID-19 world mean library services may face a challenging future in the next few years. It is therefore vital that councillors develop their skills and knowledge to articulate the significant contribution that library services make to communities and council objectives.

8.3. Due to the uncertainty that COVID-19 has presented to the future of library services, there is an identified need to support councils to reflect on their learning to date from managing the COVID-19 crisis and support their emerging planning for recovery and renewal. Providing support to councils to help them refine their plans in a period of recovery and uncertainty is critical.

8.4. With COVID-19 presenting a series of challenges to the local cultural offer and leisure services, it is critical to re-engage alumni throughout a period of recovery to build their leadership skills to address particular local challenges, and to develop leadership strategies which enable them to be effective leaders of place.

### **Planned activity**

#### Sport England

9. The LGA is currently in discussion with Sport England around plans for improvement activity, scheduled to take place from October. With a focus on supporting officers to navigate a COVID-19 context, the programme has been re-shaped to explore a number of key challenges surrounding health inequalities, financial uncertainty, leisure facilities, whilst also exploring the opportunities COVID-19 has created to embed sport and physical activity in wider council service areas and corporate agendas (climate change, obesity, inactivity, burdens on health and social care).

10. The aim of the programme will be divided into three key stages of the leadership journey:

10.1. Understanding context

10.2. Developing collaborative leadership skills and behaviours to work in a COVID-19 context

10.3. Building knowledge and skills to influence and change the system to positively change lives

11. The programme will consist of up to five sessions. Each of the five sessions will be delivered virtually across a two week period.

#### Arts Council England: 2020/21

12. The LGA have been awarded a grant of £40,000 to deliver a series of online activity between September 2020 and March 2021.

13. Based on discussions with ACE, £30,000 has been allocated to libraries and £10,000 allocated to culture.

14. The overall aim of the programme is to support both officers and councillors to learn from the challenges of COVID-19, and support delegates to think through how innovation can be applied to the upcoming period of recovery.
15. The programme has been shaped as follows:
  - 15.1.2 x library best practice seminars (September 2020)
  - 15.2.3 x library advocacy workshops (October – December 2020)
  - 15.3.3 x library recovery and renewal panels (January – March 2021)
  - 15.4.4 x leadership essentials (October 2020 – January 2021)
16. As part of the 2019/20 contract, two councils (Oxfordshire and Nottinghamshire) were scheduled to have peer challenges during Spring/Summer 2020, which are currently on hold due to COVID-19 pandemic. These councils are:
  - 16.1. Nottinghamshire - Library Peer Challenge – March 2020
  - 16.2. Oxfordshire – Culture Peer Challenge – June 2020
  - 16.3. The LGA have offered to resume the conversation with Nottinghamshire and Oxfordshire about their planned peer challenges, and offer them the option of a remote peer challenge.

### **Financial Implications**

17. The next phase of sport and physical activity improvement activity is expected to cost £105,000, funded by Sport England, against the contract's total value of £263,550.
18. Activity for libraries and culture is totalling a cost of £40,000 through a grant fund awarded by ACE.

### **Next steps**

19. The LGA are set to deliver a programme of online activity from October onwards to support officers and councillors working within the culture and sport sectors until March 2021.

20. Looking forward, it would be helpful to understand from board members what knowledge and skills councillors will require to better support them through a period of recovery and renewal so this can be fed into discussions and developments with Sport England.
  
21. Work needs to be done to address the underrepresentation of BAME communities in leadership positions in both the culture and sport sector. Both programme areas will need to build this into their design, communication and delivery moving forward.

## **LGA Culture and Tourism Conference 2021**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction

### **Summary**

This report highlights issues associated with the planning and delivery of the Culture and Tourism conference 2021 in the context of COVID-19. Given the uncertainty surrounding the immediate future of in-person events, and our recent success in reaching new audiences via online events, it is suggested that the conference is delivered virtually using one of several models outlined below. Board members are invited to discuss potential conference themes and different ways of delivering the event and offer a steer on their preferred approach.

### **Recommendations**

In order to reduce uncertainty about the event and to maximise attendance, our recommendation is that next year's Culture and Tourism conference is held remotely in March 2021. The Board is invited to discuss and offer direction on the format and theme of the event.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as directed.

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## **LGA Culture and Tourism Conference 2021**

### **Background**

1. The LGA's Culture and Tourism Conference 2020, took place just before lockdown on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March in Portsmouth. The event had a theme of 'making the most of your heritage' and received positive feedback from participants. It attracted over 70 delegates over the course of two days and featured study trips to heritage sites across the city.
2. The conference has focused on culture and tourism in recent years on the basis that we hold separate sport conferences, often in partnership with Sport England. We are currently planning two such virtual events in 2020/21. We would welcome the Board's views on whether the current approach is the correct one, or whether the 2021 CTS virtual conference should also incorporate sport and leisure.
3. As a result of COVID-19, the future of in-person events is uncertain. In response, the LGA has re-evaluated its approach to events and adapted its delivery accordingly, developing a full programme of virtual activity.
4. Some of the work delivered by the CTS team includes the following:
  - 4.1. A full programme of webinars and workshops for Sport England as part of our improvement offer. We have so far delivered 22 events as part of this programme.
  - 4.2. A series of six webinars focusing on the immediate impact of COVID-19 on culture and tourism, including two events specifically on coastal tourism.
  - 4.3. A conference on rethinking the future of sport and leisure. This was run as a webinar, featuring speakers from Sport England and attracted **293 attendees**.
  - 4.4. A launch event for our publication on the creative economy, featuring speakers from the Creative Industries Federation, Golant Innovation/the Audience Agency, Kent County Council and Leeds City Council. The event attracted **231 attendees**.
5. These virtual events have received high levels of positive feedback and have allowed us to reach far greater audiences than would ordinarily be the case with their in-person equivalents.
6. Hosting a physical event in March would be potentially challenging for most local authorities, even if the current restrictions are lifted. We have received notification from one of the potential hosts of next year's event that they will no longer be able to provide space as a result of the pandemic. Many members of culture and leisure staff and councillors may find it more difficult to travel, either as a result of barriers to using public transport or due to restrictions in travel budgets.

7. Bearing in mind these considerations, in order to reduce uncertainty about the event and to maximise attendance our recommendation is that next year's Culture and Tourism conference is held remotely.

### **Options for delivery models**

8. There are various options for delivering a virtual conference of this kind. None reproduce the intangible networking benefits of a physical event, but potentially offer delegates the opportunity to hear from a wider range of speakers.

8.1. *Reproducing the agenda of a traditional Culture and Tourism Conference in digital format.* The event would take place over a single day, or day and a half and feature a series of presentations, workshops and panel sessions on topics addressing the theme of the event. To avoid video-conferencing fatigue, we would recommend an absolute maximum of three sessions (two webinars and a workshop) in a day with reasonable gaps in between. One session would either comprise:

8.1.1. **Webinar event.** Three presentations, followed by a panel discussion lasting up to two hours in total.

8.1.2. **Workshop.** One presentation (or potentially a virtual tour of a facility) from a council delivering against a topic highlighted by the webinars, followed by discussion with a smaller group/breakout groups lasting up to one hour.

This format has the advantage of reproducing most faithfully the feel of a traditional event and could be accompanied by social media activity to reproduce some element of the 'buzz'; however, in the current climate some officers and councillors may find it hard to commit to a full day event.

8.2. *Spreading the conference out over the course of a week.* In this format, we would cover the same material, but over a longer period of time. We would suggest three **webinar events** over the course of the week, each lasting one and a half hours, followed by a short break and a **workshop** of one hour, focusing on a best practice example. This would reduce the likelihood of video-conferencing fatigue, but may also be likely to result in different audiences attending each of the events.

8.3. *Holding the conference as a series of once weekly events over the course of the month.* This would follow the format of 8.2, but take place over a month, rather than a week. This would potentially provide a more manageable format for busy officers or councillors who want to attend all the sessions, but may be unable to commit to a full day or the same amount of time within the space of a week. However, it would not provide the same sense of a conference and could be more difficult to brand as such.

### Options for conference theme

9. As noted earlier, the annual conference has traditionally focused on Culture and Tourism, with separate events held on the sport and leisure side of the portfolio. We are currently planning two sports conferences in 2020/21, one focusing on public leisure and another on football in partnership with the Football Association. We would welcome a steer from the Board as to the topics included in this year's annual conference.
  
10. We would recommend that the theme of the conference links directly to the impact of and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The themes below are offered as a framework for Board discussion.
  - 10.1. *Culture, tourism (and sport) and sustainable economic recovery.* This theme would bring together some of our recent work on creative regeneration, Cultural Strategy in a Box and the creative economy. Topics within this theme could include:
    - 10.1.1. How can culture/leisure support the levelling up agenda?
    - 10.1.2. How can councils support the growth of the creative economy (following on from our recent publication)?
    - 10.1.3. What next for cultural regeneration?
    - 10.1.4. What does the visitor economy need in order to recover?
  - 10.2. *Culture and health.* Topics within the theme could include:
    - 10.2.1. How can culture support social prescribing (linked to our upcoming report on this subject)?
    - 10.2.2. Learning from best practice. Reflections on how cultural and leisure activities and green space supported mental and physical wellbeing during lockdown.
    - 10.2.3. What is the role of the cultural sector in supporting the recovery of better mental health outcomes in the aftermath of COVID-19?
  - 10.3. *Supporting our cultural infrastructure.* The conference could be used to explicitly build a cross local government manifesto or campaign on the value of culture, with sessions focusing on the different contribution culture can make to relevant policy outcomes. For example:
    - 10.3.1. Culture and public health
    - 10.3.2. Culture and economic recovery

10.3.3. Culture and education/skills

**Financial Implications**

11. Virtual events have the advantage of being considerably cheaper to run than their physical equivalent and we would anticipate costs associated with the conference to be minimal.

**Next steps**

12. The Board is invited to discuss the options above and offer a steer on the proposed format and theme of the 2021 conference.



## **LGA Comprehensive Spending Review Submission**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

The LGA has been developing a submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review. This paper outlines the proposed elements relating to the Culture Tourism and Sport Board's remit, which have been developed from the Board's previous asks, and conversations with members and stakeholders.

### **Recommendation**

That the Board note the report.

### **Action**

The full submission will be sent to Government by 24th September 2020.

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## **LGA Comprehensive Spending Review Submission**

### **Background**

1. The review will set UK Government departments' resource budgets for the years 2021/22 to 2023/24 and capital budgets for the years 2021/22 until 2024/25, and devolved administrations' block grants for the same period.
2. The Chancellor has stated that the CSR will prioritise:
  - 2.1. strengthening the UK's economic recovery from COVID-19 by prioritising jobs and skills
  - 2.2. levelling up economic opportunity across all nations and regions of the country by investing in infrastructure, innovation and people – thus closing the gap with our competitors by spreading opportunity, maximising productivity and improving the value add of each hour worked
  - 2.3. improving outcomes in public services, including supporting the NHS and taking steps to cut crime and ensure every young person receives a superb education
  - 2.4. making the UK a scientific superpower, including leading in the development of technologies that will support the government's ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050
  - 2.5. strengthening the UK's place in the world
  - 2.6. improving the management and delivery of our commitments, ensuring that all departments have the appropriate structures and processes in place to deliver their outcomes and commitments on time and within budget.
3. Submissions must be received by 24 September 2020.

### **Culture Tourism and Sport content**

#### **Sport and physical activity**

4. The Government's manifesto commitments to invest in the future of sports facilities is a positive step to ensuring that our communities can be active and investing in their future wellbeing. Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of many chronic conditions, including coronary heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions.

5. Sport England has commissioned research into the costs of physical inactivity, which showed that NHS providers in England spent more than £900 million in 2009/10 treating people with diseases that could be prevented if more people were physically active.<sup>1</sup> This country's sporting infrastructure is ageing, with Sport England estimating that 63 per cent of main sports halls and 60 per cent of swimming pools are past their expected lifespans or overdue refurbishment.<sup>2</sup>
6. This does not mean replacing like for like, but working with communities to design the leisure centres, sports pitches, parks and other infrastructure that will best meet their needs and enable them to build activity into their lives. This could also mean realising the potential for new facilities to revitalise the high street, be co-located with other facilities to form wellbeing or community hubs, and ensuring they meet the latest environmental standards for energy efficiency. Sport England has been providing effective support and investment in infrastructure, but their funds are oversubscribed with 1054 bids submitted to a grant fund that could only make 151 grants. Had Sport England been able to fund those bids, it would have unlocked match funding worth at least £540 million from councils and partners. During its operation, the fund typically achieved a 30 per cent reduction in capital build cost and a 40 per cent improvement in efficiency averaging £500,000 per annum per facility.
7. We are calling for a **strategic investment of £500 million for councils to invest in leisure facilities, pitches, and parks** to reduce obesity; ensure a healthier, more active nation in the future; reduce our carbon footprint; and prepare our communities for the inspiration provided by the Commonwealth Games.

### **Parks and green spaces**

8. The Government have already committed to spending £2 billion in this parliament on cycling and walking. During our lockdown period, many people used their hour of exercise to enjoy our public parks and green spaces, with Sport England data showing 30% of people being more active during this time. As we invest the £2 billion in active travel, we must ensure that our parks and green spaces are fully connected to these plans and invested in. Building on the success of the Green Chain Walk and Thames path in London, when connected up, these spaces can make a powerful contribution to tackling obesity and getting more people active.
9. The coronavirus pandemic has hit those from more deprived backgrounds and the black, Asian and minority ethnic community hardest, whether that be through deaths, digital poverty or a lack of accessibility to parks, private gardens and green spaces to exercise.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/research/benefits-of-sport/health-and-benefits-of-sport/engaginginactive-people/>

<sup>2</sup> Based on figures taken from a January 2020 datacut of Sport England's Active Places Power.

Research by Public Health England<sup>3</sup> has revealed that the most vulnerable do not have equal access to green space. This needs to be addressed. Existing parks have also been badly affected by the loss of income during the pandemic. Figures produced by the Government's Parks Action Group that in 2010 £1.3B was being spent on English local authority Parks of which £880m was from budgetary funding and £420m was from commercial income, fees and charges. By financial year 2016/17 only £1.2B (26% cut unadjusted for inflation or 32% cut adjusted and it has worsened since) was being spent collectively on parks of which £610m was from budgetary funding and £590m was coming through commercial income, fees and charges.

10. It is going to take time to return to these levels of income generation following Covid-19, particularly in terms of festivals and events with large attendance. Meanwhile, parks have show their important to communities during a period of crisis. We must ensure that they are in a good state to support everyone in the future.
11. They provide a cheap and cost-effective way to get people active, reduce obesity, boost mental wellbeing, and strengthen immune systems. At the same time, they can help act as green corridors for wildlife, refuges for pollinators, act as sustainable drainage systems, and mitigate the impact of air pollution.
12. Small scale, affordable initiatives, can add up to a major impact on our nation's health, environmental footprint, and resilience. We are calling for a flexible investment fund for councils to invest in their parks and green spaces. Indicative projects that councils would like to invest in are:
  - 12.1. **Parks Activation funding** - Creating jobs for a new breed of "community park rangers" to help "activate" our green spaces and delivery more community health focused outcomes such as green prescriptions /activities /volunteering, linking into the more hard to reach sections of society who need a lot more reassurance to use our green spaces. **£30 million revenue funding.**
  - 12.2. **Meadow creation** Transformation fund for the creation of pollinator rich grassland meadows on currently areas of close mown grass in parks and open spaces, as referenced in the environment 25 year action plan and Defra's bees needs campaign. **£10 million capital funding.**
  - 12.3. **Playbuilder +** - Capital funding for the refurbishment of play facilities to encourage active play as part of the anti-obesity strategy. Not just confined to children's play equipment but also things such as exercise equipment for all ages along with

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/357411/Review8\\_Green\\_spaces\\_health\\_inequalities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357411/Review8_Green_spaces_health_inequalities.pdf)

removing any accessibility barriers. **£350 million capital funding [based on 10 play areas at 100k per authority = 1 million per authority]**

**12.4. Quality Parks, in partnership with Green Flag Award** - Capital and revenue funding to transform parks in target wards into Green Flag Quality Standard green spaces delivering community cohesion, health and wellbeing, or climate mitigation outcomes. **£50 million blend of capital and revenue funding (based on 500K per park x 100 parks)**

**12.5. Green Space Protection ( in partnership with Fields in Trust)** - A national campaign to protect existing green spaces with funding that covers legal and dedication costs, allowing landowners to donate to our nation's health and green future in a way comparable to the post-war donations of historic buildings to what became the National Trust. **£1 million revenue funding.**

**12.6. Emergency Parks Fund** - Emergency revenue funding to support parks through the current challenges, including emergency repairs to existing equipment and paths to embed and enable active habits during lockdown to be maintained. **£500 000 revenue funding.**

### **Tourism and the Visitor economy**

13. The visitor economy is one of this country's fastest growing economic sectors. The cost of failing to invest in it now will have a significant impact on the economy and unemployment levels. The critical success factors for unlocking further growth – skills, transport, digital infrastructure and business support, are all policy areas where the evidence suggests devolution will enable better and more efficient decisions to be made for the visitor economy, particularly in coastal and rural areas.
14. Different areas will have different levels of need, with some areas, such as coastal communities, more at risk. A place-based and collaborative approach will need to be adopted by national partners, including Arts Council England, Historic England and VisitEngland.
15. There is a clear need for direct investment in the tourism sector of at least £1 billion, in addition to the extension of existing packages of support. The new £1.57 billion cultural and heritage fund announced on 5 July should also complement a comparable investment in tourism, given the close inter-relationship of these sectors. However, the cultural fund alone will not address the needs of the tourism sector and will itself fail to have the desired impact if supporting visitor economy businesses, such as coach companies, do not survive and are unable to channel large numbers of visitors to the cultural organisations.

16. We are calling on the Government to:

16.1. **Introduce a £100 million funding programme** that builds on the work of the Cultural Destination Programme<sup>i</sup>, Great Places Scheme<sup>ii</sup>, and Discover England Fund<sup>iii</sup> which enabled arts and culture organisations to increase their reach by working with the tourism sector. With some of our member councils with seaside resorts to be the hardest hit due to the pandemic, it is crucial local authorities have every opportunity to support this sector at their disposal.

16.2. In the short term, **it is important to avoid a cliff-edge**, with a shortened and smaller summer season, followed by an end to government support in October which leaves these economies facing ‘three winters. Government should work to maximise 2020 income through extending the season into autumn and winter. Councils and Combined authorities have suggested a variety of ways this can be achieved:

16.2.1. Visit Britain/England to devolve budget and/or of control of promotion of region to focus on autumn and winter, as well as periods beyond this

16.2.2. Out of season events development funds and by relaxation of restrictions on holiday parks and resorts to allow out of season operation

16.2.3. A specific support plan for the tourism and hospitality sector to see it through until March 2021, and beyond that, funding to deliver the tourism sector deal priorities.

17. Freedom and flexibilities around different funding streams would allow the refocus of existing funding to support place-based recovery, led by growth boards. Working with other departments and expanding criteria and objectives for the Cultural Development Fund, High Streets funding, and Stronger Towns funding, this could support councils to convert and adapt buildings, including high street premises, into studios to facilitate the creative industries contribution to recovery.

18. Over the longer-term, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund should explicitly acknowledge cultural, creative, heritage and visitor economy objectives in addition to supporting wider economic growth through strategically planned infrastructure investment including broadband and digital connectivity.

19. Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) are critical during the recovery period. **A rapid review of DMOs** must be conducted to ensure they are appropriately structured and resourced to deliver on our marketing and business support needs. There has been variable performance even before this period and, while some have provided invaluable

support to business recently, others have had to furlough staff from financial necessity. Effective marketing and business support to tourism businesses and potential visitors will be critical in the months ahead.

20. **Tourism Zones**, announced as part of the Government's Tourism Sector Deal, should be expanded in scope and number to 40, with appropriately scaled funding levels of £40 million, and brought forward as soon as possible. This should include innovative options for raising finance, building on proposals from the [Cultural Cities Enquiry](#), the option of a tourism levy, and business improvement districts. Receipts from taxation should be ringfenced for investment in the area that raised the tax. Possible expenditure included local authority services (public realm), tourism market intelligence and out of season marketing in order to ensure industry buy-in.

### Skills

21. Government should ensure that funding streams for delivering skills training and development are accessible to cultural organisations that are currently unable to operate viable models under social distancing. These organisations will not only be able to contribute soft skills training that contributes to levelling up a community, but also offer large facilities that lend themselves to socially distanced face-to-face training sessions. Working with universities, councils and other education providers, these facilities can be brought in to provide key skills training while also supporting our cultural infrastructure to survive through to a point where they will again be independently financially viable.

### Culture

22. Government statistics published in February 2020<sup>4</sup> showed that in 2018 the UK's creative industries contributed more than £111 billion to the UK economy, equivalent to £306 million every day or £13 million every hour. That's more than the automotive, aerospace, life sciences and oil and gas industries combined. This was a 7.4 per cent increase on 2017, so growth in the creative industries was more than five times larger than growth across the UK economy as a whole.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile statistics released in February 2020 show the creative industries have increased their combined contribution to Gross Value Added (GVA) by 43.2 per cent in current prices since 2010.

23. More than 2 million people work in the UK's creative industries and, before the COVID-19 crisis, the sector was projected to create another million jobs by 2030. Jobs in the creative economy tend to be higher value, better paid and be more skilled than the

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-creative-industries-contributes-almost-13-million-to-the-uk-economy-every-hour>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dcms-sectors-economic-estimates-2018-gva>

average in the wider economy. However, to sustain this requires a talent pool to be developed and maintained.

24. Parts of the creative industries have been hit harder by lockdown and the ill-effects will last longer than for other sectors of the economy. Those businesses that rely on attracting audiences or visitors will be the last to return to normal operations with no clear picture of when that might be. If we value the sector, we must all work together to secure its future.
25. As well as supporting the sector in its time of need, we must also consider the part creative enterprises and freelancers will have in helping us lead the nation's recovery. These businesses and individuals are naturally creative, adaptable and resilient. We must harness this creativity and innovation inherent in the sector to take on the challenges of a post-COVID world, generating jobs and investment in local economies.
26. To do this, the LGA is calling for:
- 26.1. Adopt a place-based approach to recovery.** Each area faces different conditions, has lost different elements of its local ecosystem and will be in a different starting point for recovery. Councils are the local leaders of place and best placed to coordinate recovery. By ensuring councils are at the top table for discussions – including the new Cultural Renewal taskforce and the Tourism Industry Council – you will harness their resources and expertise and maximise impact. Arts Council England's (ACE) new strategy recognises the approach, and DCMS should support ACE to return to its delivery plans as soon as is feasible.
- 26.2. Culture drives footfall in high streets - the west end remains empty without the theatres.** Liverpool city centre is experiencing 40% reduction in footfall due to their absence. We need to collaborate to revive and drive the cultural recovery, with the proven impact on GDP (joint fastest growing economic sector, with tourism, prior to Covid). Leadership is critical. Councils and Combined Authorities should be supported by ACE to **develop more [cultural compacts](#)**, as identified by the sector for the sector. £400 000 revenue funding.
- 26.3. Invest £30 million capital funding in libraries to develop a network of makerspaces and public access computers** to turbocharge our country's recovery, close the digital skills divide in many of our most deprived areas, and grow the entrepreneurs and innovators in every council area. The business case developed the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce, convened by DCMS and the LGA, demonstrated that makerspaces are a swift, cheap, and popular way of bringing creativity and innovation into communities that have previously had few creative outputs. 17.3 million people in the UK lack the essential digital skills for life

or work, which makes the provision of public access computers in libraries, and the support provided to train people in the skills to use them, are more vital than ever.

**26.4. Rapid rollout of the announced next tranche of business and intellectual**

**property centres.** These centres have proven their ability to reach and support a broader and more diverse range of entrepreneurs and will be critical to re-establishing a thriving ecosystem of small businesses and freelancers. Alongside this, a specific cultural and creative support offer should be developed, similar to Arts Council England's digital champions.

**26.5. Provide councils with £500 million to invest in providers of social prescribing**

**facilities,** including leisure centres and libraries which support community activities. Building on existing work to develop social prescribing models, DCMS should work with the National Academy for Social Prescribing to ensure that cultural organisations are funded to deliver wellbeing outcomes, resulting in a more resilient and productive workforce. While the National Academy is funding link workers, we need investment in providers to ensure they have the capacity, skills, and know how to deliver the improvements to individuals, and the savings to the health service, that are needed for our nation to thrive.

**26.6. Make £100 million capital funding available to convert disused retail units on the**

**high streets into creative studios** to enable creative industries (worth £111 billion GDP) to thrive and drive footfall to high streets by offering chance to grow entrepreneurs and innovators for the future by delivering 3d printing, coding and display spaces for creative experimentation. This must be coupled with the planning powers needed to curate high streets, as was done by [removing permitted development rights from theatres and performance venues](#), protecting them from inappropriate development and preserving them for the community.

### Implications for Wales

27. Culture Tourism and Sport policy and services are devolved to the Welsh Assembly.

### Financial Implications

28. None.

### Next steps

29. The LGA's finance team will send the submission to the Treasury following clearance by the LGA's Group Leaders.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/cultural-destinations#section-1>

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- ii [https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding-finder/great-place-scheme#:~:text=The%20Great%20Place%20Scheme%20is,cohesion%20and%20health%20and%20wellbeing\).](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding-finder/great-place-scheme#:~:text=The%20Great%20Place%20Scheme%20is,cohesion%20and%20health%20and%20wellbeing).)
- iii <https://www.visitbritain.org/discover-england-fund>

## Key lines on Culture, Tourism and Sport

### Purpose of report

For information.

### Summary

This document sets out the current key lobbying lines and sector statistics across the remit of the LGA culture, tourism and sport board. The lines are intended to record our key positions only, and are not intended to cover every element of the Board's remit. These lines will be used as the template for media enquiries and responses, although the culture, tourism and sport team will work to customise them to the situation, and will develop bespoke lines when required.

Due to the fast pace of change, these lines are kept under continuous review. Please contact the lead policy officer for the latest lines, or [cts@local.gov.uk](mailto:cts@local.gov.uk).

### Recommendation

That the Board note the report and comment on any omissions.

### Action

Officers will update these lines in line with new developments and announcements.

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## Key lines on Culture, Tourism and Sport

### Cross-cutting lines:

1. **Great places.** Culture, tourism and sport services are some of the most valued by local communities, fundamentally contributing to make areas a great place to live, work and visit.
2. **Economic impact.** The economic sectors supported and supplying these services are among the fastest growing parts of the economy, and employ well over 2 million people. The economic benefits of these services are also found in every council area.
3. **Online/offline.** While innovation in digital provision of services should be celebrated, we must ensure traditional forms of delivery are maintained if we are to avoid inequality of access. Public access to physical buildings and services remain at the heart of culture and leisure services and they require sustainable funding to remain open.
4. **Social prescribing.** Covid-19 has shown how important culture and leisure is to communities' health and wellbeing. Social prescribing through culture, sports and green space programmes will be essential to recovery, but it is important that the activities to which patients are being referred are adequately funded, since this funding is not included within existing plans and capacity is limited.

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### Key lines on culture

5. Councils run over 3,000 libraries, and more than 350 museums, public archives, numerous theatres and galleries, and are responsible for many monuments and historic buildings.
6. Cultural services are integral to the social fabric of the UK and can deliver against some of our most pressing agendas. They can improve public health and educational outcomes. They can contribute to community cohesion. They attract tourists and other visitors, boosting our economies; a cultural institution can be a key anchor for a regeneration programme, and a major draw for businesses. Arts and culture add more than £10.8 billion to the UK economy every year.
7. Museums, galleries, libraries and arts organisations have adapted imaginatively to lockdown, providing new and innovative services for their communities, but they have been unable to generate income during this time putting many at risk of closure.

8. **Funding.** The Government's £1.57 billion support package to help protect the futures of UK theatres, galleries, museums and other cultural venues is welcome. Councils are well-placed to deliver some of the funding to those organisations most in need, and who are critical to the local cultural offer. However, Councils will also need further funding and financial flexibilities in the weeks and months ahead to meet ongoing COVID-19 pressures and to get culture and leisure services running normally again.
9. **Cultural Renewal Taskforce.** The LGA has warned that excluding councils from the Government's newly created Cultural Renewal Taskforce removes the local voice on cultural renewal. With councils spending over £1.1 billion on museums, theatres and libraries, as well as investing over £1 billion a year on sport, leisure and green spaces, it is crucial that their views are represented when the Government plans to make important decisions affecting the future of the sector.
10. **Cultural recovery plan.** We have asked the Government to:
- 10.1. **adopt a place-based approach to recovery.** Councils are the local leaders of place and best placed to coordinate recovery. By ensuring councils are at the top table for discussions – including the new Cultural Renewal taskforce and the Tourism Industry Council – you will harness their resources and expertise and maximise impact. Arts Council England's (ACE) new strategy recognises the approach, and DCMS should support ACE to return to its delivery plans as soon as is feasible.
- 10.2. **extend the furlough scheme for specific sectors** until most organisations are able to return to financial viability. The furlough scheme has provided a lifeline to jobs and businesses. As cultural organisations are expected to be among the slowest to recover and their ability to generate income will take time to return to normal levels, a formal extension to the scheme during the period when social distancing measures are still in place would provide security to the sector and protect jobs.
- 10.3. support councils and Combined Authorities to **develop more cultural compacts**, using the model currently being piloted by Arts Council England.
- 10.4. invest £30 million capital funding in libraries to **develop a network of 'makerspaces' and public access computers;**
- 10.5. invest £500 million in councils to **fund social prescribing facilities**, including leisure centres and libraries which support community activities, working with the

National Academy for Social Prescribing to ensure that cultural organisations are funded to deliver wellbeing outcomes.

10.6. make £100 million capital funding available to **convert disused retail units on the high streets into creative studios** to enable creative industries (worth £111 billion GDP) to thrive and drive footfall to high streets.

10.7. **ensure councils have the planning powers needed to curate high streets**, as was done by [removing permitted development rights from theatres and performance venues](#), protecting them from inappropriate development and preserving them for the community.

10.8. **fund locally led support to theatres and other venues** that will not be commercially viable under conditions of social distancing but that want to reopen to improve community wellbeing and skills development and begin to use their multiplier effect on local economies.

10.9. Commit to a rapid rollout of the announced next tranche of **business and intellectual property centres**.

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### **Key lines on sport, physical activity, parks and green spaces**

11. Councils are responsible for a third of swimming pools, 31 per cent of grass pitches; 13 per cent of sports halls; and almost of fifth of all health and fitness facilities. They spend over £1 billion pa on sport, leisure and green spaces, parks and playgrounds, providing communities with access to vital facilities to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

12. **Funding crisis facing leisure providers due to Covid-19:** We are calling on the Government to introduce emergency funding to stabilise providers in the leisure sector who are ineligible for much of the emergency funding due to their charity status but continue to incur costs whilst closed and are near collapse. And for utility companies to provide short-term relief on utility charges. Losing these services will leave many people and families without access to affordable leisure provision and exercise opportunities. They play an important role in reducing the burden on the NHS, tackling health inequalities and are a key delivery vehicle for the social prescribing agenda.

13. **Ageing leisure facilities:** Research prior to the pandemic showed nearly two thirds of leisure facilities are more than 10 years old and require refurbishment and nearly a

quarter of all sports halls and swimming pools have not been refurbished in more than 20 years. Many of these older properties are at immediate risk of closure. We are calling on government to introduce a £500 million funding pot for councils to redesign, upgrade and renovate facilities to the standard needed to support healthy, active communities and transform the nation's health and help meet the latest energy efficiency and environmental standards and contribute to net zero carbon targets. New funding from Government is needed now to avoid having to completely replace facilities, which could cost in the region of £1.5 billion further down the line.

14. **Parks and green spaces:** are a key resource, enjoyed by people of all ages across the country, and sit at the heart of local communities. The pandemic has further demonstrated how valuable they are both during and post- covid-19. The money local government has to provide vital services such as parks and open spaces is running out fast and huge uncertainty remains about how councils will pay for services into the next decade and beyond. Coronavirus has further added significant funding pressures which LGA analysis shows councils are facing a funding gap of £7.2bn. For councils to be able to continue maintaining parks and reopen facilities such as children's play areas which will be essential for communities as lockdown eases, the Government needs to provide councils with long-term, sustainable funding for these services.
15. **Active travel:** Councils already play a key role in encouraging residents to cycle by promoting cycling proficiency tests and bike safety awareness campaigns, providing dedicated on-road cycle paths, installing secure cycle parking on high streets and supporting bike sharing schemes. They responded quickly to Covid-19 to install pop up cycle lanes to enable alternatives to public transport. Our parks and green spaces must be fully connected to the Government's plans to invest £2bn in active travel. Building on the success of the Green Chain Walk and Thames path in London, when connected up, these spaces can make a powerful contribution to tackling obesity and getting more people active. Long-term sustainable funding is needed to embed this change in communities and places, this will greatly improve public health and reduce pollution.
16. **Physical activity:** Councils are champions for promoting physical activity both inside and outside of the gym or swimming pool. Planning strategies now include measures to increase cycling and walking routes and introduce sustainable green spaces in new developments. Councils could do so much more to tackle health inequalities, physical inactivity and obesity but need the Government to commit to long-term sustainable funding for leisure and park services which play an important part in people's health and mental wellbeing.
17. **Health and social inequalities:** The coronavirus pandemic has hit those from more deprived backgrounds and the black, Asian and minority ethnic community hardest,

whether that be through deaths, digital poverty or a lack of accessibility to parks, private gardens and green spaces to exercise. Research by Public Health England has revealed that the most vulnerable do not have equal access to green space. People facing the greatest deprivation are experiencing a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 and existing poor health puts them at risk of more severe outcomes if they contract the virus. If we are to improve the health and mental wellbeing of those communities who experience health and social inequalities the most, we need a national cross-departmental health and social inequalities strategy that recognises the value of parks, leisure centres and cultural venues, backed up with sustainable funding.

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### Key lines on tourism and the visitor economy

18. **Scope.** The visitor economy is more broadly defined than the tourism sector. As well as holiday accommodation, visitor attractions, and travel businesses, it includes arts and cultural venues, performance spaces and performers, heritage buildings and natural landscapes. For instance, culture is linked to 42% of all in-bound tourism related expenditure. Following Liverpool's year as Capital of Culture the city has seen a doubling of hotel space and of visitors.
19. **Value.** Since 2010 tourism has been the fastest growing sector in the UK in employment terms. Britain was forecast to have a tourism industry worth over £257 billion by 2025. It was worth £126.9 billion in GDP in 2013, or 9% of GDP<sup>i</sup>. In 2013, tourism accounted for 3.1 million jobs, or 9.6% of total UK jobs. The 37.9 million overseas visitors who came to the UK in 2018 spent £22.9 billion. These figures represent a 3% decrease in volume and 7% (nominal) decrease in value compared with 2017. The UK accounted for 3.7% of international tourism receipts in 2017.
20. **Hospitality sector.** The hospitality industry directly employs some 9% of all workers in the economy and directly and indirectly supports around 4m jobs in total. The industry supports a vast array of supporting services such as cleaners, maintenance companies, farmers, butchers, other suppliers and landlords. This is a huge workforce vulnerable to redundancy decisions in the weeks and months ahead. The night time economy of £66bn per year is largely underpinned by cultural activity<sup>iii</sup>. However, overall the industry contributes £150bn to the economy and £50bn in tax revenues per year.
21. **The role of councils.** Councils have a strong stake in the visitor economy. They are direct providers, running tourism attractions themselves, including castles and historic buildings, parks, piers, amusement parks, and destination management organisations. They run over 350 museums, public archives, numerous theatres and galleries, and are

responsible for many monuments. Overall, they are the largest public investor in cultural activity, spending over £1.1 billion. Councils' contribution to regional visitor economies is particularly significant, with many of our regional airports being directly or indirectly owned and managed by councils. These critical transport hubs are essential to ensuring all parts of the country benefit from the visitor economy.

- 22. National influence.** Councils and Combined Authorities must be involved in national conversation on the visitor economy, given their unique position as direct deliverers of attractions, key transport infrastructure, funders, and curators of place. Councils and Combined Authorities must have representation on the Tourism Industry Council chaired by the Minister of Tourism to allow them to maximise their contribution to the economic recovery, and effectively manage their own key tourism businesses.
- 23. Investment need.** There is a clear need for direct investment in the tourism sector of at least £1 billion, in addition to the extension of existing packages of support. The new £1.57 billion cultural and heritage fund announced on 5 July should also complement a comparable investment in tourism, given the close inter-relationship of these sectors. However, the cultural fund alone will not address the needs of the tourism sector, and will itself fail to have the desired impact if supporting visitor economy businesses, such as coach companies, do not survive and are unable to channel large numbers of visitors to the cultural organisations. We are calling on the Government to introduce a funding programme that builds on the work of the Cultural Destination Programme<sup>vi</sup>, Great Places Scheme<sup>vii</sup>, and Discover England Fund<sup>viii</sup> which enabled arts and culture organisations to increase their reach by working with the tourism sector. With some of our member councils with seaside resorts to be the hardest hit due to the pandemic, it is crucial local authorities have every opportunity to support this sector at their disposal.
- 24. Tourism Zones,** announced as part of the Government's Tourism Sector Deal, should be expanded in number and scope, with appropriately scaled funding levels, and brought forward as soon as possible. This should include innovative options for raising finance, building on proposals from the [Cultural Cities Enquiry](#), the option of a tourism levy, and business improvement districts.
- 25. Tourism levy.** There is consensus that a tourism levy should be tested, but mixed views about whether it should be introduced on a national basis, for every area, or be a local decision. However, there is agreement that receipts from taxation should be ringfenced for investment in the area that raised the tax. Possible expenditure included local authority services (public realm), tourism market intelligence and out of season marketing in order to ensure industry buy-in. Partners recognise the need for international competitiveness, and feel that a reduction in VAT for accommodation

providers could be considered alongside the tourism levy, as a way of ensuring that similar levels of public money are raised, but are not an additional financial burden on businesses, who will benefit from the tourism levy being directly invested in supporting the local tourism offer where the money is raised.

**26. Three winters.** In the short term, it is important to avoid a cliff-edge, with a shortened and smaller summer season, followed by an end to government support in October leads these economies facing 'three winters. Government should work to maximise 2020 income through extending the season into autumn and winter. Councils and Combined authorities have suggested a variety of ways this can be achieved:

26.1. Visit Britain/England to devolve budget and/or of control of promotion of region to focus on autumn and winter, as well as periods beyond this

26.2. Out of season events development funds and by relaxation of restrictions on holiday parks and resorts to allow out of season operation

26.3. A specific support plan for the tourism and hospitality sector to see it through until March 2021, and beyond that, funding to deliver the tourism sector deal priorities

**27. National review of DMOs.** Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) are seen as critical by all partners during the recovery period. A rapid review of DMOs must be conducted to ensure they are appropriately structured and resourced to deliver on our marketing and business support needs. There has been variable performance even before this period and, while some have provided invaluable support to business recently, others have had to furlough staff from financial necessity. Effective marketing and business support to tourism businesses and potential visitors will be critical in the months ahead.

**28. VisitEngland.** It is important that national marketing campaigns run by VisitBritain and VisitEngland are sufficiently joined-up with local activity so that shared messages are developed, networks exploited, duplication avoided and growth markets targeted. For the next two years, significant resources must be redirected at internal UK marketing. This must include campaigns to extend the visitor season beyond the summer period, using tested methods like Christmas markets and trialling innovative methods to extend the visitor economy into other seasons. We recommend that VisitEngland is strengthened, with its own budgets, and given the resources needed to maintain its new visitor kitemark; and to work with Natural England on websites that redirect visitors to less crowded and well known parts of the country.

29. **Sustainable tourism and travel.** Investment in closing the 'last mile' will be crucial to ensuring that rural visitor economies can compete in a green recovery. The lack of a joined up transport offer between the nearest train station and the target attraction or accommodation has meant that the car has invariably been the form of transport required for rural destinations. We must invest in cycling, walking, and rural bus provision to ensure that visitors can benefit from a climate sustainable approach to enjoying our visitor destinations.

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### **Key lines on coastal tourism**

30. Coastal towns are integral to the UK visitor economy by attracting both national and international tourists, and therefore helping to boost our local economies.
31. Integral to a sense of place, tourism generates billions of pounds for the national economy; the coast is fundamental to this sector. However, there are also the well-documented negative impacts of seasonality, low wages, over-dependence on out-dated infrastructure, and pressure on the environment, all of which have been crystallised by the COVID-19 pandemic.
32. Coastal towns have faced immense financial pressures as a result of social distancing measures and the need to protect their local residents. With limited ability to generate income in the previous months, many local businesses have fallen through the cracks of government support and risk closure in the months that follow.
33. The sector has taken one of the biggest financial hits due to the COVID-19 crisis. Gaps in support packages alongside the absence of the seasonal boost the industry usually sees over the summer, means the impact will be felt in the weeks and months to come, even as social distancing measures are eased.
34. **Infrastructure.** Ensuring the rich cultural offer of coastal towns is maintained, government must continue to support the regeneration of coastal frontages, beach management, transport links and the provision of cultural infrastructure.
35. **Employment.** Coastal towns create local jobs for local people, with 25% of employment in these areas established through the visitor economy. We are therefore calling on government to:
- 35.1. extend the furlough scheme for tourism specific sectors until most organisations are able to return to financial viability. The furlough scheme has provided a lifeline to jobs and businesses. This support will not only retain the infrastructure of local

business, but will also help to protect jobs until social distancing measures are fully released.

35.2. many cultural venues, such as theatres, to be supported to ensure they are commercially viable, even under conditions of social distancing. Many local businesses financial model is reliant on full capacity, but must be offered support to reopen at reduced capacity to optimise community wellbeing at a time when it is needed most. Failure to do so will result in a loss of jobs and critical business.

36. **Skills.** Coastal towns are central to the enhancement of skills, training and employment opportunities, helping to develop the community benefits of tourism. COVID-19 has created a 'skills gap' for the sector, as the closing of business has meant limited training has taken place within the sector. Government must therefore support the funding of tourism business apprenticeships, most notably within the hospitality sector.

37. **Funding.** COVID-19 has demonstrated how integral coastal towns are in generating revenue. In order to rebuild their economies, councils located in coastal areas will require strong financial support and flexibilities until social distancing measures are completely released, and businesses can run on a 'business as usual' model. With many businesses struggling to access financial support, many risk closure in the coming months.

38. **Financial support during the autumn/winter seasons.** If social distancing is to be maintained through the winter months, many local businesses in coastal towns will lose out on the revenue generated through indoor events, particularly around the Christmas period. To ensure coastal towns continue to benefit from the winter season, financial support must be offered to ensure businesses do not risk closure during this period and are fit to 'bounce back' in 2021.

39. **Lost business and greater financial support.** With the congregation of large groups of people into event spaces being discouraged under social distancing rules, many coastal towns will have lost out on a year's worth of events and festivals, which play a huge part in local income generation. Financial support must be provided to fill this gap.

40. **Clearer guidance.** With the loosening of restrictions, there will be an influx of domestic visitors travelling to coastal towns across the country. The anticipated influx of people is expected to create a number of challenges around littering and anti-social behaviour. Councils must therefore be provided with clear guidance and support on how to mitigate and plan for such circumstances to avoid increasing R rates in local areas.

41. **Communications.** Coastal councils would benefit from being notified about government announcements in advance, to ensure they are in a position to prepare for changes in government legislation. For example, when beaches were announced to reopen, councils did not have enough time to arrange amenities and facilities, which led to an increase in anti-social behaviour which can ultimately lead to an increase in infection.

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#### **Implications for Wales**

42. These lobbying lines are primarily designed for an English context, as culture, tourism and sport policy areas are a devolved matter, with significant operational differences. However, lines relating to the value culture, tourism and sport sectors and the contribution they make to society and the economy will apply to a Welsh context as well.

#### **Financial Implications**

43. None.

#### **Next steps**

44. LGA officers will update and refresh as directed and required.





## Economic Recovery

### Purpose of report

For information.

### Summary

This report summarises the key forums the LGA is involved in with Government to address issues of economic recovery. It also provides members with an update on key economic recovery issues being raised by councils and how the LGA will be supporting councils through our improvement work.

### Recommendations

That members note the work the LGA is doing around economic recovery in several different forums

### Action

Members provide further feedback for officers to feed into the various economic recovery forums.

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## Economic Recovery

### Background

1. The LGA continues working with the Government on economic recovery. As outlined at the previous board meeting, the Ministerial Economic Recovery Group continues to meet on a regular basis. The group has cross party representation from the LGA and is chaired by Simon Clarke. It also includes Core Cities, Key Cities, District Councils Network, County Councils Network, Association of County Chief Executives, the M9 Mayors and the LEP Network. It has been one of our routes for lobbying around the recovery. These meetings initially began to address issues around the reopening of the economy and the management of the public realm. Over the past few meetings they have become more focussed around specific sector issues.

### Issues

2. At the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July the focus was on **supporting the visitor economy**. We raised several issues including:
  - 2.1. The strong stake councils have in their visitor economies
  - 2.2. Impact of issues related to regional airports
  - 2.3. Loss of earned income for councils through culture, tourism and sport
  - 2.4. Visitor economy being one of the country's fastest growing economic sectors with further potential to support local recover
  - 2.5. Visitor economy focus providing the opportunity to deliver on the levelling up agenda
  - 2.6. Challenges of running venues with social distancing issues
  - 2.7. Cultural venues being anchor for nighttime economy
  - 2.8. Impact on businesses which have lost out on seasonal income
  - 2.9. Need for clear national messaging around social distancing
3. We also proposed a range of measures in partnership with the other representative bodies. The key points were:

- 3.1. Councils and Combined Authorities must be involved in national conversation on the visitor economy
  - 3.2. Central government must trust local authorities to work with businesses to ensure social distancing guidelines are adhered to
  - 3.3. Different areas will have different levels of need, with some areas, such as coastal communities, more at risk
  - 3.4. here is a clear need for direct investment in the tourism sector of at least £1 billion, in addition to the extension of existing packages of support.
  - 3.5. Freedom and flexibilities around different funding streams would allow the refocus of existing funding to support place-based recovery, led by growth boards.
  - 3.6. Government must work with authorities across the country to assist in managing and spreading demand across the country
4. At the most recent meeting on 24th June the group discussed **Employment and Skills**. The LGA lines on employment and skills, previously discussed and agreed in P&P and Cities Boards, formed the basis for these discussions. There was a good degree of consensus across councils and combined authorities about the importance of an approach which involved co-designed programmes with local delivery. Ministers are keen to continue to work with councils on these issues. The group will next be meeting in September.
  5. The Ministerial Group is also being supported by a series of officer led working groups. These groups have an LGA officer sitting on all of them and cover a range of issues including:
    - 5.1. Labour markets and skills
    - 5.2. Business communities and sectors
    - 5.3. Rural recovery
    - 5.4. Urban recovery
  6. The **Rural and Visitor Economies Group** is jointly chaired by a county and district chief executives, nominated by the County Councils Network and District Councils' Network respectively. The remaining members are made up of other district and county chief executives and LEP representatives. The group has been tasked to look at what short term interventions Government could make to spur on visitor and rural economic recovery. To date conversations have been very much focussed on "quick wins" following steers

from Government officials. Those suggested have ranged from extending wedding locations to other venues; encouraging school trips to rural locations and enabling more businesses to operate outdoors into the autumn and winter. The Group will meet again towards the end of September and will submit a paper to the main officer-led Recovery group for consideration.

7. The **Labour Market, Employment and Skills Task and Finish Group**, chaired by Joanne Roney (Chief Executive, Manchester City Council) and Frank Rogers (Chief Executive, Liverpool City Region), brings together representatives from the M9, Core Cities, LGA, DCN, CCN and the LEP Network. Its aim is to develop the place angle to jobs / skills recovery issues. To date, it has met twice and focused on shaping Kickstart. The LGA has drafted a Kickstart: what good looks like paper, on behalf of the group with based on input from all member bodies. The aim of it is to support local and national discussions on the design, commissioning and delivery of Kickstart. It is being cleared by the group. Alongside this, we have also developed information that might be useful to councils should they wish to get involved in coordinating or delivering the programme with JCP locally. Further meetings are expected to include a focus on apprenticeships and adult retraining.

### **Local Recovery Issues**

8. Alongside our policy and lobbying work with Government the LGA is also monitoring the key issues for councils around recovery at a local level, these include:

### **Culture and tourism**

9. Many cultural organisations (such as theatres) are still unable to open, and we expect that cultural organisations are likely to be among the slowest to recover. This presents significant challenges for regions dependent on visitors to cultural sites for income, as the furlough scheme is likely to end before these venues can return to capacity.
10. The tourism industry has been hit hard by COVID-19, with fewer international visitors this year, and although more UK residents are holidaying domestically this year, there is still likely to be a significant financial gap for regions particularly dependent on tourism. Visit Britain forecast a central scenario (as of June 30th) of £39.2bn in domestic tourism spend in England in 2020, down 48% on 2019 when spending by domestic tourists in England was £75.9bn.

### **Education**

11. In predominantly rural areas where many pupils are reliant on school transport to attend school, access to education may be harder. Either these services may have stopped, or

previously operated close to capacity, making it difficult to socially distance. As most schools return to full capacity in the autumn, pupil transport will become a bigger issue.

### **Economic Growth**

12. Areas with struggling high streets are likely to face challenges in recovering from lockdown, as businesses are either not in a financial position to re-open, or if they do re-open find that much of their business has moved online in the preceding months.
13. The £50m Safer Reopening of High Streets Fund to councils was a helpful step in the initial phase of coming out of lockdown, but councils have found that there were too many limitations on it, and additional funding will be needed to rebuild healthy high streets.
14. Areas dependent on one industry, such as those near airports with a high proportion of residents working in the aviation sector, still require funding from Government for specific issues otherwise regional recovery will be hampered. This is also an issue for predominantly rural areas highly dependent on a specific sector for employment – there are 37 specific sectors that provide at least 5% of employment in one or more predominantly rural area.

### **Sustainability**

15. Urban areas have moved quickly to install new cycle lanes, modal filters, and widen pavements to encourage active travel and reduce air pollution and carbon emissions. Many of these changes were made on a temporary basis, and there is likely to be a period of readjustment as some of these changes are made permanent, while other, less successful or popular changes are removed.
16. Improving sustainability through travel is likely to be a greater challenge in rural areas, where it is less possible for many residents to exclusively travel by cycling, walking and public transport.
17. COVID-19 has led to many projects (such as those on energy efficiency in the home) being paused. As lockdown is eased, these projects can resume, but there remains a challenge about how to carry these out in a safe, socially distanced way.

### **Community cohesion**

18. Extremists may continue to use the post-COVID landscape to further their narratives; economic decline and rising inequality (or perceptions of these) in particular, have traditionally provided fertile territory. As protective instruments such as the furlough scheme and pause on evictions are removed as lockdown eases, regions with strained community relations are likely to be at greater risk of rising extremism.

19. COVID-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities, meaning the gaps between regions are likely to become wider too. Urban areas have slightly higher levels of inequality than rural areas, with a greater gap between the number of areas in the upper and lowest quintiles. Between April 2020 and May 2020, the number of people claiming Universal Credit or Job Seeker's Allowance increased by 24 per cent in predominantly rural areas compared with an increase of 30 per cent in predominantly urban areas.

### **Local lockdowns**

20. There has been a lack of local lockdown recovery plans in areas under observation. Currently Leicester is the only area with a local lockdown recovery plan. Other areas only have wider post COVID-19 Recovery Plans which mostly focus on economic recovery and renewal.
21. There have been challenges in managing large scale sporting events and permissions being given to open at a national level e.g. horse racing events, but no choice in doing so. There have been many challenges at managing such events at council level, e.g. volumes of racegoers travelling around, public transport, policing etc.

### **Improvement Funding**

22. The LGA has also identified improvement funding to support the work of councils on economic recovery. Potential projects have been identified focussing on:
- 22.1. Jobs and skills planning
  - 22.2. Developing the local digital economy
  - 22.3. Councils role in developing diverse and successful micro-businesses
  - 22.4. Toolkit for areas which have lost a major employer
  - 22.5. Action learning sets for councils focussed on recovery

### **Spending Review**

23. In late July the Chancellor re-launched the 2020 Spending Review process, with a deadline for submissions of 24th September. The Spending Review will cover three years' worth of day-to-day spending and four years' worth of capital spending and will set the scene for the rest of this Parliament. The LGA is currently working on its submission to

23 September 2020



Government. The devolution of funding and powers will be a fundamental element of the entire response.

**Implications for Wales**

24. We continue to work with the WLGA on issues of shared importance, including the broader messages around the Spending Review.

**Financial Implications**

25. The Improvement work is being funded through the 2020/21 RSG Budget

**Next steps**

26. Officers to reflect Members views as this work continues to progress.



## National Planning Reforms

### Purpose of report

For discussion.

### Summary

The Government has recently published two consultations which include proposals for both long-term structural changes to the planning system in England and more immediate amendments to existing processes.

This report summarises the proposals in those consultations and highlights emerging areas of concern for councils.

### Recommendations

This item is for update and comment.

Board members are asked to feedback on the key issues that need to be addressed in the LGA's consultation responses.

### Actions

Officers will use the feedback from Board members to shape the LGA's response to the consultations and our ongoing lobbying.

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## National Planning Reforms

### Introduction

1. On 6 August the Government published the [Planning for the Future White Paper](#) consultation paper with proposals for long-term fundamental structural changes to England's planning system. The consultation period closes on **29 October**.
2. Alongside this, they also published the consultation paper [Changes to the current planning system](#) which includes proposals for more immediate amendments to existing processes. The consultation period closes on **1 October**.
3. This report summarises the proposals in the consultations and highlights potential areas of concern for councils. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT) Board is leading the response to the consultations on behalf of the LGA.
4. The LGA, through the work of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, has been lobbying Government for some time on areas of planning that would improve the ability of councils to shape their areas for the benefit of communities, as well as supporting the Government's aim of building 300,000 homes per year. The Board re-confirmed its positions on planning [at its meeting on 19 May](#).
5. LGA officers are currently working with councils to develop the detailed responses to both consultations. This includes: working with our planning officers' steering group to better understand the implications of the reforms; holding webinars for members and officers across local government to gather views and gathering feedback from other LGA Boards, including both the People and Places and the City Regions Boards.
6. To date we have heard a range of concerns from councils. These include:
  - 6.1. The implications of a new 'zoning' system
  - 6.2. The role of councillors in the new proposed system and concern about a reduction in democracy
  - 6.3. The implications of a new system of developer contributions on the provision of affordable homes and infrastructure
  - 6.4. The resourcing of the planning system and its capacity to absorb the proposed changes
  - 6.5. The impact of transitioning to a new planning system on investment and housing delivery in the short to medium term
  - 6.6. Changes to environmental assessments

- 6.7. Changes to the standard method for assessing housing numbers in strategic plans, with concerns being raised both by those who could see their numbers increase and those who could see their numbers reduce,
- 6.8. The lack of additional incentives in the proposals for developers to build-out existing permissions.
- 7. We will be lobbying to ensure that the concerns of councils are heard in Government. However, we will also want to work pragmatically with officials to try and design the reforms and how they are introduced in the best interest of councils.

### Background

- 8. Following the 2020 Budget, on 12 March the Government set out their plans for housing and planning reform in the policy paper [Planning for the Future](#) (this is separate to the 6 August White Paper). This signalled the use of zoning tools together with other measures.
- 9. During the COVID-19 pandemic the Government continued to signal its intention to radically reform the planning system. On 30 June the Prime Minister announced that through a “New Deal” to ‘[Build, Build, Build](#)’, new regulations would be introduced to allow the regeneration of vacant and redundant buildings without requiring planning permission.
- 10. In July the [Business and Planning Act 2020](#) introduced changes that come into force on 1 September; such as a fast-track process for varying planning conditions relating to working hours on construction sites, time limits for development (extending the dates on which planning permission, outline planning permission and listed building consents might otherwise expire), and planning proceedings (giving the Planning Inspectorate more flexibility in deciding whether certain local planning appeals should be heard by way of written representations, a hearing or a local inquiry). Our [briefing on the Bill](#) noted that during COVID-19 councils had been working with the development industry to get developments moving again as safely as is possible.
- 11. Also taking effect from 1 September are changes to the [Use Class Order](#), including new use classes Class E (commercial, business and service), Class F1 (learning and non-residential institutions) and Class F2 (local community).
- 12. We have continued to lobby for a locally led planning system through our ‘[Keep Planning Local](#)’ campaign, especially as we rebuild and recover from the pandemic. In our recent [post-pandemic planning stimulus package](#) we reiterated the critical role planning departments played during the pandemic, even though they are increasingly under resourced.
- 13. To respond to the White Paper and Changes to the current planning system consultations, we will be consulting with members over the coming weeks to ensure we provide a robust, evidence-based response. Going forward it will be important to consider that immediate planning changes will be one of the many challenges that councils will take on in the autumn. The scale of the changes and the process to bring

them into use, in conjunction with other legislative changes, needs to be well thought through. We will continue to work with MHCLG to seek to influence the proposals through our engagement with officials and others operating at the centre of Government.

### White Paper: Planning for the Future

14. The White Paper proposes a fundamental review of the existing planning system requiring changes to primary and secondary legislation. A number of key proposals, such as having a rules-based system with land divided into three types of areas (Growth, Renewal and Areas that are Protected), have been drawn from [Policy Exchange's think tank report](#) in January, and [subsequent collection of essays](#) in June.
15. The focus of the proposals appears to be on housebuilding and land-use planning, to the exclusion of the many roles planning undertakes to create places. Councils have raised concerns that a wholesale overhaul of the existing system and change to a new system, including its legislation, will create uncertainty and take many years to deliver and implement across all of Whitehall and the wider planning sector such as developers, consultants, lawyers, and academia. Communities need to be made aware about how and when they can engage in the new planning process. In addition, the proposals need to take a more joined up approach, recognising and accounting for changes to other relevant legislation such as the Environment Bill and any changes as a result of the forthcoming Devolution White Paper.
16. After many years of LGA lobbying, the Government has acknowledged that resourcing of planning departments is an area that needs additional support. However, whilst the White Paper identifies a skills strategy for local authorities, there is no detail regarding how this will be resourced. There is considerable concern from councils about their already stretched capacity. Councils will need to upskill officers to undertake the transition process locally and then implement the new planning regime over many years. Planning affects other areas of council business, and any changes to the system will have impacts well beyond planning departments, across all council operations as a whole.
17. Councils are concerned that the proposals will lead to a loss of local democracy, with the removal of the right to be heard in person at plan enquiries, and the removal of democratic accountability of planning applications in growth areas.
18. The White Paper has 24 individual proposals, some with multiple options, across four themes, summarised below:
  - 18.1. Planning for development – 30 month deadline for local plans to be in place, streamlined plan-making, a new rules-based system, and standardised digital tools
  - 18.2. Planning for beautiful and sustainable places – locally prepared design guidance and codes, a chief officer for design and place-making in each council, a fast-track for beauty, emphasis on sustainability and energy efficiency to achieve net-zero by 2050
  - 18.3. Planning for infrastructure and connected place – a new Infrastructure Levy to deliver affordable housing

18.4. Delivering change – a resource and skills strategy for the planning sector, strengthened enforcement of powers and sanctions.

*Planning for development*

19. Every area will be required to have a Local Plan developed through a streamlined process whereby councils will need to have an up to date plan within 30 months of the legislation being brought into force, i.e. by December 2023. There will be sanctions for failing to meet this deadline, although this is not elaborated on. Local planning authorities who have adopted a Local Plan within the previous three years or where a Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination will have 42 months from when the legislation is brought into force, or upon adoption of the most recent plan, whichever is later.
20. Local Plans will need to set clear rules rather than general policies for development. General development management policies will now be set nationally in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with a more focused role for Local Plans in identifying site and area specific requirements, alongside locally-produced design codes.
21. The White Paper proposes early enhanced engagement with neighbourhoods and communities at the Local Plan stage. There is no detail on what the engagement process will be, nor does it recognise the importance of community engagement with developers prior to making their application. Far fewer individual applications will go through planning committees and councillors will not be able to represent their communities where there are local concerns about individual applications. The council and councillors' role in other areas where communities need support such as enforcement is not detailed. Overall the paper does not explain how the new process will help improve better engagement or reach a wider local audience, at the plan making stage; this is particularly problematic when this may be communities only opportunity.
22. Local Plans will need to be significantly shorter, visual and map-based, based on the latest digital technology and standardised using a new template of no more than 50 pages. The current Sustainability Appraisal system will be replaced with a single statutory "sustainable development" test. This will consider whether the plan contributes to achieving sustainable development in accordance with policy issued by the Secretary of State. There will no longer be a requirement to consider viability or a 'Duty to Cooperate', although further consideration will be given to strategic cross-boundary issues, e.g. major infrastructure or strategic sites.
23. Local Plans would need to identify all land in one of three categories:
24. Growth areas – suitable for substantial development which will receive outline planning permission with no need for planning committee
25. Renewal areas – suitable for development, presumption will be in favour of development
26. Protected areas – will require full planning permission, and include land such as Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas, etc.

27. The paper proposes two alternative 'area' options. The first alternative option suggests combining Growth and Renewal into one land typology (with sub-areas), that would be granted permission in principle, not outline planning permission. A second alternative option, which does not need new primary legislation, would identify only Growth areas and grant them permission in principle.
28. Although not called zones in the paper, the 'areas' approach is based on zonal planning systems, first raised in the January Policy Exchange report, followed by the Government's Planning for the Future policy paper in March. The White Paper suggests that contrary to England, countries where zonal planning systems are used, including Japan, the Netherlands and Germany, provide greater certainty up front. However, the paper fails to recognise that Japan has a top-down system of government and processes; the Netherlands has a spatial planning system whereby decisions are made at the national, regional and local levels and land-use planning is a key spatial planning tool; and Germany, which has a similar spatial planning system to the Netherlands, has a highly devolved system of government. These examples do not provide off-the shelf options for England and it is therefore unclear how the new areas will work in detail.
29. The White Paper also proposes a new nationally determined binding housing requirement, consistent with the delivery of 300,000 homes annually, that local planning authorities would have to deliver through their Local Plans. This would be focused on areas where affordability pressure is highest. The intention is that it will factor in: land constraints; the size of existing urban settlements; the relative affordability of places; the opportunities to use brownfield land; allowance for land required for other development; and a buffer to ensure enough land is provided. No further details are given, but the White Paper references changes to the standard method for assessing housing numbers, outlined in the current planning system consultation, which will form part of the process of setting the binding housing requirement.

*Planning for beautiful and sustainable places*

30. Proposals in this section are largely influenced by the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission's report [Living with Beauty](#). The first includes a proposal to fast-track or expedite 'beautiful buildings'. To do this: the NPPF will be updated to ensure that schemes which comply with local design guides and codes have a positive advantage; by requiring that masterplans and site-specific codes are agreed as a condition of the permission in principle which is granted through the plan; and by widening and changing the nature of permitted development so that popular and replicable development can be approved quickly to enable 'gentle intensification'. The use of 'pattern books' would be reintroduced to articulate standard building types, options and associated rules (such as heights and setbacks) in Renewal areas. There is scant detail about the role of heritage.
31. Additional proposals aim to protect green spaces, allow for more building on brownfield land, and require that all new streets be tree lined. Whilst the paper talks about protecting and promoting the stewardship and improvement of the countryside and environment there is little detail and no mention of farming, agriculture, or ecosystem services.
32. From 2025 homes will be expected to produce 75-80 per cent lower CO2 emissions compared to current levels to become 'zero carbon ready', with the ability to become

zero carbon over time. The Government intends to review the Future Homes Standard roadmap to align with this proposal. In [our response to the Future Homes Standard](#) consultation in February 2020, we recommended the more ambitious option for higher fabric standards, and strongly opposed the proposal to restrict local planning authorities from setting higher energy efficiency standards for new homes.

33. There will be a new system for sustainability appraisals (SA) and environmental impact assessments (EIA). No details have been provided. Councils have raised concerns about this, and that the removal of environmental assessments will need to be aligned with the goals of the Environment Bill.

*Planning for infrastructure and connected place*

34. The paper proposes a new Infrastructure Levy to replace the existing developer contributions system of S106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The levy would be charged as a fixed proportion of the development value above a threshold, with a mandatory nationally-set rate or rates. The current system of planning obligations will be abolished. Revenues would continue to be collected and spent locally.
35. In areas where land value uplift is insufficient to support significant levels of land value capture, some or all the value generated by the development would be below the threshold, and not subject to the Infrastructure Levy. In higher value areas, a much greater proportion of the development value would be above the exempt amount, and subject to the Infrastructure Levy. To better support the timely delivery of infrastructure local authorities would be allowed to borrow against Infrastructure Levy revenues so that they could forward fund infrastructure.
36. It is unclear what impact these reforms would have on the overall level of developer contributions and their distribution, or on the number of on-site affordable houses provided. Councils have raised concern that the huge variance in the market value of developments across the country, could result in some areas having greater capacity to benefit and fund local infrastructure needs and secure affordable homes than others. It will be important that local government is involved in the design of any new system for securing developer contributions.

*Delivering change*

37. This final section identifies measures required to transition from our current to the new planning system, and the role of local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate in that transition. As new skills will be required in urban design, masterplanning and community engagement, a skills strategy for the planning sector is proposed to support the implementation of the reforms. Local authorities will also be subject to a new performance framework, as well as being required to place more emphasis on the enforcement of planning standards and decisions. It will be important that local government is involved in the design of any new skills strategies.
38. Planning fees would continue to be set on a national basis and cover at least the full cost of processing the application type based on clear national benchmarking. However, the LGA has lobbied for councils' ability to set fees locally to ensure they can recover the true cost of processing applications.

39. Leading local economic recovery will be one of the biggest issues for councils. There needs to be confidence in the current planning system to deliver recovery and kick-start construction projects in the autumn. Many councils have told us that the level of overhaul to the planning system is likely to create significant uncertainty, and that now more than ever we need stability and certainty in planning. We will want to work with the Government on the transitioning process.

### **Changes to the current planning system proposals**

40. [Changes to the planning system](#) sets out changes to policy and regulations that can be implemented immediately. It proposes the securing of First Homes through developer contributions. This includes requiring 25 per cent of all affordable housing secured through developer contributions to be First Homes sold at a minimum 30 per cent discount. The proposals also include changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need; temporarily raising the small sites threshold below which developers will not be required to contribute to affordable housing (up to 40 or 50 units) to support SME builders; and extending the current Permission in Principle to major development.
41. On the affordable housing threshold, current national policy is that affordable housing contributions should not be sought for developments of fewer than 10 homes. In designated rural areas a lower threshold of five homes or fewer is allowed. The consultation proposes increasing the trigger threshold so that sites of 40 or possibly 50 homes will be exempt from providing affordable housing. Councils have raised concerns that this could result in increasing numbers of applications below the 40 or 50 site affordable housing trigger, where sites could be delivering more. This could have the unintended consequence of delivering less homes overall, as well as no affordable homes.
42. The Government has indicated that it intends to introduce a First Homes exception site policy to provide affordable housing for local people. In [our response to the First Homes](#) consultation in May we raised concerns that the implementation of First Homes could lead to a significant reduction in other types of affordable homes locally, particularly for those who are currently the least able to afford to buy. We are pleased that the government has listened to our concerns and that 25% of affordable homes will be First Homes, which is considerably lower than the 40, 60 or 80 per cent options outlines in the earlier consultation. However, we remain concerned about the impact of a top-down arbitrary target on the ability of councils to meet local housing needs and will be raising this in our consultation response.
43. We have continued to lobby the Government to support the delivery of 100,000 new social homes per year. In our June 2020 [post-pandemic Housing Stimulus Package](#) we noted that investment in a new generation of social housing could return £320 billion to the nation over 50 years, and as an economic stimulus will grow stronger post COVID-19.

### *New method for the standard method of assessing housing numbers in strategic plans*

44. Analysis of the new method reveals that in terms of housing numbers there are some stark impacts in different parts of the country, and across different rural/urban areas. This

demonstrates that a nationally set formula will always struggle to reflect local need. Simply raising the numbers without incentivising or compelling developers to build will not lead to more homes. The method also does not appear to support the Government's ambitions to level up and build more on brownfield land in urban areas.

### **Culture, tourism and sport implications**

45. The Board has one planning-related ask in the LGA's submission to the Comprehensive Spending review. "Make £100 million capital funding available to convert disused retail units on the high streets into creative studios to enable creative industries (worth £111 billion GDP) to thrive and drive footfall to high streets by offering chance to grow entrepreneurs and innovators for the future by delivering 3d printing, coding and display spaces for creative experimentation. This must be coupled with the planning powers needed to curate high streets, as was done by [removing permitted development rights from theatres and performance venues](#), protecting them from inappropriate development and preserving them for the community."
46. The Board has also previously supported the 'Agent of Change' principle that protects music venues from development that may subsequently take place alongside them, and lead to noise complaints. It will be important to ensure that this principle is embedded in the new system.
47. The Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers (ALGAO) is supportive of streamlining of the planning system and keen to look at ways in which the process can be speeded up and better outcomes secured for the historic environment and local communities.
48. However, they have raised concerns that the proposed system would be based upon the zoning of land into three zones of either Growth, Renewal or Protection. In the NPPF Heritage Assets are either designated or non-designated. Many non-designated assets are unknown – because they are archaeological sites as yet undiscovered or because they are heritage assets for which the true significance is not yet recognised. Defining areas for 'Protection' will not be straightforward. If it were possible it would require a lot of additional research if this were to be done by the local planning authority this would be costly. Similarly, if archaeological remains are encountered once development is approved and underway this is likely to place additional and unexpected costs on the developer.
49. Cultural organisations have also raised concerns about the implications of extending exemptions to payment of the community infrastructure levy, as this has been an important source of investment in parks and libraries, although not universally applied.



**Next steps**

50. Officers will use members' comments to help shape forthcoming EEHT led workshops being held with members and officers, as well as conversations with MHCLG and our response to the consultations.

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