



Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 19 October 2022
10.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and
Online

There will be a meeting of the Culture, Tourism & Sport Board at **10.00 am on Wednesday, 19 October 2022** Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online.

LGA Hybrid Meetings

All of our meetings are available to join in person at [18 Smith Square](#) or remotely via videoconference as part of our hybrid approach. We will ask you to confirm in advance if you will be joining each meeting in person or remotely so we can plan accordingly, if you wish to attend the meeting in person, please also remember to confirm whether you have any dietary/accessibility requirements. 18 Smith Square is a Covid-19 secure venue and measures are in place to keep you safe when you attend a meeting or visit the building in person.

[Please see guidance for Members and Visitors to 18 Smith Square here](#)

Catering and Refreshments:

If the meeting is scheduled to take place at lunchtime, a sandwich lunch will be available.

Political Group meetings and pre-meetings for Lead Members:

Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

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

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: labgp@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

Attendance:

Your attendance, whether it be in person or virtual, will be noted by the clerk at the meeting.

LGA Contact:

David Pealing
david.pealing@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.

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board – Membership

[Click here for accessible information on membership](#)

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
Cllr Peter Golds CBE (Deputy Chair)	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Victoria Wilson	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Gary Ridley	Coventry City Council
Cllr Phil Seeva	Cornwall Council
Cllr Bradley Thomas	Wychavon District Council
Cllr Rebecca Poulsen	Bradford City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Chris Dey	Enfield London Borough
Cllr David Jeffels	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Neil Jory	West Devon Borough Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Shabir Pandor (Deputy Chair)	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Michael Graham	Wakefield City Council
Cllr Afrasiab Anwar	Burnley Borough Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Becky Gittins	Coventry City Council
Cllr Jemima Laing	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Kelly Middleton	Telford and Wrekin Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Lewis Allison	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Luthfur Rahman	Manchester City Council
Cllr Jonathan Simpson MBE	Camden London Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Chris White	City and District of St Albans
Substitutes	
Cllr Sean MacLeod	Lewes District Council
Independent (1)	
Cllr Geoff Knight (Vice-Chair)	Lancaster City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Natalie McVey	Malvern Hills District Council
Cllr Julie Jones-Evans	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr James Hall	Swale Borough Council

Agenda

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

10.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 7 December 2022, 10.30 am, Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Note of last Culture, Tourism & Sport Board meeting

Title:	Culture, Tourism & Sport Board
Date:	Wednesday 8 June 2022
Venue:	Hybrid meeting (via Microsoft Teams & The Crescent, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6BH)

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed Members, officers and guests to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Andrew Western.

Cllr Jonathan Simpson, MBE, attended the meeting as a substitute.

No declarations of interest had been received.

2 Itinerary for Derbyshire

The Chair thanked Cllr Lewis for hosting the meeting in Derbyshire, on behalf of the Board, and thanked Board Members for attending in person.

The itinerary document contained within the agenda pack was noted.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

4 English National Opera

The Chair welcomed Dr Harry Brunjes, Chair of the English National Opera (ENO), and invited Cllr Peter Golds, to introduce the item.

Harry introduced himself and provided a verbal update to the Board, setting out the following points:

- The History of ENO.
- ENO's current model which consisted of eight months of opera, ten main stage productions, and then in the summer months, a commercial musical.
- ENO Engage:

- ENO Engage existed to open up new possibilities for opera in people's lives, working with health trusts, schools, community organisations and partners across the country to deliver projects and activities that support wellbeing, learning and skills development through opera.
- There are three Strategic Areas to our work:
 - **Access & Participation** - Creating unexpected encounters with opera; breaking down barriers and shifting perceptions.
 - **Learning & Skills** - Nurturing and developing creative skills and talents; transforming the way in which individuals learn through and with opera.
 - **Health & Wellbeing** - Supporting the wellbeing of people and communities through ambitious collaborations between opera, health and social care.
- Headline projects:
 - **'ENO Breathe'** was an award-winning breathing and wellbeing programme developed specifically for people recovering from COVID-19, who were still suffering from breathlessness and associated anxiety.
 - **'Finish This'** uses specially commissioned operatic works as a creative starting point to inspire students to create and produce their own music through an invitation to respond to, and resolve, unfinished artistic work. A pilot of the programme had been undertaken in Primary and Secondary schools in 2021, and applications were currently open for schools across the country to sign up in 2022. ENO were also running a pilot of the programme in SEND Schools, which began in January 2022.
 - **'Sky Arts Access All Arts Week'** was a partnership project between ENO, Sky Arts and other leading artists and arts organisations on nationwide arts week for primary schools between 6-10 June 2022, to help bring the arts to every child in every primary school across the UK and Ireland, celebrating the arts and highlighting the importance of supporting the health and wellbeing of young people.
 - **'Relaxed performances'** were ideal for individuals who benefited from a more relaxed environment, including anyone with dementia, learning disabilities, Tourette's, an autistic spectrum condition, other neurological conditions, sensory disorders, anxiety, bladder and bowel conditions, and those with young children or babies. ENO had run relaxed performances since 2019 and continued to build on this work each season.
 - **'Community and School Membership programmes'** had been launched in May 2022. The programmes were open to all **state** Secondary Schools and all adult community groups and organisations across the country, the membership schemes offered a range of exclusive benefits - including free tickets, pre-show talks, tours and workshops.
 - **'Youth Casting'** supported the casting of children and young people in ENO productions, which allowed a meaningful and exciting possibility for schools. ENO Engage ran extensive school workshops and wrap-around activity for schools, allowing productions to be a whole-school learning experience.
 - **'Youth Programming'** provided industry insights for young

people looking to develop a career in the arts. ENO's backstage insights programme would return in 2022-23.

- **'AbracadOpera!'** was a new Sky Kids TV show, designed to introduce young viewers to opera for the first time. The comedy-musical-drama brings together the ENO's musical forces, Sky Kids talent and ENO Engage partner schools to create an exciting adventure into the world of operatic music and performance, discovered through the artform's best characters.

Board Members made a number of comments and asked questions which related to the following points:

- The way in which local authorities could work more closely with ENO to allow communities access to performances.
- Cheaper tickets for individuals under the age of 21.
- Skills for the sector.
- ENO's costume-base in Camden.
- Outreach to children who did not attend school.
- The interplay between ENO and smaller organisations around the country and the work that local authorities could undertake to promote ENO and the associated programmes.

Harry responded to Board Members' comments, setting out the following points:

- Post-pandemic, ENO were working to re-establish links around the country, particularly in Liverpool, Leeds, Luton, and Newcastle.
- Due to the high cost of main stage opera, ENO would soon develop bespoke productions for young people.
- The costume-base building in Camden was not currently fit for purpose, ENO were looking at several sites for long-term use.
- All Members were encouraged to contact Dr Brunjes directly via e-mail with ideas, case studies and inspiration.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the update.

Action:

- Officers to circulate Dr Brunjes e-mail address to Board Members.

5 Leisure centres and rising energy costs

The Chair welcomed Huw Edwards, Chief Executive Officer (Ukactive), Jack Shakespeare, Director of Research, Policy and Communications (Ukactive), and Kirsty Cummings, Chief Executive (Community Leisure UK), and invited Jack to present a series of slides which related to Ukactive energy costs, the presentation slides covered the following points:

- Energy cost increases and impact

- Operator survey – March 2022 (comparing rising bills and the way in which it translated across the sector)
- Key messaging and activity
- Operator survey – May 2022 (which focused on impact and timeframes).
- Next steps, which included:
 - Monitor and report operator/facility impact;
 - Maintain momentum with coalition to pool live data and insight;
 - Monitor progress and capture case studies;
 - Continue to press central government for dialogue;
 - Further opportunities for collaborative lobbying.

Kirsty introduced herself and provided an update to the Board which related to the work of Community Leisure UK (CLUK), setting out the following points:

- CLUK continued to work closely with partners and Ukactive aligning surveys and collating data.
- Ukactive's survey showed energy costs for public leisure facilities were projected to increase vs 2021 costs by 150% for 2022 and by 185% for 2023. CLUK's survey showed similar challenges for providers.
- Local authorities had experienced reduced reserves as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and continued to experience significant financial pressures post-pandemic.
- A preventative approach continued to be taken.

Board Members made a number of comments and asked questions which related to the following points:

- The Chair confirmed that the case for additional funding to support leisure centres in tackling rising energy costs and ensuring that leisure centres were refurbished and fit for purpose continued to be made to government.
- The vital services within leisure centres which benefitted the health and wellbeing system, such as activities to support individuals living with disabilities, rehabilitation, and preventing social isolation and loneliness for the elderly.
- When making the case to government, the importance of the health and wellbeing of the nation needed to be strongly emphasised.
- The need to emphasise the importance of leisure centres and the detrimental impact of the rising energy costs at the 2022 LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport annual conference.
- The sustainability of buildings and the need for regular reviews of buildings in a bid to attempt to reduce energy costs where possible, including support from Government decarbonisation funds.
- Co-location of services is dependent on every service being financially viable and the failure of one undercuts the viability of all of them, so losing swimming pools would put other services at risk.

The Chair asked Board Members to brief the Vice Presidents of the LGA on the issues of leisure centres and rising energy costs, within their own

political groups. He agreed to regularly review the important topic and if need be, hold an extraordinary meeting of the Board, prior to the next scheduled meeting in September.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

Action:

- Officers to circulate the presentation slides to Board Members.

6 LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Annual Conference 2022

The Chair invited Ian Leete, Senior Adviser, to provide a brief update on the Culture, Tourism and Sport annual conference 2022.

Board Members made a number of comments and asked questions which related to the following points:

- The opportunity for Board Members to have a tour of The London Coliseum before or after the annual conference.
- The need to emphasise the importance of leisure centres and the detrimental impact of the rising energy costs at the annual conference.
- The need to focus on the recovery of the culture and tourism sectors post-Covid-19 pandemic.
- In relation to point 9 set out within the report, early views from Members would be sought after the 2022 annual conference.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

7 Culture Commission

The Chair invited Lauren Lucas, Adviser, to provide a verbal update on the Culture Commission.

Lauren set out the following points:

- The Commission on Culture and local government was exploring the role of council-funded culture in the national recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Commission had 16 commissioners and would be chaired by Baroness Lola Young. It would run from March to December 2022.
- There were four themes for the investigation
 - Sustainable economic recovery;
 - Health inequalities;
 - Social Mobility; and
 - Place
- There was an open call for case studies which continued to be received, an influx of case studies was expected towards the

deadline at the end of July.

- Board Members were encouraged to submit case studies and examples of inspirational local government culture to officers for use within the final report and as a resource alongside the report.
- There was a wider stakeholder engagement and research programme taking place, run by Red Quadrant.
- A graphic scribe had been commissioned to produce an illustration based on each of the roundtable discussions. There were also four short films in production, two of which would be featured at the LGA annual conference.
- Next steps (collating case studies and evidence, writing up in Autumn and publishing in December).
- Regular updates would be provided at each Board meeting.

Board Members made comments which related to the following points:

- Cllr Peter Golds offered to contribute at the upcoming roundtable events to promote the positive work of the local government.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the verbal update.

8 Criteria for allocating national funding

The Chair invited Lauren Lucas, Adviser, to introduce the report which provided information on the methodology and data sets used by the Government and national arms-length bodies to allocate funding to councils.

Board Members made comments which related to the following points:

- The way in which Arts Council England (ACE) allocate funding and their use of data at a local authority level.
- The need for ACE to be mindful that the radical transformation that could happen through culture would not necessarily happen within the next three-years.
- The importance of ensuring embedment in whole communities and encouraging sustainable growth and development.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

9 End of year report

The Chair invited Ian Leete, Senior Adviser, to introduce the report which outlined the key outcomes and achievements of the CTS team and Board since the last 'end of year' report in May 2021.

Board Members commended the report and made comments which related to the following points:

- The importance of working collaboratively.
- Media releases and the results of the releases.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

10 Outside Bodies

The Chair invited Board Members to update the Board on recent activity in relation to their outside body appointments.

Cllr Chris White provided an update in relation to the Tourism Alliance (TA), he set out the following points:

- Kurt Janson, Director of Policy and Administration, was leaving the TA.
- There had been strong tourist recovery in the following areas this year:
 - UK holidays
 - Paid-for accommodation
 - Out-of-home leisure
 - Dining and pubs
 - Entertainment
 - The UK attraction market
- There had been a couple of concerns highlighted:
 - Highways chiefs at Kent County Council had said that there could be a need to trigger Operation Brock as many as seven more times this year.
 - No explicit requirement for local authorities to consult with their Destination Management Organisations in relation to current government funding rounds.

Cllr Richard Henry provided an update in relation to the London Marathon Charitable Trust (LMCT), he set out the following points:

- Whilst the LMCT were focused on grant- making to London boroughs, there was a significant amount of flexibility to fund other areas and make small grants quickly.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report and the updates provided.

11 Any other business

- **Culture and library peer challenges** – There had been difficulty sourcing member peers for some peer challenges. Board Members were encouraged to actively let group offices know that they would be interested in taking part in peer challenges and champion the recruitment of member peers with experience in/responsibility for the culture and libraries.

- **LGA peer challenge** – The LGA would have its own peer challenge in the Autumn. Over the past few years, the Board had had some reflections on how the Board and the CTS team interacted with the rest of the LGA, including press, public affairs and corporate resources, as well as resourcing for the team itself. Board Members were encouraged to contact their political groups in relation to those reflections and whether they felt that the issues and concerns raised previously had been addressed or if there were further changes that could be made.

Appendix A - Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Portsmouth City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Julian German	Cornwall Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Members	Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Gary Ridley	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Phil Seeva	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Anne Welburn	West Lindsey 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 Chris White	City and District of St Albans
	Cllr Tom Hollis	Ashfield District Council
Apologies	Cllr Andrew Western	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
In Attendance	Cllr David Jeffels	North Yorkshire County Council
	Cllr Neil Jory	West Devon Borough Council
	Cllr Guy Nicholson	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Chris Penberthy	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Jonathan Simpson MBE	Camden London Borough Council
	Cllr Geoff Knight	Lancaster City Council



[Click here to enter text.](#)

8 June 2022

Cost of living and rising energy costs

Purpose of report

For direction.

Summary

The cost of living and rising energy costs are dominating discussions with LGA member councils. This paper sets out some of the issues and opportunities arising.

Huw Edwards, CEX, UKactive, and Jack Shakespeare, Director of Research, Policy, and Communications, UKactive, Kevin Mills, Director of Capital Investment at Sport England, and James Gray, Marketing and Advocacy Manager, Libraries Connected, will attend the Board to outline their current activities and points of concern.

Is this report confidential? Yes ☐ No ☒

Recommendation/s

The Board is invited to agree a joint lobbying and support approach.

Action/s

Officers will work with partners to secure meetings with DCMS, DLUHC and HMT to discuss the issue. Media work will be undertaken alongside this.

Contact officer: Ian Leete
Position: Senior Adviser – Culture, Tourism and Sport
Phone no: 0207 664 3143
Email: ian.leete@local.gov.uk

Cost of living and rising energy costs

Background

1. Culture and leisure services are adapting provision to support communities through the coming winter months, whether through acting as warm banks or advice on energy saving and benefits, or through free or subsidised access to healthy activities for carers and those on low incomes.
2. However, all services have previously been successful at earning their own income, which is now being squeezed as residents have less disposable income. Their own energy bills are also increasing significantly, although the impact is variable due to pre-existing contract tariffs and hedging.
3. Leisure centres, particularly swimming pools, are being significantly affected by rising energy costs. This has the potential to jeopardise the recovery of the leisure sector after Covid-19, and to lead to facility closures if external support is not provided.
4. UKactive's survey showed energy costs for public leisure facilities are projected to increase vs 2021 costs by 150% for 2022 and by 185% for 2023. CLUK's survey showed similar challenges for providers.
5. This particularly impacts swimming pools, which require heating. A [2019 report had already found that about 1,800 of the UK's 4,000-plus pools would have to shut by 2030](#) as they became too old and expensive to upgrade.
6. It is difficult to disaggregate the financial pressures on libraries from wider council budgets, but it is clear from work with the library spin-out mutuals, run as charities, that the situation is very pressing. The costs of heating between 30-60 libraries, coupled with wage inflation, can add as much as £800,000 - £1.25 million to the budgets. This amount of money cannot be found from small savings and will require transformational activity and service reductions.
7. More positively, a number of services are finding ways to support communities through their own challenges. Libraries Connected have identified [the range of ways that libraries are responding](#) to this, including acting as warm banks, provision of financial and energy saving advice, and hubs for the donation and distribution of essential items.
8. Examples from the sports sector are less widespread, but include [Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council](#) provide carers with free access to three leisure centres to ensure they are able to maintain a healthy lifestyle while conserving limited funds.

LGA response

9. There is a central emphasis in this area of work on welfare support and financial inclusion, which is being led by Rose Doran through the Resources Board, but a cross-board member advisory group is being established to bring together the work across the organisation. Cllr Vernon-Jackson has been invited to represent this portfolio as Chair of the Board.
10. A [cost of living hub](#) has been developed to provide councils with practical examples of responses across the country and against a variety of themes. It also provides a central repository for research reports and advice guides from Government, academic institutions, and civil society organisations, including a warm spaces map. A cost of living bulletin has also been developed.
11. The LGA has worked closely with Government, councils and partners throughout the implementation of crisis support, and we have welcomed the Government's commitment to preventing hardship throughout the pandemic and in the context of rising energy costs. We have highlighted that we need to continue to ensure that immediate support is adequate and effective.
12. However, it is also very clear, across a wide range of services, that we need a proactive, positive and adequately funded approach to lifting people out of poverty and preventing recurrent crises in the longer term.
13. Members, councils and partners want us to present robust, positive, longer-term proposals for the services and support that will enable households to escape poverty and prevent recurrent crises.
14. On culture, tourism and sport service, the LGA is working with partners like UKactive, Libraries Connected and Community Leisure UK (CLUK) to collect information on the impact of these rising energy costs, and to collectively engage with Government on the issue. The Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) is also supporting this work.
15. The LGA and Ukactive have jointly produced a [briefing to support councils and their providers to mitigate some of the impact on leisure centres](#), but the cost pressures significantly outstrip any savings that can be made using these measures.
16. The issue has been raised with DCMS and Nigel Huddleston, former Minister for Sport, including through parliamentary questions. The Minister's response, repeated in several contexts, has been "The ongoing responsibility of providing access to public leisure facilities lies at Local Authority level, and the government continues to encourage Local Authorities to invest in leisure facilities."
17. The Department also continues to point to the £100 million National Leisure Recovery Fund and £1.75 billion Cultural Recovery Fund, aimed to support the sector through the

depths of Covid, as an example of its support for the sector. This funding was exhausted many months ago.

18. The LGA has also raised the issue with Kemi Badenoch, Minister for Local Government, as part of regular meetings with Cllr James Jamieson. However, although the issue was noted, no further discussion has been initiated by the department.
19. These issues have been outlined in a [letter to the previous Secretaries of State for DCMS and DLUHC](#), copied to their equivalents at HM Treasury and BEIS.
20. Further parliamentary work is being undertaken with MPs and highlighted in letters to the new DCMS ministers. Partners are also working towards evidence-based submissions to Government in advance of the anticipated 3-month review of the energy price cap for businesses. This will identify 'vulnerable' sectors in need of further support.
21. The evidence base for most of the cultural sector remains weak and it is unlikely that a case will successfully be made for further investment. However, the sport sector has a more developed evidence base and efforts are being focused on developing this sufficiently to make a robust case to BEIS and HMT.
22. There has been regular media coverage across all parts of the CTS portfolio over the Summer, highlighting the potential impact of facility closures or reduced opening hours. However, there is an emerging tension between the sector's call for additional support for hard-pressed residents and calling for additional funding to support services which are sometimes, wrongly, perceived as optional lifestyle choices.
23. The overall LGA messaging and positioning on this tension across all services will be discussed at the LGA Executive in December. The Board is invited to discuss this point today, and provide the CTS Chair with a position to feed into the December discussion. The CTS team will also adapt responsive media lines to reflect this position.

Implications for Wales

24. Welsh authorities are equally affected by price rises. However, any mitigation measures and any additional funding would be the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly. The WLGA and CLOW are best placed to lead those conversations, but we will share findings and ideas with them.

Implications for equality, diversity, and inclusion

25. Changes to service are likely to impact on the most vulnerable and least active.

26. It should also be noted that these pressures continue to drive conversations towards the provision of facilities, which provide the opportunity to engage and support the greatest number of people. However, there is clear evidence to show that some of the least active or culturally engaged communities and ethnic groups are more effectively engaged by targeted outreach activities, rather than provision of traditional culture and leisure facilities.
27. In order to deliver the greatest health and social benefits, some funding for this outreach activity needs to be provided. However, in practice, funding for this has tended to be diverted to sustain the more visible facilities, which reach more people. This is a missed opportunity to reduce cost and demand pressures on the NHS and social care services.

Financial Implications

28. Current activity can be delivered within existing LGA budgets.

Next steps

29. Board members are invited to:
- 29.1. Confirm that the LGA should continue to work with partners on joint submissions and media work to increase our impact
 - 29.2. Provide a steer on the Board's preferred balance between the need to target government investment at supporting communities, while successfully articulating the need to support culture, tourism and sport services
 - 29.3. Highlight any additional work or activity that would be of value to member councils.
 - 29.4. Share any local impact or actions being taken on this issue.



Meeting: -

Date: -

CTS workplan 2022

Purpose of report

For direction

Summary

This paper sets out priority issues facing the culture, tourism, and sport sectors, as well as existing and planned work for the LGA culture, tourism and sport (CTS) team to deliver. It also outlines the staff and financial resources available to the Board.

Board members are invited to discuss the issues and opportunities, and confirm the priorities for the Board and CTS team over the 2022/23 cycle.

The achievements of the Board and team in 2021/22 are set out in the [paper discussed at the June 2022 board meeting](#).

Is this report confidential?

No

Recommendation/s

1. That Board members note the financial and staff resources available to the Board
2. Board members agree the priority list of issues and actions.

Contact details

Contact officer: Ian Leete

Position: Senior Adviser – Culture, Tourism and Sport

Phone no: 0207 664 3143

Email: ian.leete@local.gov.uk

CTS workplan 2022

Background

1. At the time of writing, there is significant uncertainty about the direction of national policy. Members might wish to reflect whether the current balance of work is the right one, and whether there are any gaps or areas that should be addressed differently.
2. It is likely that the most pressing priority for an incoming government is to address the cost of living crisis in the short term. Work is already underway to articulate the particular challenges facing CTS services and stakeholders, and we expect this to be a busy area of work in the coming months. This may mean that other planned work may be subject to a delay as we flex the team's resources.
3. Following the launch of the [Signals of the Future](#) report at the LGA annual conference, the LGA will be taking a fresh look at the long term issues facing the country and what local government's role is in addressing them. This will also support our work to influence manifestos in the lead up to the next general election. The Board is already well positioned in this space, thanks to its foresight in commissioning the Culture Commission, Securing the Future report and other projects. In their consideration of the work programme, members might wish to consider how the Board's findings and recommendations might feed into the LGA's wider work.

Resources

4. The Board has access to one Senior Adviser and two part-time Advisers to deliver policy support against the Board's priorities. We have also secured a part-time National Graduate placement for six months. Their work is supported and overseen by the Principal Policy Adviser, who is also responsible for the City Regions and People and Places Boards.
5. The Board can additionally call on the expertise of a senior media officer, public affairs officer, and digital communications officer, as part of their wider portfolio of work
6. The Board has £55 000 allocated to it for policy work. £20 000 has been allocated towards the work of the Culture Commission, and a further £20 000 towards improvement support on the visitor economy. The remainder is unallocated.

Proposal

7. Given the policy context set out above, and the Boards' existing commitments, it is proposed that the following workstreams make up the Board's work programme for the year:
 - 7.1. Gathering evidence on and supporting councils to respond to the growing cost of living crisis and other financial pressures.
 - 7.2. Delivering and communicating the findings of the Commission on Culture and Local Government in order to strengthen local government's profile in culture and the creative industries.
 - 7.3. Developing the CTS contribution to meeting net zero and climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
 - 7.4. Understanding and addressing the disparities of access and outcomes to CTS services from an equality, diversity, and inclusion perspective.
 - 7.5. Building on our work to make the case for investment in sports, physical activity, and parks.
 - 7.6. Officers will also continue the day-to-day business of the Board, including improvement support, media activity, stakeholder engagement and parliamentary activity.

Issues and actions

8. The primary issue facing CTS services over at least the next six months will be **cost of living and associated price rises** in energy and other components. The challenges are twofold - adapting services to best support their communities, such as with adapting libraries to act as warm banks; and responding to the pressures that rising prices place on services themselves, which will also affect those services which rely on earned income as their users' disposable incomes are squeezed.
9. Work on the cost of living issue will be informed by the [LGA's wider response](#). It will need to respond to the changing situation, but can build on existing good work. For instance, we already know there are particular challenges for leisure centres who are now paying, on average, £2.50 for every £1 previously spent on energy. We are working with partners to make sure these issues are understood by DCMS, DLUHC and HM Treasury.
10. The Moving Communities platform, established as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, already captures data on the impact on leisure centres and gives us a significant advantage compared to negotiations during the early parts of the pandemic. Our '[Securing the future of public sport and leisure services](#)' publication also provides a roadmap for using the current challenge and any associated funding to help accelerate the transformation of the sector, particularly around decarbonisation targets.

11. Actions:

- 11.1. **Collate information on the impact on services and raise with DCMS/DLUHC/HMT.** There are a wide range of conversations going on with civil servants and sector stakeholders about the issue. On sport, with swimming pools particularly affected, there is a fortnightly working group with DCMS, ukactive, and Sport England which has collected key data and is developing a support package request to put before the new Ministers.
- 11.2. Engagement on other policy areas is less formalised but regular conversations are held on libraries and museums, while the visitor economy is discussed at the Tourism Industry Council..
- 11.3. We are also meeting with DCMS, alongside the LGA's Head of Workforce, to raise a number of **recruitment and retention challenges** facing local government as a whole. This is compounded by planned increases to the National Minimum Wage, which will bring local government pay scales close to the minimum level, making local government a less attractive employer. All services report shortages of staff.
- 11.4. **Collect and publish case studies and research** on the LGA's new [cost of living hub](#). Initial case studies have been collated and presented on the hub, including Libraries Connected's [summary of how libraries are responding](#) to the situation.
- 11.5. **Brief and support the sector.** We are publishing the first of five briefings following on from 'Securing the future' which covers alternative finance models for sport and leisure services (others include working across council boundaries, supporting community ownership, reaching less active groups, and promoting health and wellbeing). We have also published a guide, with ukactive, on [responding to the energy challenge](#).
12. The [Culture Commission](#) is the Board's high profile, high impact piece of work, having secured positive engagement from DCMS and attention from a range of stakeholders beyond core CTS sectors. It is starting to formulate its recommendations to Government and councils, as well as the public narrative for its findings. The ambition is to launch the recommendations in December 2022, but there will be significant follow-on work required to deliver on and embed the findings within the sector, lobby Government to deliver on what support might be needed from them, and ensure its messages are embedded with all political parties as they develop their manifestos.
13. This is a resource intensive piece of work and is expected to be the primary focus of one of the Adviser roles for at least the next five months. The NGDP graduate will also be tasked with supporting this work.
14. Other cultural work will include feeding into the new [Public Libraries Strategy being developed by Baroness Sanderson](#). This will include attending at least four roundtables, as well as additional engagement.

15. The Board will also seek the expansion of the [Blue plaque scheme](#) to cover the whole of England, and a meeting is being sought with English Heritage to discuss this.
16. **Climate change** remains a cross-cutting theme for all LGA Boards and CTS work will need to reflect this. As mentioned, the sport and leisure work on cost of living also provides a positive opportunity to accelerate the sector's transition towards a low carbon and sustainable service – this is highlighted in all conversations with DCMS, and in our communications to the sector.
17. **Actions:**
- 17.1. **Highlight and promote the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund**, which provides key funding for transformation, and other relevant funding streams. However, this is limited to adaptation and not new builds, which the leisure estate needs, so we are calling for expansion of the Fund's objectives. We also showcase the work of places like Exeter, Bristol and Lancaster which have adopted sustainable practices. Some sector specific funding is also available, such as the Green Libraries Fund.
- 17.2. **Promote the LGA [sector support offer on climate change and sustainability](#)**, equipping heads of CTS services to provide leadership and develop their thinking on how services can respond. There are also action learning sets which have been promoted to CTS teams, while some elements have been incorporated in the ACE and Sport England funded programmes. We are also publishing case studies for the hub, including those mentioned in 15.1.
- 17.3. **Collaborate with partners**, such as the Natural History Museum. Given the limited resources within the CTS team, other organisations may be best placed to provide advice and support on climate change. We have recently worked with the NHM to promote a tour of their Arctic exhibition to non-museum locations, and they are now exploring a webinar for 'town takeovers' to develop community-led solutions to climate change, which we will promote to LGA members.
18. **Equalities, inclusion and diversity** is the third priority issue for CTS to work on. Many cultural venues are recognised as reaching only a part of their community, despite individual examples of excellent work with communities who are less likely to access culture. Similarly, sport engagement data shows significant disparities between the activities of some groups, including women, disabled people, and those from different ethnic communities. Lower income households are also less active. It is critical that all CTS work considers both the impact on inclusion, but also the opportunities to address imbalances in access and experience.

19. **Actions:**

- 19.1. **All CTS briefings will explicitly consider equalities**, inclusion and diversity, with the CTS Equalities Champion will lead scrutiny of this work. Our events will also ensure that we engage a diverse range of speakers.
- 19.2. **Lobbying work with DCMS emphasises the particular importance of CTS services to those on lower incomes**, particularly during this period of financial pressure, **but the evidence base is patchy**. We have worked with Sport England to collect this data on the Moving Communities platform, but more needs to be done in analysing this and communicating any implications to services. Data collection of this kind must also be built into ongoing conversations around a similar platform for libraries.
- 19.3. **A focus on case studies that demonstrate effective inclusion practices, or new ways of working with communities**, will be prioritised for the LGA website and for showcasing at events, including the leadership training with ACE and Sport England.
- 19.4. **Collaboration with partners** will continue to be key, as we recognise that other partners have more experience and insight into this work. For instance, we have supported Libraries Connected in developing their training programme to diversify library leadership, and will identify similar opportunities during 2022/23. Our Culture Commission has also opened up more in depth conversations about inclusion and accessibility which will shape the Commission's final report.
20. Our **sport and physical activity work, including parks**, is further advanced, following the publication of 'Securing the future' last year. However, work to capitalise and deliver on the recommendations continues, both with support to the sector and engagement with partners to lobby Government for the needed funding and support from them. With the pressure on public finances expected to rise, making the case for funding will become even more difficult, and we will need to ensure our proposals continue to make use of the most robust evidence.
21. **Actions:**
- 21.1. **Five sector briefings** on: alternative finance models for sport and leisure services; working across council boundaries; supporting community ownership; reaching less active groups; and promoting health and wellbeing.
- 21.2. **A parliamentary briefing event**, with the APPG for Sport, to raise awareness of the importance of the sector, the risks facing it, and how it can be supported to adapt and thrive.
22. There are two key pieces of **work on the visitor economy**, which remains in a fragile state post-Covid.
23. **Actions:**
24. Following the Board's effective influencing of the recommendations of the [Independent review of destination management organisations](#), we will focus

on its **implementation** in order to help councils and government to deliver the best results for the visitor economy.

25. **Responding to the [tourist accommodation registration scheme](#) call for evidence** and any future development work on the design of regulations.
26. Discussions with officers and partners have highlighted a gap in the **support** available for officers working on tourism and related issues. We have secured funding through the LGA's improvement contract with DLUHC and some levelling up improvement funding, with the aim of beginning the programme later this year.
27. In partnership with the LGA's improvement team, we continue to deliver leadership support for councillors and officers on arts and culture, and sport and physical activity funded by Arts Council England and Sport England respectively. Please see the accompanying paper on these programmes for more information on them.
28. We continue to **engage with an extensive range of partners across all CTS services**, achieving engagement with Government that could not be achieved by the LGA as a single organisation. It also enables us to influence and align requests into Government, most notably influencing requests around business rates reductions to recognise that these are an important funding stream for local government, who must be compensated for these reliefs offered to businesses.
29. We support ad hoc **media requests and parliamentary briefings, including select committee responses**. We are currently preparing to give evidence before a House of Lords committee on the role of local government in supporting the creative industries. While we maintain good relationships with Committee clerks, and assess the Parliamentary agenda for opportunities, this work remains largely reactive and team capacity must be adapted when priority issues arise.

Implications for Wales

30. Policy for all CTS services is devolved to the Welsh administration, who also have their own funding bodies. As the LGA is only funded to deliver lobbying work for Welsh authorities into the UK government, this limits the work of the team on Welsh issues. However, we retain good contacts with Chief Leisure Officers Wales (CLOW) and engage with individual Welsh members as required.

Financial Implications

31. All existing work is on track to be delivered within budgets. The visitor economy work has not yet begun and the £20 000 allocated has therefore not been spent.
32. £15 000 of the policy budget is currently unallocated.

Equalities implications

33. All pieces of work outlined above have a strong equalities element built into them, with a particular focus on this during the Culture Commission conversations. As pieces of work develop, we will highlight their specific implications for equalities in the relevant briefings.

Next steps

34. Board members are invited to note existing workstreams, identify any gaps, and, if so, discuss how resources should be reallocated from their current work.
35. Board members are also invited to discuss any key narratives they would like to feature in LGA press work and media.



Meeting: Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

Date: 19th October 2022

Sport and cultural improvement programmes update

Purpose of report

For information

Summary

This papers sets out the delivery process of the LGA's improvement contracts with Arts Council England (ACE) and Sport England. They provide leadership training for councillors and officers, and peer support to councils on libraries and culture services.

Is this report confidential?

No

Recommendation/s

For information

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Sport and cultural improvement programmes update

Background

1. The LGA works with Sport England and Arts Council England to provide improvement support to local authorities. Since May 2021, the improvement offer has been managed by the LGA's Productivity team, which sits within the improvement division of the LGA. The team continues to work in close collaboration with the LGA's policy team to ensure that the latest policy content is included within the improvement offer to councils.
2. This transition has enabled the learning and approaches from other successful LGA improvement programmes to be built into this offer. We have also made strong links with complementary programmes such as the LGA's economic growth and behavioural insights programmes.

Update on sport and cultural improvement activity

Sport and physical activity improvement programme update to the CTS board

3. The LGA works with Sport England to deliver improvement programmes which support senior officers and councillors to help tackle complex issues, such as health inequalities – particularly relevant to levelling up activity.
4. The initial grant for this activity was made in 2018 and was extended to ensure programmes were able to continue during the pandemic in a repurposed online format. The underspend plus an additional grant award extended the work programme. Within the current grant there are two programmes remaining: a Public Narrative alumni session, which builds on learning from the Leadership Essentials officer programme (taking place at the end of September), and a further Leadership Essentials programme for officers (this is being planned and is expected to take place at the beginning of November).
5. Sport England has recently restructured and is in the process of mapping new priorities for place-based activity. In the interim, the LGA has been awarded a further grant of £169,128 to enable it to continue to support councils' improvement activity for the remainder of the financial year, but with the potential for the proposed activity to extend into the new financial year if scheduling is not practicable by the end of March. Currently the LGA is holding a waiting list of 78 people for the officer leadership programme. An update on the progress of this proposal will be provided at the next CTS board.
6. Since January 2022 the LGA has co-created and delivered the following programmes with Sport England:
 - 6.1. An officer action learning set, comprising 2 sessions (online, 3 participants)

- 6.2. Officer alumni session: 'Capturing Value' deep dive, comprising 2 sessions (online, 21 participants)
- 6.3. Leadership Essentials officer programmes 15 and 16 (face to face, 39 participants)
- 6.4. Leadership Essentials councillor programme 29 (face to face, 11 participants)
- 6.5. Officer alumni session: Political influence (a face to face test and learn session, 12 participants)
- 6.6. Officer alumni session: Public narrative (face to face, 11 participants)

7. Cultural improvement programme update to the CTS board

Background

- 8. This report provides an update to the board on the LGA's cultural services improvement programmes.
- 9. The LGA works with Arts Council England (ACE) to deliver improvement support to local authority cultural and library services. ACE has just awarded the LGA a grant of £124,188 for the period up to September 2023, which will operate in addition to remaining activity on the 2021-22 programme. An update on the new award will be provided to the CTS board once the programme planning has developed.
- 10. The grant period for the 2021-22 ACE grant for cultural services improvement programmes has been extended beyond the financial year end. The majority of the activity has been delivered with only a few final projects still to be delivered.
- 11. Updates have previously been provided to the CTS board regarding the Leadership Essentials: Culture programme and the retrospective evaluation.
- 12. To ensure programme continuity during changing national COVID guidance, all 2021/22 programmes are being delivered online.
- 13. The LGA's 2021-22 cultural services improvement programme comprises:
 - 13.1. Leadership Essentials: Culture for elected members (delivered – update previously provided to CTS board)
 - 13.2. 10 culture and library peer challenges (by 30th September 8 peer challenges will have been delivered - update provided below)
 - 13.3. Retrospective evaluation of peer challenges from previous years (delivered – update previously provided to CTS board)
 - 13.4. Leadership Essentials alumni event (to be rescheduled)
- 14. In addition to the 2021/22 main award, a further award was made for a senior officer pilot:

- 14.1. A senior officer training pilot for lead culture and library officers
(delivered – update provided below)

Peer challenges

15. This year we have delivered 2 cultural services peer challenges and we are liaising with a council to confirm the third. By the end of September we will have delivered 6 library services peer challenges. The peer challenges are conducted online and last between 1.5 to 2 days. The participating councils have been confirmed and are listed below:

16. Culture:

- 16.1. Reigate and Banstead Council - delivered
- 16.2. Mole Valley District Council - delivered
- 16.3. South Oxfordshire District Council – to be delivered on 7th & 8th
November 2022

17. Library:

- 17.1. Liverpool City Council - delivered
- 17.2. Newcastle City Council - delivered
- 17.3. Essex County Council - delivered
- 17.4. Bristol City Council - delivered
- 17.5. West Berkshire Council - delivered
- 17.6. Suffolk County Council – delivered
- 17.7. Lincolnshire County Council – no longer able to participate.

18. As noted, one council notified us it was unable to participate, so we are liaising with other councils to identify an appropriate alternative.

19. As a result of the peer challenge applications, five key themes have emerged as areas that councils want support with:

- 19.1. Post-Covid recovery/sustainability of cultural venues
- 19.2. Engagement and consultation with the local community regarding the future of cultural services
- 19.3. Re-procurement of services
- 19.4. How culture can contribute to the wider council agenda; for example, economic growth and health of local communities
- 19.5. Better use of data.

20. We have been working with the political group offices to source member peers for the peer challenges. All political group offices have a limited pool of member peers with experience of culture or library responsibilities and on a couple of occasions this has caused delays in being able to agree peer teams and dates. We encourage councillors with known expertise in these areas to volunteer as peers, including Board members.

Senior officer leadership pilot

21. This online programme comprised 6 sessions plus an informal icebreaker and a closing session.

22. Aims:

- 22.1. To deliver a pilot learning programme designed to support senior officers/heads of service to become exceptional leaders of place
- 22.2. To support senior officers/heads of service to advocate for their services at a senior level in their authority.
- 22.3. To help identify the career support and skills needs of senior cultural and library officers working in strategic roles, aiming to inform future LGA/ACE work.

23. Objectives:

- 23.1. To support lead/senior officers for culture and libraries to:
 - 23.1.1. Develop a greater understanding of the role of cultural and library services in the future economic growth of the local area
 - 23.1.2. Develop skills to lead entrepreneurial thinking within their services and the confidence to apply those skills
 - 23.1.3. Build and strengthen their peer networks, share information, knowledge and expertise. The pilot will be attended by both library and culture senior staff supporting a unique opportunity for peer to peer learning across these specialisms.
 - 23.1.4. Develop a vision about how their services can contribute to tackling social challenges in the post-COVID context, for example, mental health challenges and social isolation
 - 23.1.5. Develop an understanding of change theory and how to apply it
 - 23.1.6. Refresh the tools and knowledge officers have to be cultural and library leaders through peer to peer learning.
 - 23.1.7. Learn from a wide range of inspiring case studies presented by LA peers and external speakers.

- 23.1.8. Be more aware of the strategic work of ACE and the opportunities to work more closely
 - 23.1.9. Explore the potential for arts, culture and libraries to work with officer and political stakeholders to deliver across council agendas
 - 23.1.10. Access a learning pathway through the LGA (for officers who have taken part in a Peer Challenge or Recovery and Renewal Panel).
 - 23.1.11. Identify how to share their learning within the organisation and with partners
24. Feedback was collated in quick polls during the sessions, in post-session feedback forms and in an end of programme feedback form. Key feedback:
- 24.1. 86% of attendees said the training fully or part met their learning objectives
 - 24.2. 100% of attendees said it was more convenient to attend the training online
 - 24.3. 50% of attendees said that the online format made it easier to engage with content and connect with other attendees (23% said it was more difficult and 27% said it made no difference)
 - 24.4. 100% of respondents said they had sufficient information to prepare for sessions
25. The most relevant topic areas for attendees' work were identified as: collaborative placemaking, influence and political interface and leveraging culture for cross-cutting outcomes
26. There was lots of positive qualitative feedback. The key themes were the high quality of speakers, case studies and facilitation, the themed topic areas and the opportunity to connect with other culture and library professionals from other councils.
27. *"I thought the programme was excellent - really useful case studies and great to be able to sense check and discuss issues with peers. The six themes were spot on."* (Programme attendee)
28. As a pilot we were keen to understand areas for improvement. The key themes were:
- 28.1. Greater time for reflection between each session
 - 28.2. Group size – due to demand we piloted a cohort of 40 (rather than the initial plan of 25). Feedback suggested that this impacted the quality of discussion in the main group sessions
 - 28.3. Pre-session briefings were deemed to be very useful, but anecdotally we were made aware that because these could be quite broad topic areas it

was important that the briefings remain tightly focused on the topics being covered during the individual sessions, so that expectations were framed.

Next steps:

29. ACE has confirmed a further grant award of £124,188 to September 2022, to include:

- 29.1. a Leadership Essentials: Culture programme,
- 29.2. a senior officer leadership programme (online),
- 29.3. 10 peer challenges,
- 29.4. a bespoke Leadership Essentials: Culture for economic growth portfolio holders.

30. We will update the CTS board when the programme outlines have been developed.

31. Following a suggestion from the CTS board have sent an email to all portfolio holders for culture and libraries to understand the key topics they would like to cover in future training.

Implications for Wales

32. None. These programmes are funded by England-only organisations.

Financial Implications

33. Sport and cultural improvement programmes are grant funded by Sport England and ACE. Future programmes are dependent on grant awards from Sport England and ACE.

Equalities implications

34. We review the programmes on an ongoing basis to identify continual improvements that can be made to all stages of programmes.

Next steps

35. Please can the board encourage councillors with relevant experience to both put themselves forward to be member peers and to highlight to the relevant political group office that they would like to be actively considered in any upcoming peer challenges.



CTS Board

19 October 2022

Item no.

Commission on Culture and Local Government: update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides an update on the Commission on Culture and Local Government, following the detailed paper which was discussed with the Board in January, a written update in March and verbal update in June. The CTS Board is asked to note the paper and share their views on the key findings and headline areas of recommendation of the Commission.

Is this report confidential? Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation/s

That CTS Board Members note the contents of the report and share their views on the key findings and headline areas of recommendation.

Action/s

Officers will incorporate the Board's views as they develop the Commission report, working towards publication in December.

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Commission on Culture and Local Government

Background

1. The independent [Commission on Culture and Local Government](#) was established by the Local Government Association earlier this year, to explore the contribution local council funded culture can make to Levelling Up and resilience to COVID-19 and what is needed to achieve this.
2. The purpose of the Commission on Culture and Local Government is to bring together national, regional and local actors in the publicly funded cultural realm to discuss:
 - 4.1 The unique role of council funded and supported culture in our recovery from COVID-19 and building back better, including its contribution to economic growth, levelling up and addressing regional inequalities; and
 - 4.2 A vision for the future of council funded and supported culture in the context of place.
3. Baroness Lola Young of Hornsey has been chairing the Commission, which is running from March to December 2022.
4. A group of 16 [commissioners](#) has been leading the work of the Commission. They represent a range of national funders, local government leaders, arts and culture practitioners and sector experts.
5. Cllr Peter Golds has been representing the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board as a commissioner, supported by Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, who has held meetings with the Chair and attended the most recent meeting on key findings and recommendations. The LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Team is providing the Secretariat.
6. Lord Neil Mendoza, Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and Renewal has agreed to act as Advisor to the Commission, providing advice and insights on the work of the Commission at key points in its programme. This appointment was formally confirmed by the then Minister for the Arts Lord Parkinson and Secretary of State for Culture Nadine Dorries, representing very positive engagement from DCMS.
7. The Commission focuses on cultural organisations and projects that are funded or otherwise supported by local authorities. Full details can be found in the Commission's [Terms of Reference](#).

Update

8. This report follows a detailed discussion of the Commission at the Board in January 2022, a written update in March and a verbal update at the meeting in June.
9. Evidence gathering for the Commission took place between March and July 2022:

- 18 organisations gave oral evidence over the course of four roundtable sessions
- More than 80 organisations were involved in wider focus groups and interviews

- Over 50 case studies have been received as written evidence
- 16 commissioners have contributed to the delivery of the report

10. The four evidence sessions were held as roundtable discussions between March and July and each focused on one of the four themes of the Commission: economic renewal; health inequalities; social mobility and place. Each session featured three presentations from local authorities and partner cultural organisations and was supported by a detailed literature review and briefing paper.
11. A follow up meeting with Commissioners was held in September 2022 in which outline findings and recommendations were discussed. A more complete draft is now under development and has been shared with commissioners for comment ahead of a final draft at the end of October. We are working towards publication of the report in December 2022.
12. The commissioners have been clear that they wish to see outputs other than a final report, to support the widest possible access to Commission materials.
 - 12.1. We published [illustrations](#) based on the discussions after each of the four roundtable sessions.
 - 12.2. We are producing four short films featuring case studies on how culture is being used to support local places, one of which was shown at the LGA annual conference in June.
 - 12.3. We have developed a [case study database](#) to sit alongside the final report, which was publicised earlier this month.
 - 12.4. We are exploring options for sharing the report findings, including infographics and 'pen portraits' on individuals who have benefited from engagement with council cultural services as part of the final report.

Key findings

13. The Commission found evidence that investment in cultural services offers an effective, tested and practical means of building back local economies and communities following the pandemic and in response to the subsequent cost of living crisis. Besides their unique intrinsic value, they also deliver against many wider challenges we face as a society. They help to:
 - 13.1. Build resilient, adaptive, networked communities in place, supporting civic pride and revitalizing town centres
 - 13.2. Promote local economic growth, supporting levelling up through the development of creative clusters, an experiential offer on high streets and providing a foundation for the wider visitor and night-time economies
 - 13.3. Develop creative thinking, build cultural capital and provide high quality jobs that are resistant to automation
 - 13.4. Promote better health and wellbeing, particularly addressing challenges of loneliness, isolation and mental ill health arising from the pandemic
14. Councils remain the biggest public investor in culture, spending over £1 billion a year in England alone. This local cultural infrastructure of libraries, museums, parks, theatres,

archives, heritage sites, arts centres and more, underpins our national cultural offer and feeds into growth in the burgeoning commercial creative industries.

15. However, these services are under significant strain following reductions in core funding over the last ten years as a result of wider pressures on council finance, the impact of the pandemic, rising energy costs and inflation. In order to secure the future of this important national infrastructure local, regional and national government will need to work together with funding bodies, the cultural sector and communities to pursue an effective place-based approach to funding and supporting cultural capacity.

Barriers

16. The Commission heard that despite the potential of culture to support our national recovery, there are barriers holding it back from fulfilling this role. The biggest challenges fell into the following categories:

- 16.1. Barriers to access (financial, physical, geographical, digital)
- 16.2. Leadership and representation (low levels of diversity in leadership of cultural sector)
- 16.3. Structural capacity (low levels of capacity and geographical inequalities in cultural teams and wider cultural infrastructure)
- 16.4. Funding (pressures on core funding over last decade and fragmentation of other funding sources)
- 16.5. Lack of policy alignment (between culture and other key areas such as health and education at a local and national level)
- 16.6. Evidence (inconsistent methodologies for capturing the benefits of cultural investment, affecting the quality and effectiveness of advocacy)

Recommendations

17. Recommendations are still being developed with input from commissioners, but the headline themes are set out below.
18. The Commission calls for a pact between national, regional and local government and cultural arms-length-bodies to work together with cultural organisations and communities to deliver the following:
- 18.1. **Access.** Accessible cultural infrastructure for all, addressing the structural inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic.
 - 18.2. **Capacity and resilience in place.** A levelling up of capacity for culture within place, targeting regional inequalities and enabling local authorities to develop and deliver meaningful place-led strategies for culture.
 - 18.3. **Leadership and power.** A power shift towards place-led approaches that enable a greater diversity of communities and cultural providers to shape local decision making.

- 18.4. **Funding.** A coherent approach to funding culture in a place that supports the delivery of place-led strategies and addresses the immediate financial fragility of the sector triggered by the pandemic and cost of living crisis.
 - 18.5. **Creative learning and pathways to creative employment.** Access for all to a high-quality creative education and routes into the burgeoning creative industries from schools through to further and higher education and employment.
 - 18.6. **Creative growth.** Removal of barriers to growth of creative industry clusters and micro-clusters programmes to support the development of the creative sector as an engine of post-pandemic growth.
 - 18.7. **Health and wellbeing.** A strategic approach to health and wellbeing in place that recognises the preventative and health benefits of culture in supporting our national recovery.
 - 18.8. **Evidence.** A coordinated approach to developing an effective evidence base for culture in order to measure value and shape future investment.
19. The draft report is currently being considered by commissioners. Should each of the eight areas highlighted go forward, they will include a more detailed set of recommendations underneath them, including a focus on support for place-led strategic partnerships.
20. It is intended that the final report will be highly visual and incorporate many of the case study examples submitted to the Commission over the course of the year to illustrate the impact of cultural services on individuals, communities and places.

Implications for Wales

18. The work of the Commission will have relevance to Welsh Authorities. Culture is a devolved matter, but we may include case studies from Welsh authorities in the work of the Commission.

Implications for inclusion, diversity and equality

19. EDI is an important theme in the Commission, which has a strong focus on inequalities arising from Covid-19. We are incorporating this into the programme in several ways:
- 19.1. Representation – on both the core Commission and wider advisory group, which brings in a wider range of voices into the programme as well as the speakers invited to give oral evidence at the roundtables.
 - 19.2. Content – in the topics under discussion at each of the four roundtables
 - 19.3. Procurement – we commissioned several pieces of work to support the Commission and have included a strong EDI focus in the Requests for Quotations.
 - 19.4. Key findings and recommendations. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion have all come up as strong themes in our discussions and we aim to reflect those conversations in the recommendations of our work, with particular emphasis on access to cultural provision.



CTS Board

19 October 2022

Item no.

Financial Implications

20. The core costs of the Commission are met from the Board's policy budget.

Next steps

21. The report drafting will continue until the end of October and we aim to have a final draft completed by the 7th November. We will incorporate any feedback from the Board during this phase of drafting. Lead Members will be asked for their approval of the report.
22. The independent Commission on Culture and Local Government's final report will be released at a launch event from 4-6pm (TBC) on Thursday 8th December 2022.



CTS Board

19 October 2022

Item no.

LGA Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference: update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides an update on the LGA Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport conference, following the recent email update sent to the Board in early September. The Board is asked to note the paper and to share their views on the conference.

Is this report confidential? Yes ☐ No ☒

Recommendation/s

That CTS Board Members note the contents of the report and share their views on the conference.

Action/s

Officers will action as required.

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LGA Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference

Background

1. The LGA annual Culture, Tourism and Sport (CTS) conference is the CTS Board's flagship event. It is an opportunity for elected members and officers with responsibility and an interest in culture, tourism and sport to come together and hear the latest policy thinking, share learning and network.
2. Prior to March 2021 the conference was held in March as an in-person event over one and a half days. This included an awards dinner celebrating the "Hearts for the Arts" awards on the first night. Traditionally, the annual conference focused on culture and tourism with a sports conference held separately.
3. In 2020 the Board took the decision to bring together the whole portfolio under a three-day online zoom event in March 2021 because of the implications and uncertainty from COVID-19.
4. Earlier this year a paper was taken to the Board to agree the format and theme of the conference for 2022. The Board agreed to hold a hybrid conference in October 2022 with the theme of recovery in the context of levelling up and tackling inequalities. Despite extensive efforts to promote the conference, take up was insufficient and the Board agreed to reschedule the event to March 2023 to enable further promotional work and to enable the conference to return to its original scheduling in the events calendar.

Update on conference planning

5. The 2023 annual CTS conference will be a hybrid event, held at 18 Smith Square, London on Wednesday 15 March 2023. This will allow delegates to attend either in person or online. A study tour of the London Coliseum will be held at the end of the conference for in-person attendees to share learning about its recent restoration.
6. To date 13 bookings have been made. Of these eight bookings are in-person and a further five people have booked on to attend virtually. At this stage our event colleagues have advised us that the current number of bookings is positive given the lead in time to the event.
7. We are really pleased to have secured the following high-profile speakers:
 - 1.1. Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, President, Local Government Association
 - 1.2. Baroness Lola Young, independent Crossbench member peer and Chair of the LGA Culture Commission
 - 1.3. Cllr Abi Brown, Leader, Stoke-on-Trent Council
 - 1.4. Alison McKenzie-Folan, Chief Executive, Wigan Council
 - 1.5. Deirdre Wells OBE, Chief Executive, Visit Herts and Visit Kent
 - 1.6. Paul Bristow, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Arts Council England
 - 1.7. Lisa Dodd-Mayne, Executive Director, Place, Sport England
 - 1.8. Nicola Greenan, Principle Cultural Partnership Manager, Bradford Council

8. The new date has been promoted and it will be a top story in the events bulletin at the end of the year. Policy colleagues continue to promote it through stakeholder networks and in the CTS bulletin. If it is needed closer to the time, there are further opportunities to promote the event via a direct bulletin to portfolio holders which may result in further bookings.
9. Board members are encouraged to [book onto the conference](#) and to promote it through their networks.
10. The cost of the event is:

LGA members in-person - £199 +VAT
LGA members online - £120 +VAT
Non-members in-person - £299 +VAT
Non-members online - £220 +VAT

Implications for Wales

11. Welsh authorities are eligible to register for the conference at the same rate as English member councils.

Implications for equality, diversity and inclusion

12. All councils now have established online communications technology, but many have travel bans in place and staff who are reluctant to travel, some of whom will have medical conditions making them particularly susceptible to Covid-19. A hybrid event will ensure the widest possible accessibility level for council officers, who typically make up around two-thirds of attendees.
13. A diverse range of speakers has been secured, ensuring a variety of perspectives and experiences are heard, and demonstrating a range of leadership roles.

Financial Implications

14. Costs for the event will need to be covered by delegate fees. Hosting the conference at Smith Square allows us to keep costs down to around £4,000, not including speaker expenses or other incidental costs.

Next steps

15. Officers will implement any actions arising from the Board meeting and will continue to promote the event.



Meeting: -

Date: -

DCMS Ministers and Shadow spokespeople

Purpose of report

For information

Summary

This paper outlines the new ministerial team at DCMS, alongside their counterparts from other parties.

Is this report confidential?

No

Recommendation/s

Board members to note the report.

Contact details

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DCMS Ministers and Shadow spokespeople

Background

1. Following the announcement of new ministerial appointments made by Prime Minister Liz Truss, the new portfolio holders, as well as opposition portfolio holders, are outlined below.
2. The [Rt Hon Michelle Donelan](#), MP for Chippenham, is Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. She has served as Member of Parliament for Chippenham since 2015 and served as Minister of State for Higher and Further Education from 2020 to 2022. Responsibilities include:
 - 2.1. Overall departmental strategy
 - 2.2. Appointments and honours
3. [Julia Lopez](#), MP for Hornchurch and Upminster, is Minister of State for Media, Data, and Digital Infrastructure. She has served as Member of Parliament for Hornchurch and Upminster since 2017. She served as Minister of State for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure between 2021 and 2022. Before entering the House of Commons, she served as a local councillor at Tower Hamlets London Borough Council. Responsibilities include:
 - 3.1. Creative Industries
 - 3.2. Tourism in the Commons
4. The [Rt Hon Stuart Andrew](#), MP for Pudsey, Horsforth and Aireborough, was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Arts and Ceremonials. He was previously Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice between 8 July 2022 and 7 September 2022. He was Minister of State (Minister for Housing) in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities from 8 February 2022 to 6 July 2022. Responsibilities include:
 - 4.1. Sport
 - 4.2. Libraries
 - 4.3. Museums
 - 4.4. Heritage and civil society in the commons
5. [Lord Kamall](#) was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Civil Society, Heritage, Tourism and Growth. He was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Technology, Innovation and Life Sciences at the Department of Health and Social Care between 17 September 2021 and 20 September 2022. He is Professor of Politics and International Relations at St Mary's University, Twickenham. Responsibilities include:
 - 5.1. Overall growth
 - 5.2. Tourism
 - 5.3. Heritage
6. Damian Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Tech and the Digital Economy. From 2016 to 2019, he was chair of the [House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee](#). In 2021, he chaired the [UK Parliament](#) Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill. Responsibilities include:
 - 6.1. Digital strategy
 - 6.2. Gambling and lotteries

6.3. Online harms

Shadow Cabinet – Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Portfolios

7. [Lucy Powell \(MP for Manchester Central\)](#) is Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Prior to becoming an MP in 2012, she worked at the National Endowment for Science, Technology, and the Arts (NESTA).
8. [Stephanie Peacock \(MP for Barnsley East\)](#) is Shadow Minister for Media, Data, and Digital Infrastructure. Between 2013 and 2017, she worked as a Political Officer for the GMB trade union.
9. [Jeff Smith \(MP for Manchester Withington\)](#) is Shadow Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Music. He was Shadow Minister for Local Government from May to 4 December 2021. A former councillor for Old Moat ward on Manchester City Council from 1997, he served as the Executive Member for Finance on the council.
10. [Alex Davies-Jones \(MP for Pontypridd\)](#) is Shadow Minister for Tech, Gambling, and the Digital Economy. She was elected as a councillor for Tonyrefail Community Council in 2012, and for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council in 2017. Davies-Jones has chosen to retain both her positions as councillor, in addition to her role as a Member of Parliament.

Liberal Democrats spokespersons

1. [Jamie Stone \(MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross\)](#) is Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. He was first elected to Ross and Cromarty District Council in 1986, serving until its abolition in 1996. He served as a member of the Highland Council from its creation in 1995 until his election as MSP in 1999.

Next steps

11. Cllr James Jamieson has written to congratulate Michelle Donelan on her appointment and outline how the LGA can, on behalf of local government, continue to work with her department to ensure every community can benefit from opportunity and prosperity. The letter is in Annex A.
12. Lead members have agreed to collectively write to Lord Kamall, and Stuart Andrew as the holders of the two portfolios of most interest to the Board.
13. We propose that the Board's Creative Industries Champion and the LGA's Digital Champion co-sign a letter to Julia Lopez, as her portfolio is a shared interest for the People & Place and City Regions Boards, as well as CTS.
14. Invites to attend future board meetings will be issued when members meet with the Ministers.

Meeting: -**Date: -****ANNEX A**

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

September 2022

Dear Michelle,

Local Government Association

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The LGA has enjoyed a constructive relationship with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport which we are keen to build on, as we seek to achieve our shared agenda of maximising the social and economic benefits of culture, leisure and digital connectivity to support our communities. Our members deliver against the full DCMS portfolio, so we look forward to a strategic conversation with you and your Ministerial team about how we can work together to achieve your priorities and improve outcomes for our communities.

Councils play the central role in maintaining the UK's cultural and sporting infrastructure and are an essential partner in achieving your departments' objectives. Local government is the biggest national funder of culture, leisure, tourism support, sports facilities investing over £2.2 billion each year, spending more than double than Arts Council, Sport England and National Lottery Heritage Fund combined. Councils are also the biggest deliverer of DCMS related services, running the network of almost 3000 public libraries, over 2,600 leisure centres and sport facilities, and numerous museums, theatres and tourist attractions that make our country a great place to live, work and visit.

Three quarters of this expenditure is discretionary, so councils are choosing to spend on these services because they recognise their significance to our communities. We are keen to work in closer partnership with you to ensure these services remain sustainable and their contribution toward our shared economic and social objectives are maximised; including boosting productivity through a healthy workforce, fostering innovation, creativity and upskilling through access to skills and business advice in libraries. They also deliver on a wide range of other key government objectives, including tackling loneliness, supporting vulnerable residents with the rising cost-of-living, driving economic growth, improving public health, reducing the burden on the NHS and social care and delivering on our net zero commitments.

Council-run and supported cultural services have a vital role to play in our recovery from the pandemic and supporting our communities. They underpin the creative economy, which is one of our fastest growing and most future-proof sectors, providing a training ground for creative talent of the future delivering skills and employment support, helping with education recovery, and supporting local economic ecosystems. The [LGA's Commission on Culture and Local Government](#), chaired by Baroness Lola Young is currently investigating how a place-based approach to culture could help us to accelerate progress on supporting inclusive economic growth, the levelling up agenda, and ensuring individuals can achieve their full potential. The Commission is set to publish its vision for the future of council funded and supported culture in December, which we would be delighted to meet with you to discuss, alongside Lord Neil Mendoza, who is acting as a formal advisor to the Commission to ensure its work is connected to the Government's wider ambitions for culture and levelling up.

Council run public leisure services, which provide communities with affordable, universal and targeted services, are relied on by people from all walks of life, from grassroots clubs to elite athletes, schools, and the NHS for over 60 percent of cancer rehabilitation and social prescribing programmes. Councils are unanimous in their desire to maximise the contribution of these quality leisure services and increase their contribution to broader social objectives, as we highlighted in our joint report '[Securing the future of public leisure services](#) (2021). We know users of these services experience boosts to productivity as well as reduced sickness, saving the NHS over £314 million each year. However, the report also highlighted growing financial pressures within the sector and the need for long-term national reinvestment to put facilities and services on a sustainable footing. Since then, the sector's finances have significantly deteriorated due to the accumulative impact of the pandemic and the current energy crisis and wider inflationary pressures. Meanwhile, local government is facing a significant funding gap, which limits councils' ability to meet the sector's financial deficit. As a result, 79 per cent of public leisure facilities say they will cease operation within six months without further support with costs. In [correspondence to your predecessor](#) earlier this year, alongside sector partners such as UK Active, we suggested various options to help offset immediate financial pressures and save vital services. We would welcome discussing these with you and developing a support plan for the sector, which will be essential to achieve the Government's wider sporting, health and environmental objectives.

Closing gaps in super-fast broadband and 4G mobile coverage will be vital to levelling up and ensuring people in every place can benefit from opportunity and economic growth. Councils play a vital role in delivering the rollout of infrastructure in their communities and it will be instrumental for us to work more closely together if we are to achieve the target UK nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage by 2030. In addition to working with you to improve digital infrastructure, we also want to improve digital access for those who are excluded due to social or economic barriers. We are particularly concerned about the impact of the Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) switchover on the most vulnerable groups, including the 1.7 million people who rely on landline connections for technology enabled care and personal alarms. While the PSTN upgrade is an industry-led process, we would welcome your Department playing a greater role in coordinating the multiple bodies

Meeting: -**Date: -**

involved with the switchover to align communications messaging, support with funding, and ensure communities are protected and supported through the upgrade process.

The Online Safety Bill marks an important step forward in tackling the range of online harms that young people and adults are too often exposed to in our digital world, and we look forward to the Bill continuing its passage as soon as Parliamentary time allows. The LGA recognises the delicate balance this legislation must maintain between preserving users' freedom of expression and civil liberties, whilst also protecting users from harmful content. This Bill would bring about important protections for Councillors who are experiencing increasing levels of online intimidation, abuse and threats made against them, which can prevent elected members from representing the communities they serve and undermine public trust in democratic processes. We therefore hope the Bill will be brought back in its current form and strengthened so it can provide vital safeguards for both adult and child users against content that rightly does not meet the criminal threshold, but is still harmful to individuals and democracy.

On behalf of local government, the LGA wants to maintain and strengthen collaborative working with you and your officials and offer our support in delivering your programme of reforms, including access to our extensive resources and insights, and network of local government leaders and councillors. The Chair of our Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE and I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss how the LGA can, on behalf of local government, continue to work with your department to ensure every community can benefit from opportunity and prosperity. My office (Alexander.Saul@local.gov.uk or 07919304993) would be happy to work with your officials to find a suitable date for a meeting.

I wish you the best of luck in your role.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr James Jamieson
Chairman



[Click here to enter text.](#)

[1 September 2022](#)

Terms of reference and outside bodies

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

This paper updates the Board's terms of reference following comments by Board members.

Is this report confidential? Yes ☐ No ☒

Recommendation/s

Board members to note the updated terms of reference.

Action/s

Officers to publish the final terms of reference on the LGA website.

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox
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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 and understanding barriers to accessing cultural, sporting, tourism and heritage services.
 - 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. The Board will support the culture, tourism and leisure sectors to understand and act on their contributions to carbon net zero aims and wider climate change issues.
 - 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.
 - 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

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 has representation on:

- Tourism Alliance – currently Cllr Chris White (LibDem)
- London Marathon Charitable Trust – currently Cllr Richard Henry (Lab)
- Coastal SIG – currently Cllr David Jeffels (CON)
- Library champion – currently vacant (IND)
- Creative Industries Council – currently Cllr Phil Seeva (CON)

13. The Equalities champion will be appointed centrally by the LGA.