

Agenda

Wednesday, 22 September 2021 1.00 pm

Hybrid meeting (Microsoft Teams OR Beecham Room, 7th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ)

To: Members of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

www.local.gov.uk



Guidance notes for members and visitors 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

Welcome!

18 Smith Square is located in the heart of Westminster, and is nearest to the Westminster, Pimlico, Vauxhall and St James's Park Underground stations, and also Victoria, Vauxhall and Charing Cross railway stations. A map is available on the back page of this agenda.

Security

All visitors (who do not have an LGA ID badge), are requested to report to the Reception desk where they will be asked to sign in and will be given a visitor's badge to be worn at all times whilst in the building.

18 Smith Square has a swipe card access system meaning that security passes will be required to access all floors. Most LGA governance structure meetings will take place on the **ground floor**, **7**th **floor** and **8**th **floor** of 18 Smith Square.

Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.

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In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the green Fire Exit signs. Go straight to the assembly point in Tufton Street via Dean Trench Street (off Smith Square).

DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.
DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.



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Toilets

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WiFi is available in 18 Smith Square for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling "Wireless Network Connection" on your computer and connecting to LGA-Free-WiFi. You will then need to register,



Association

either by completing a form or through your Facebook or Twitter account (if you have one). You only need to register the first time you log on.

The LGA also offers the Govroam network, a Wi-Fi network which gives Members seamless roaming internet access across multiple public-sector locations if you have also signed up for this service. This network is enabled throughout our Westminster building and allows Members and staff from other authorities who are part of the Govroam network to seamlessly connect to our Wi-Fi.

Further help

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk



Culture, Tourism & Sport Board 22 September 2021

There will be a hybrid meeting of the Culture, Tourism & Sport Board at **1.00 pm on Wednesday, 22 September 2021** (Microsoft Teams OR Beecham Room, 7th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ)

A sandwich lunch will be available for those that have confirmed they will attend the meeting in person.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

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

Conservative: Group Office: 020 7664 3223 email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk

Labour: Group Office: 020 7664 3263 email: labqp@lga.gov.uk

Independent: Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk

Liberal Democrat: Group Office: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk

LGA Contact:

Emma West

emma.west@local.gov.uk

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.

Social Media

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

The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgacts



Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Membership 2021/22

Conservative (7) Clir Peter Golds (Deputy Chair) Clir Steve Hastings Clir Barry Lewis Clir Gary Ridley Coventry City Council Clir Phil Seeva Cornwall Council Clir Phil Seeva Cornwall Council Clir Anne Welburn West Lindsey District Council Clir Mandy Chilcott Clir David Jeffels North Yorkshire County Council Clir Neil Jory West Devon Borough Council Clir Andrew Western (Deputy Chair) Clir Brigid Jones Clir Brigid Jones Clir Richard Henry Clir Chanisha Patel Bridgend County Borough Council Clir Amy Cross Blackpool Council Substitutes Clir Guy Nicholson Clir Garald Vernon-Jackson, Clir Chair) Clir Chris White Hertfordshire County Council Further Western (Deputy Camden London Borough Council Clir Chris White Hertfordshire County Borough Council Clir Chris White Hertfordshire County Borough Council Clir Chris White Hertfordshire County Council Clir Council Clir Chris White Hertfordshire County Council Clir Council Clir Julian German (Vice-Chair) Clir Tom Hollis Ashfield District Council Substitutes Clir Gueff Knight Lancaster City Council Clir Goeff Knight Lancaster City Council Elancaster City Council Clir Goeff Knight Lancaster City Council Clir Geoff Knight Lancaster City Council Clir Gourne Halls District Council	Councillor	Authority
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Agenda

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Wednesday 22 September 2021, 1:00pm

Online via Microsoft Teams OR Beecham Room, 7th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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6.	Sports participation and community leisure discussion with Tanni Grey-Thompson	Verbal
7.	Verbal update on sector survey results	Verbal
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Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 8 December 2021, 1.00 pm, Hybrid meeting (via Microsoft Teams OR Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ)



23 September 2021

Terms of reference and outside bodies

Purpose of report
For decision.
Summary
This paper sets out the Board's terms of reference and appointments to outside bodies.
Is this report confidential? Yes \square No \boxtimes
Recommendation/s
The Board is requested to approve the terms of reference for the Board.
The Board is requested to confirm its appointments to outside bodies, in line with the
LGA's policy on political proportionality.
Action/s
Officers to notify outside bodies of new or continuing appointments.

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal policy adviser

Phone no: 0207 187 7384

Email: rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk



23 September 2021

Terms of reference and outside bodies

Remit

1. 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

- 2. 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, including their role in addressing economic and social inequalities.
- 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 levelling up agenda.
- 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 and combined authorities.
- Support other LGA Boards to recognise how culture, tourism and sport helps to achieve their priorities; and contribute to wider LGA work any risks or opportunities that may arise for the culture, tourism and sport sectors and act on them as required.
- Ensure that the flagship Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 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

- 3. 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.
- 4. The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board will be responsible for:
- Ensuring the priorities of councils are fed into the business planning process.

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- 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.
- 5. 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

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

Quorum

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

Political Composition

8. 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
- 9. Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

Frequency per year

10. Meetings to be five times per annum.

Reporting Accountabilities

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11. 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

Outside bodies

- 12. The CTS Board requires representation on:
- Tourism Alliance currently Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson (LibDem)
- London Marathon Charitable Trust currently Cllr Richard Henry (Lab)
- Coastal SIG currently Cllr David Jeffels (CON)
- Library champion currently Cllr Tom Hollis (IND)
- Creative Industries Council new appointment
- 13. The current Equalities champion (appointed centrally by the LGA) is Cllr Julian German (sub Cllr Natalie McVey).



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CTS Board Draft Work Programme 2021/22

For discussion.
Summary
This paper sets out the priority actions, issues and commitments for the CTS Board over the next six months.
Members are invited to comment on the balance of the overall work programme and any suggestions for future work.
Is this report confidential? Yes \square No \boxtimes
Recommendation/s
That members agree the work programme and provide a steer on paragraphs 24 and 25.
Action/s
Officers will progress the work programme as agreed by the Board.

Contact officer: lan Leete

Position: Senior Adviser

Phone no: 0207 664 3143

Email: ian.leete@local.gov.uk



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CTS Board Draft Work Programme 2021/22

Background

- 1. Over the 2020/2021 cycle, the priorities of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board have necessarily been shaped by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board has successfully led the LGA's work in responding to the severe pressure on sports and leisure and cultural services in particular, acting as the voice of local government in negotiations with Government and working closely with key partners.
- 2. Despite the strong focus on recovery and sustainability, the Board continued its efforts to shape the future of the sector through commissioned work, Parliamentary activity and media work, and engaging with Ministers and senior officials.
- 3. While work resulting from the pandemic will continue, we hope the pace of activity will slow and allow the resumption of work that had to be paused or delayed. This paper sets out a proposed work plan until the end of the financial year. Should priorities change, either in response to the pandemic or for other reasons, officers will work with the Board to re-allocate resources or amend planned timetables in the most appropriate way.
- 4. The policy work of the Board is led by Rebecca Cox, principal policy adviser; Ian Leete, senior adviser; and Lauren Lucas and Samantha Ramanah, advisers (job share). It is also supported by the member services, media, public affairs and digital communications teams as required. Its work is funded from the LGA's policy directorate budget.
- This paper sets out planned work across the Board's remit, including cross-cutting issues. The CTS team will also contribute to core LGA work such as the Spending Review submission.

Core work of the Board

- 6. Political engagement The Board has made good progress in strengthening its relationships with Ministers and senior civil servants at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, securing regular meetings with the Secretary of State and senior civil servants. Working with public affairs colleagues, we will maintain levels of engagement with Ministers and civil servants in DCMS, MHCLG and the Office for Health Promotion as priorities, with additional contacts with Defra and BEIS as required. We will also seek to further develop connections with relevant All-Party Parliamentary Groups and their chairs, in light of positive developments over the past year.
- 7. Advocating for councils During the pandemic it became clear that the data we had access to was not enough to give us a complete picture of current challenges and opportunities in the sector. Officers have commissioned an LGA survey to close gaps

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identified in MHCLG data returns and develop a more complete picture of how councils have been investing in sport and cultural services and facilities throughout the pandemic. Survey. Results are expected by mid-September and we hope to be able to share early trends with the Board at its first meeting. Once the results are analysed, a suite of communication tools will be developed to showcase this work to the sector, Government, and the media.

- 8. **Supporting the sector –** The LGA continues to provide a strong improvement and support offer to councils. While day to day delivery of the Arts Council England and Sport England funded programmes has been successfully transferred to the LGA Improvement Team, the policy team will liaise regularly with the improvement team and funding bodies to ensure there is a strong connection between policy and improvement work, particularly around sharing of good practice and key policy developments like the refresh of Sporting Futures. This frees up the CTS policy team to focus on lobbying and engagement with Government in pursuit of our objectives for the sector and its services.
- 9. **Climate change and equalities –** These important themes will run throughout the CTS work programme and all of the Board's business. For instance, leisure centres can account for up to 40 per cent of a district council's direct carbon emissions, and this has been a major aspect of our lobbying work for investment in the leisure estate.
- 10. Access to sports, leisure and cultural opportunities remains unequal, and addressing this will be a core part of the Board's work. Each board report will include a section on equalities, diversity and inclusion issues. Every commissioned piece of work will require providers to set out how they will ensure a diverse range of perspective in their work. All press releases and media work will consider the implications for equality, diversity and inclusion. The LGA has also newly appointed Rupinder Parhar as Senior Adviser to lead on equality, diversity and inclusion issues and the Culture, Tourism and Sport team will meet with her to discuss the policy agenda and opportunities within it.

Sport and physical activity

- 11. The Board's work on sport, leisure and physical activity has included a strong focus on the sustainability of services due to the impact of the pandemic. The LGA is working with key partners to set out the funding and service transformation needed. The LGA's new President, Baroness Grey-Thompson, will be an important advocate for this aspect of the Board's work.
- 12. **Securing the future of public leisure –** This commissioned piece of work in partnership with APSE and CLOA was launched at a Parliamentary reception on 14 September with over 100 delegates, including MPs, Peers, Councillors and officers. It has been developed following consultation with over 260 councils and multiple stakeholders. The



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report has informed the LGA's Spending Review submission, and Sport England, UK Active, Swim England, the Lawn Tennis Association and District Councils Network have indicated support for the report's findings and the potential to include the asks in their own lobbying work. To maintain the momentum following the launch, and to introduce councils to the recommendations on how their own services can change, key messages will be integrated into the LGA/Sport England improvement programmes, as well as bulletins and other communications with the sector.

- 13. Influencing national policy Sport England's new Implementation Plan and DCMS' refresh of 'Sporting Futures' will govern investment into sport and physical activity for between five and 10 years. It is therefore crucial that the needs of councils and their communities are effectively reflected in them. Lobbying work will build on the engagement undertaken for 'Securing the future', which has laid the groundwork with these partners.
- 14. **Supporting the sector –** The strategic and operational context for sport and leisure services has changed fundamentally during the past two years and is expected to continue evolving over the next 18 months as the sector recovers. The CTS team will prepare a suite of briefings for the sector summarising key developments and highlighting good or innovative practice.

Culture and creative industries

- 15. As with sport, the financial pressures from the pandemic and the changed societal consumption of culture have prompted reflections on the nature of councils' involvement in cultural delivery, as well as a reaffirmation from councils about the value that these services contribute to their communities.
- 16. The role of culture in economic recovery Officers are continuing to develop case studies to highlight the role of culture in economic and regeneration, keeping this opportunity at the forefront of minds as councils and communities seek to rebuild their economies after the pandemic. They will highlight the role of cultural institutions and anchors in the levelling up agenda, as well as innovative financing offers being developed to support the creative industries by combined authorities.
- 17. Local government leadership of culture In recent years the Board has rightly focussed on articulating the local value of culture both socially and economically. We have sought to share good practice and improve the knowledge and skills across the sector, and have built up a good set of resources for councils to access. The time is now right to look at the future role of local government and local places in cultural provision and improve local government's profile in the wider cultural sector. A separate paper for lead members sets out our proposals for a culture commission as a vehicle to achieve this.

Tourism and events



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- 18. The Board's work on tourism and events has been dominated by supporting councils in managing events locally through the various pandemic restrictions, and on the Government-led review of destination management organisations (DMOs). Both elements of this work will need to be resourced through the new Board cycle.
- 19. Support and steer the implementation of the DMO review The Independent Review launched in March 2021 and has included an interview with Cllr Vernon-Jackson as well as an open call for evidence which has been signposted to councils. The reviews recommendations have been submitted to DCMS and are awaiting a response. Once the review is published, the LGA will work to provide a response on behalf of councils and support any transitional work that may be required.
- 20. Managing events under endemic Covid-19 The events industry has faced significant challenges in restarting due to localised outbreaks of Covid-19, which are expected to continue for the foreseeable future. The LGA lent its weight to lobbying for Government backed insurance for events, which has now been announced. However, this work has revealed a lack of coordination, sharing of best practice, and training for councils and public bodies supporting events, particularly Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs). While it will not be the LGA's responsibility to lead this work or produce advice, we can play an important support and communications role in discussions between the industry, DCMS, the police, and our member councils.

Other issues

- 21. Delivery of social prescribing handbook The Board commissioned this handbook in 2019 for launch in 2020 given the rise in interest in the opportunities for social prescribing and the importance of culture, sport and leisure provision for delivery. Unfortunately, this piece of work had to be delayed due to lockdown prohibiting all of the activities. As restrictions cease, the time is right to revisit the document and update it for a post-Covid context and recovery.
- 22. Council involvement in 2022 celebrations 2022 is scheduled to feature a number of key celebrations and commemorations, including Festival UK 22, the Commonwealth Games, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Falklands 40 and annual events such as the Get Creative Festival. Many of the organisers will be arranging country-wide events, but have not previously had the experience of engaging with local authorities. The CTS team will engage with the DCMS events team and organisers to ensure local government is kept informed of activities and engaged as a partner for delivering local elements of the festivals and events.



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Events

- 23. **Conferences and webinars** throughout 2020/21, the team held a series of highly successful events, bringing together the sector to discuss key issues, announcements, and to influence strategies such as Sport England's 10-year plan. The Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport conference also reached an unprecedented 800 delegates, from a much wider range of areas than in-person events. A conference paper will be brought to the December Board with proposals for the 2022 conference. It is expected that the majority of events will remain online to attract wider audiences, but there is also a strong appetite for in-person meetings and a chance to rebuild networks.
- 24. The Board are invited to suggest ways of addressing this, with suggestions to date including smaller study tours, virtual tours, and small scale networking events. All activity will need to be undertaken by the CTS team, alongside the wider work-programme.
- 25. The Board are also invited to suggest hot topics that could form the basis of webinars.

Implications for Wales

26. The majority of culture, tourism and sport funding and policy is devolved. However, there are cross-overs in terms of best practice in delivery, and on some policy areas such as introducing a tourism levy where sharing of progress will be undertaken.

Implications for inclusion, diversity and equality

27. Each piece of commissioned work will incorporate considerations for inclusion, diversity and equality. The Board and team will seek to highlight the importance of equality and inclusion at every opportunity, in particular sharing examples of initiatives that actively seek to address this imbalance.

Financial Implications

28. The proposed work programme can be delivered within the Board's budget.

Next steps

29. The CTS team will further develop the individual elements within this work programme, bringing proposals and progress reports to the Board.



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CTS Board draft forward plan

Purpose of report
For direction.
Summary
This paper sets out a draft forward plan for the Board's 2021/2022 meeting cycle.
Is this report confidential? Yes \square No \boxtimes
Recommendation/s
Members are invited to comment on the draft forward plan and options for holding an out of London meeting.
Action/s
Officers to prepare Board papers and invitations as required.

Contact officer: lan Leete

Position: Senior adviser

Phone no: 0207 664 3143

Email: ian.leete@local.gov.uk



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CTS Board draft forward plan

Background

- The Board's wide remit allows a range of speakers to join members to discuss key issues. Officers propose that given the Board's focus this year on strategic, forwardlooking work, it use its five meetings to prioritise engaging with key stakeholders on these themes.
- This paper sets out a draft forward plan and proposed guest speakers for forthcoming Board meetings. The plan will be brought to every lead member meeting and will be further developed in response to changing priorities and member input.
- 3. In light of the large number of stakeholders wishing to engage with the Board, Lead Members have suggested a trial approach for 2021 of a series of focused engagement meetings, taking place alternately with the Board. These would allow for more in-depth engagement with key organisations and individuals, while also allowing day to day business to be handled at Board meetings. The meetings would be light touch with no papers produced, unless by the presenting organisation. Dates for these sessions have not been finalised but will be circulated shortly.

Date	Topics	Speakers
22 September 2021	Terms of reference Work programme Culture Commission View from the frontline (inc early survey data if available)	Baroness Tanni Grey- Thompson, new LGA President
October Stakeholder meeting	Creative Industries, discussing the role that councils can play in supporting the creative industries and working with industry to influence Government.	Debbie Bestwick, Chair of the <u>Creative Industries</u> <u>Council</u> Regions and Clusters working group
November Stakeholder meeting	Business and Intellectual Property Centres, discussing how co-locating Business and Intellectual Property Centres in council libraries has opened up entrepreneurship to new demographics, and provided a more sustainable support offer to businesses.	Isabel Oswell, Head of Business Audiences, British Library



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8 December 2021	Implications of the Spending Review Implications of the Levelling Up White Paper Early discussion with the LGA Culture Commission CTS conference	LGA Culture Commission representatives Arts Council England
9 January 2022	Discussion on key national plans for sport from DCMS and Sport England Updated social prescribing report Draft creative industries and combined authorities report	Nigel Huddleston MP, Minister for Sport, to provide an update on the refresh of Sporting Futures, and responses to Securing the future of public leisure Tim Hollingsworth, CEX of Sport England, discussing Sport England's new Implementation Plan for its 10-year strategy, and their partnership with the LGA
February Stakeholder meeting	National Governing Bodies for Sports	Jane Nickerson, CEX of SwimEngland, and/or Scott Lloyd, CEX of the Lawn Tennis Association, discussing the work and investments of these National Governing Bodies with councils
16 March 2022	Focus on tourism and destination management Spring Budget (expected)	Nick de Bois, Chair of the Independent Review of Destination Management Organisations, and Chair of VisitEngland, discussing the role of councils in destination management.
April Stakeholder meeting		Debbie Kaye, Chair of Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association; and Kirsty Cummings, CEX, Community Leisure UK.
8 June 2022	Final report of the LGA Culture Commission Board annual report	Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister for Culture and Creative Industries Neil Mendoza, Commissioner for Cultural Recovery



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Location of Board meetings

- 4. The CTS Board has a policy of holding one meeting per cycle outside of London. While meetings for the foreseeable future will remain hybrid, the Board has been invited to two locations for a future meeting:
 - 4.1. Buxton in Derbyshire: The town has been undergoing significant levels of regeneration led by the council, culminating in the restoration of Buxton Crescent and hotel. This visit was originally planned to take place in 2020 but was disrupted by Covid-19.
 - 4.2. Coventry, City of Culture: Coventry City Council have invited the Board to visit Coventry to experience their City of Culture offering and understand the significance of the title to the City. This could inform support for the 20 places bidding to be City of Culture 2025.

Next steps

5. Officers to prepare Board papers and invitations as required.



22 September 2021

Update on the report "Securing the Future of Public Sport and Leisure Services"

Purpose of report				
For information.				
Summary				
Excellence (APSE) and the	On 14 th September 2021 the LGA in partnership with the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) and the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) launched the jointly commissioned report "Securing the Future of Public Sport and Leisure Services" in parliament.			
The report represents the views of local government, leisure providers and wider key stakeholders on the key actions and changes that are needed at national and local level so that public sport and leisure services can operate sustainably and deliver the best outcomes for communities.				
Is this report confidential? You	es □ No ⊠			
Recommendation/s				
This update report is for infe	ormation. Board members are asked to note the paper.			
Action/s				
Officers to note any comments from the Board.				
Contact officer:	Samantha Ramanah			
Position:	Adviser			
Phone no:	07887 503 136			
Email:	Samantha.Ramanah@local.gov.uk			



22 September 2021

Update on the report "Securing the Future of Public Sport and Leisure Services"

Background

- 1. This report was commissioned under the 2020/21 Board cycle. It was jointly commissioned and funded by the LGA, APSE and CLOA to reflect the need to align and strengthen the sector's voice in order to improve its reach and influence at national level.
- The report sets out two key asks of Government and seven recommendations to enable public sport and leisure services to be able to operate sustainably and deliver the best outcomes for communities..
- 3. The recommendations and asks are based on the findings from a comprehensive consultation which sought the views from over 250 participants including representatives from local government, leisure providers and wider key stakeholders.

Key findings

- 4. Our research identified the following key findings:
- That fundamental systemic issues with the funding of public sector sports and leisure provision have been building over the past decade and have been hugely exacerbated as a result of COVID-19.
- Councils play a central leadership role in creating active places, connecting diverse Government objectives through planning, active travel schemes, parks and playground provision, and their leisure facilities
- Public sport and leisure services are unique for their reach and support for communities, providing lifelong opportunities for all to be active, especially in some of the most deprived communities.
- Public sport and leisure services are integral to COVID-19 recovery supporting communities to recover and helping relieve pressures on NHS and social care services.
- Community sport and physical activity development is essential in expanding the reach of services and helping to address health inequalities.
- Public sport and leisure services are under immediate risk of operational failure and face critical long-term damage without immediate further support.
- The public provision of swimming facilities and the need to reach the levels of swimming attainment in the national curriculum cannot be fulfilled by private operators. It is essential for ensuring tens of thousands of primary school children, particularly in more deprived areas, learn important water safety skills and learn to swim each year.
- Ageing leisure assets make a significant contribution to carbon emissions, and investment in decarbonising assets can help to meet net-zero targets and reduce running costs in the longer term
- The voice of the public sport and leisure sector is fragmented, which has weakened its ability to influence at local and national level.



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 Investment in leadership and skills development is required across leisure and health partners to develop the services needed by communities in the future, support collaboration and drive further integration of services.

Repot recommendations

- 5. Our two key asks of Government are:
 - The new Office for Health Improvement and Disparities should take responsibility
 for embedding the strategic role of public sport and leisure services within health
 systems and pathways, coordinating with DCMS, MHCLG and local government
 within England. All nations should consider how best to coordinate public sport
 and leisure provision across differing departments of Government
 - 2. A £1 billion capital investment into the leisure estate based on established design plans would help to create hundreds of construction jobs, improve efficiency, reduce climate emissions and boost usage. Longer term, it would create new job opportunities and apprenticeships in areas of the sport and leisure industry typically taken by young people.

6. Our seven recommendations are:

- Department for Media, Culture and Sport (DCMS) should establish a programme for public sport and leisure services equivalent to its 'Valuing culture and heritage assets capital: a framework towards informing decision making' programme. The new programme should make statistics and evidence publicly available to aid the articulation of the value of public sport and leisure services locally and nationally in line with Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) Green Book.
- 2. DCMS and MHCLG should work in partnership with local government to build a robust case for the sustainable investment in public sport and leisure services, to be put forward to HMT for the Comprehensive Spending Review 2021. It should recognise the wider policy objectives that these services contribute to, and be supported by the new Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England in recognition of the critical role public sport and leisure services play in addressing their objectives.
- 3. The DfE should work with Government departments and councils to map the provision of swimming facilities and levels of curriculum attainment, investing to address gaps or future gaps in the system and making targeted support available to enable schools to invest in learn to swim and swim safety where the system is currently failing.
- 4. Councils should consider what social value outcomes they want to achieve through public sport and leisure services and design services accordingly,

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including activities such as outreach work to support those who are most vulnerable. These objectives must also be fully embedded into procurement activity and contract management processes.

- 5. Sport England (and other devolved administrations and sports councils), UK Active and Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) should work together, with other key partners, to provide professional development opportunities that meet the future skills needs in a post-COVID-19 world. This should consider what is needed to tackle inequalities in access, including the implications of digital inequalities.
- 6. Investment should be made available to enable relevant bodies across the UK such as Sport England, the LGA, CLOA and APSE alongside other UK administrative bodies for sport and leisure to provide leadership development for portfolio holders and officers at a strategic and democratic governance level. A key element of the programme should be supporting elected members and officers to make the linkages with the wider system, including health systems.
- The Local Government Physical Activity Partnership (LGPAP) should enhance its capacity, increase its visibility and engagement with the Government, and accelerate its work.

Next steps

- Following the successful launch of the report in parliament on 14 September 2021, we
 will continue to promote the report and seek support from wider stakeholders and the
 Government through our ongoing lobbying work.
- 8. The Summary report can be found here: https://www.local.gov.uk/securing-future-public-sport-and-leisure-services

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted