



Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 17 January 2024
3.00 pm

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and
Online

There will be a meeting of the Culture, Tourism & Sport Board at **3.00 pm on Wednesday, 17 January 2024** 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:

Emilia Peters
emilia.peters@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme, a Carer's Allowance of National Living Wage and/or 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 2023/24

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

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Cllr Joanne Laban (Deputy Chair)	Enfield Council
Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Linda Robinson	Wychavon District Council
Cllr Neil Jory	West Devon Borough Council
Cllr Gary Ridley	Coventry City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Phil Seeva	Cornwall Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Tracey Dixon (Deputy Chair)	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Michael Graham	Wakefield City Council
Cllr Jane Ashworth OBE	Stoke on Trent City Council
Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Elly Cutkelvin	Leicester City Council
Cllr Jemima Laing	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Adam Hug	Westminster City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr James-J Walsh	Lewisham London Borough
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Cllr Liz Green (Chair)	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Cllr Darryl Smalley	City of York Council
Cllr Chris White	City and District of St Albans
Substitutes	
Cllr Sean MacLeod	Lewes District Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Julie Jones-Evans (Vice-Chair)	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Ian Shipp	West Sussex Council
Substitutes	
Cllr James Hall	Swale Borough Council
Cllr Rebecca Aldam	Stroud District Council

Agenda

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Wednesday, 17 January 2024

3.00 pm

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 13 March 2024, 1.00 pm, Hybrid Meeting
- 18 Smith Square and Online

Minutes of last Culture, Tourism & Sport Board meeting

Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A**

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest
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The Chair welcomed Members, officers and guests to the meeting.

Apologies were received by Cllr Dixon, Cllr Henry, Cllr Laing, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Graham and Cllr Shipp. Cllr Barnett-Ward, Cllr Walsh, Cllr Simpson and Cllr Allen attended as substitutes.

No declaration of interest were received.

2	World Heritage UK - 3.05 - 3.30
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The Chair welcomed **Paul Simons, Chair – World Heritage UK**, and **Chris Blandford, President – World Heritage UK**, to the meeting and invited them to present a series of slides to the Board which set out information related to the background of World Heritage UK, evolution, origins and obligations, governance arrangements, sites, visions, challenges and next steps.

Members made the following contributions:

- A correction was required on page 6 of the agenda pack, to note that the Tower of London was not located in the City of London.
- A question was asked which related to the statutory consultee status and its application process.
- A question was asked which related to World Heritage UK's relationship with overseas territories and their influence with them.
- A correction was required within the report as it stated that East Devon District Council was a responsible body, instead of West Devon Borough Council.
- The importance of effects on planning, health and wellbeing, the natural environment and economies through tourism was emphasised.
- A concern was raised which related to heritage impact assessments and the effect that the assessments were having on

people wishing to modernise their homes.

- The importance of continuing to lobby government for funds to support existing sites and those on the tentative list was emphasised.
- A question was asked which related to removal from the list.

Paul and Chris responded to Members' comments, which included the following points:

- Local government were responsible for planning matters.
- With regards to the tentative list, government called for nominations to the list every decade and a process had recently been completed which meant that there could only be 10 nominations every year.
- In relation to overseas territories, Gibraltar and Bermuda were members of World Heritage UK and attended all meetings. World Heritage UK had a good working relationship with overseas territories where there were settlements and economic activity in planning activity.
- Regarding statutory consultees, there was a joint, UK-wide National Committee of Amenity Societies (7 currently on it).
- The importance of engagement and feeding up the appropriate chain of command was emphasised.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) did not fund World Heritage, it was the responsibility of the state party.
- The considerable need for funding was emphasised.
- The importance of joint working arrangements between World Heritage UK, other Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and the LGA to make a strong case to government was emphasised.
- The removal of Liverpool's world heritage status was explained in further detail, in addition to the process of removal from the list.
- Concerns were raised regarding Stonehenge and the proposed cut-and-cover road tunnel backed by the government.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report and agreed to support the bid to become a statutory consultee.

3 Martyn's Law - 3.30 - 4.15

The Chair invited **Rachel Duke, Adviser**, to introduce the report which set out information related to the recently published Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill from Government, aimed at helping to protect the public from terrorist attacks. Known as Martyn's Law, the draft legislation looked to introduce a new duty for those responsible for certain publicly accessible premises and events to take measures to review and mitigate against terrorist activity. The Bill featured in the King's Speech on 7

November. The LGA's response to the Bill is being led by the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB).

Members made the following contributions:

- Reference was made to the proposed tiered model and the importance of ensuring that the requirements for each tier were appropriate was emphasised.
- A question was asked which related to responsibilities and remits between owners and hirers of venues.
- A concern was raised which related to the adequacy of the assessment of potential venues and events within scope.
- The importance of balancing risks and threats to outdoor events, ensuring that sufficient anti-terrorism measures were in place for events such as street markets, Remembrance Day and the switching on of Christmas lights, with ensuring they remain financially viable was emphasised. It was suggested that the Board get in touch with the Tourism Alliance in relation to outdoor events.
- A question was asked which related to the regulatory role referred to in point 11 of the report and who would be best placed to undertake the role.
- A question was asked which related to assessment activity and ensuring consistency.
- A point was made which related to the potential impact that the bill would have on local government.
- The importance of the LGA raising awareness through bulletins and notifications to local authorities was emphasised.
- It was suggested that government test proposals with multiple venues and events to see how it would work in practice ahead of rolling it out across the country.
- A question was asked which related to the number of councils and authorities affected.

The Chair suggested that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Board as more information became available.

Rachel responded to Members' comments and questions and referred to point 21 of the report, which set out information related to SSCB's work programme and the LGA's plans to respond to the consultation on requirements for standard tier premises, once launched.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

Action:

- Officers to submit a further report to a future meeting of the Board as more information became available.

4 Annual CTS Conference - 4.15 - 4.25

The Chair invited **Megan Kidd, NGDP Graduate**, to introduce the paper which provided an update on the LGA Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport

conference.

Members made the following contributions:

- A question was asked which related to the cost of the delegate pass.
- A concern was raised which related to the date of the conference and it being too close to the elections in May, meaning many Councillors would be busy campaigning.
- A concern was raised regarding the potential high cost associated with accommodation and travel to the conference.
- A question was raised which related to point 4.1 of the report. It was suggested that the devolution think pieces on culture be extended to include employment and skills.
- The need to draw out cross-cutting benefits, given that culture, tourism and sport-related venues and events were non-statutory and therefore at risk, was emphasised.
- There were mixed views related to inviting Ministerial speakers to the conference.
- It was suggested that culture, tourism and sport be separated as subjects to discuss at the conference as opposed to being grouped together.
- The importance of networking opportunities was emphasised.
- It was suggested that 'Spectra', an arts organisation which specialised in supporting neurodiverse young people, be invited to speak at the conference.
- It was suggested that 'Equality FC' (Lewes Community Football Club) be invited to speak at the conference, as the club demonstrated initiative which centred around equality and inclusion.
- It was suggested that exhibition space should be made available to rent to commercial businesses willing to engage with councillors at the conference, which could reduce conference costs.
- A comment was made which related to the conference location, South Tyneside, being a lengthy trip for most Members.
- The Chief Executive of the Premier League had been invited to speak at the conference.
- It was suggested that Sir Tim Smit, KBE, be invited to speak at the conference.
- A question was asked which related to conference attendees and a delegate list was requested.

The Chair encouraged Members to contact Megan directly, or the Member Services team, outside of the meeting regarding suggestions for speakers at the conference.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

Action:

- Officers to circulate more information to Members outside of the meeting regarding the cost of delegate passes.

5 Improvement Programmes 4.25 - 4.35

The Chair invited **Helen Hull, Adviser (Productivity)**, to introduce the report. The paper updated the Board on the improvement programmes, including those delivered under contract for Arts Council England and Sport England.

Members made the following contributions:

- The report was welcomed, particularly the Member and officer sessions.
- A Member encouraged other Members to become a peer mentor.
- It was suggested that Martyn's Law be included.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

6 Work Plan Update - 4.45 - 4.50

The Chair invited **Rebecca Cox, Principal Policy Adviser**, to introduce the paper which updated Board Members on progress against the workplan, and on any major pieces of work since the last meeting.

A Member suggested that an item be added to the work plan related to UEFA EURO 2028, which UK and Ireland would host.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

7 Chairs Report Outside Bodies - 4.50 - 4.55

The Chair invited Outside Body Appointees to provide updates to the Board:

Cllr White (Tourism Alliance): *There is some package travel legislation coming through and discussions are taking place around whether the legislation should be welcomed (which is legislation that takes us away from standard EU practice). There is uncertainty as to how fast the short-term let registration scheme was progressing, updates will be provided to the Board when available.*

Decision:

- That Board Members note the report.

8 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Julie Jones-Evans	Isle of Wight Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Joanne Laban	Enfield Council
Members	Cllr Elly Cutkelvin Cllr Adam Hug Cllr Peter Golds CBE Cllr Linda Robinson Cllr Neil Jory Cllr Gary Ridley Cllr Darryl Smalley Cllr Chris White	Leicester City Council Westminster City Council Tower Hamlets Council Wychavon District Council West Devon Borough Council Coventry City Council City of York Council City and District of St Albans
Apologies	Cllr Tracey Dixon Cllr Michael Graham Cllr Richard Henry Cllr Jemima Laing Cllr Barry Lewis Cllr Ian Shipp	South Tyneside Council Wakefield City Council Stevenage Borough Council Plymouth City Council Derbyshire County Council West Suffolk Council
In Attendance	Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward Cllr James-J Walsh Cllr Jonathan Simpson MBE Cllr Steve Allen Cllr Sean MacLeod	Reading Council Lewisham London Borough Camden London Borough Council Peterborough City Council Lewes District Council

Council culture and leisure services

Key facts and figures

17 January 2024

www.local.gov.uk

English councils are responsible for:

- 3,000 libraries
- 350 museums
- 116 theatres (and provide core funding/own the building for many more)
- Numerous castles, amusement parks, monuments, historic buildings and heritage sites
- 27,000 parks and green spaces
- 2,727 leisure centres
- 33 per cent of all swimming pools
- 31 per cent of grass pitches
- 20 per cent of all health and fitness facilities
- 13 per cent of sports halls

In comparison, the Ambassador Theatre Group owns or runs 39 theatres in England and Wales.

In comparison, PureGym owns 294 sites and David Lloyd owns 99 sites.

Council services reach people

Leisure centres	Libraries
<p>8.9 million participants</p> <p>165 million unique visits</p> <p>Three quarters of grassroots clubs depend on public leisure facilities to survive</p>	<p>7.6 million active borrowers</p> <p>Over 40 million visits</p> <p>33% of adults use online library services at least 3 or 4 times a year</p>

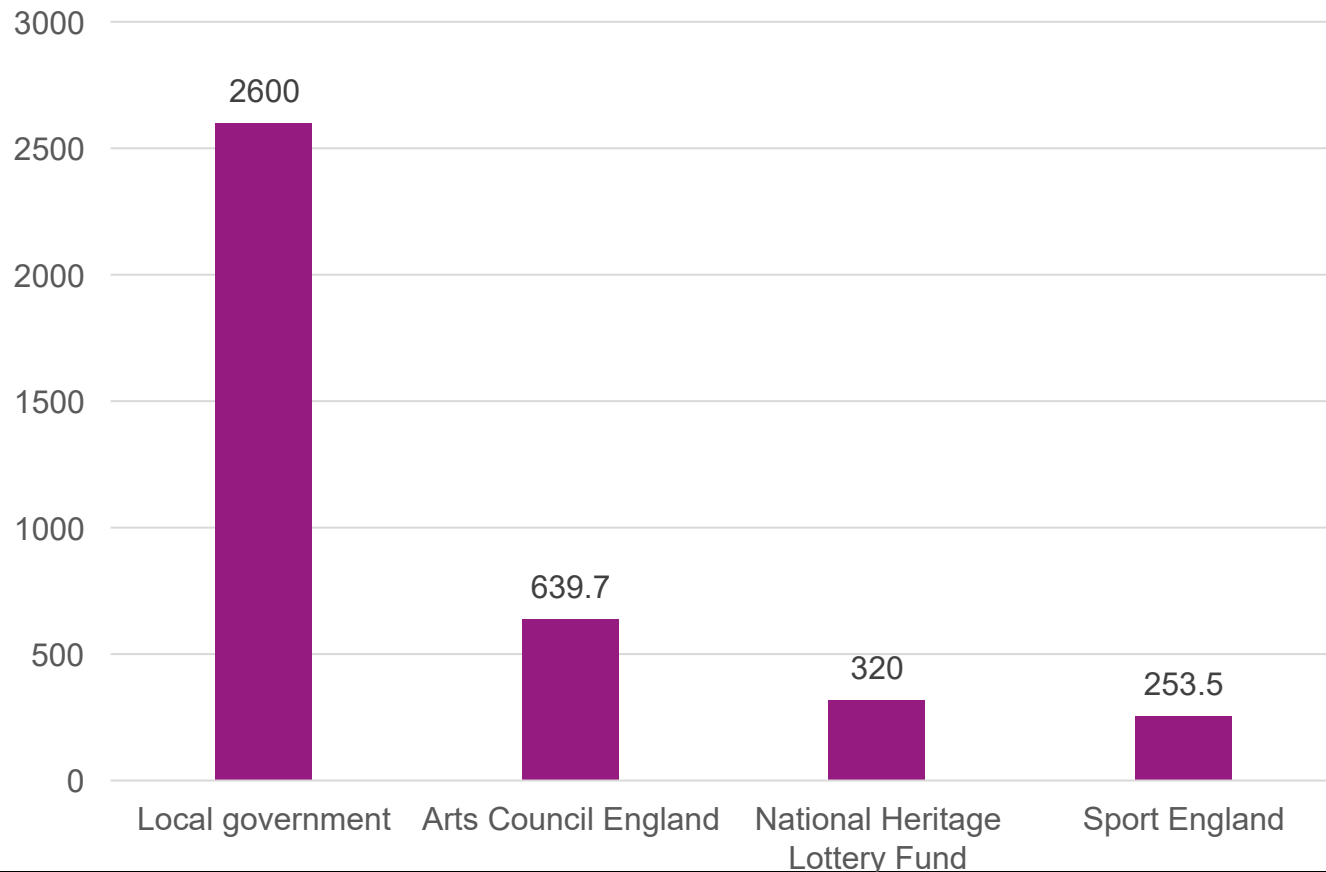
Per year, councils invest:

- **£1.2 billion in cultural activity per year**, making them the largest public investor in cultural attractions, including £678 million on libraries, a statutory service.
- **£1.4 billion per year** in sport, leisure, parks and green spaces, playgrounds and community halls, providing communities with access to vital facilities to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.
- **£0.82 billion per year** in tourism

Apart from libraries, this spend is all discretionary.

Government invested £1.87 billion in the Cultural Recovery Fund, £100 million in the National Leisure Recovery Fund and £60 million in the Swimming Pool Support Fund.

Annual spend on culture, heritage and sport in England (millions)



Council investment delivers results

East Riding of Yorkshire Council - saved the NHS £2.5 million

- Council designed IT system to allow GPs to book patients directly on to the exercise on-referral scheme
- Half of people achieved at least a 5 per cent weight loss
- Reduced number of bariatric surgery operations from 100 to 20 pa in the area in 8 years (most expensive type of operation for the NHS)

Bradford Metropolitan District Council – young careers in film and tv production

- Partnership between council and Screen Yorkshire, and later West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Provided work placements to young people from diverse backgrounds aged 18 to 30
- 73 per cent were in work after the Beyond Brontës programme, with 14 per cent having returned to education

Some programmes are working well

Heritage Action Zones	Business & Intellectual Property Centres	Local Football Facilities Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally-led • Central expertise and advice • National profile • Aligned funding streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National/local partnerships • Central coordination • Local delivery & local knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrally funded consultancy • Strategic local planning • Targeted investment • Long lead in time

As the biggest providers of culture and sport services, our offer is:

- Help you design funding and policy approaches to **maximise** local impact and uptake
- Share insight into **what really works** locally, and promoting this nationally
- **Champion the value** of investment in culture, tourism and sport – locally and with other parts of government
- **Identify system change** and connections with other departments, public bodies, private sector, and civil society

As the biggest providers, we need a special relationship with the Department.

Our ask is:

- **Regular and close engagement** at ministerial and official level
- **Honest and open conversations** about what problems you want to solve
- **Early engagement** in design of funds, and join up of funds
- **Time to engage with our communities** to build lasting proposals

Secretary of State for DCMS

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? Yes

Summary

Lucy Frazer KC MP, Secretary of State for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport, is attending this Board meeting.

This paper sets out the key points to be raised in discussions, and should be read alongside the accompanying slideset, which will be presented by lead members.

LGA Plan Theme: Strengthening our Voice

Recommendation(s)

That the Board:

- **Allocate and ask the core questions set out in paragraphs 7-10**
- **Come prepared with local case studies as set out in paragraph 12**
- **Develop and agree with their political group, supplementary questions based on the key lobbying lines set out in paragraph 13**

Contact details

Contact officer: Ian Leete

Position: Senior Adviser

Phone no: 020 7664 3143

Email: ian.leete@local.gov.uk



Secretary of State for DCMS

Background

1. Lucy Frazer KC MP, Secretary of State for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport, is attending this Board meeting.
2. The session will open with a slideset presented by lead members, followed by a response from the Secretary of State. The remainder of the session will be taken up by questions and answers from Board members.
3. Lead members have identified the key aim for the meeting is **to illustrate local government working alongside central government in partnership.**
4. There will be four prepared core questions with one allocated to each group.
5. Board members will have the opportunity to develop their own questions, and as many as possible will be taken in the time available. Members are asked to follow the approach of using a local case study to ask a question based on the agreed lobbying priorities for the board (See paragraph 13). There will not be time to explore specific local issues at this meeting.
6. Board members should share these questions with their lead member in advance of the meeting, and the political group meeting will agree an order of priority for them to be asked. The Chair will invite members to ask their question in accordance with the Board's proportionality.

Core questions

7. **Conservatives** - The Swimming Pool Support Fund has made a real difference to local areas, saving core facilities. However, [UKactive's recent survey](#) showed that 40 per cent of council areas remain at risk of reducing services or closing facilities by March of this year. 87.5 per cent have had to raise prices to cover costs, but reducing access to those on lower incomes. **What can we do to help build the business case for further investment, and integration with health services, to make this sector sustainable again?**
8. **Labour** – Continuing the point about building business cases, there is a real need to improve the data and evidence available on the sector at both the local and national level. The Board had a very positive presentation about the developing DCMS [Arts and Heritage Capital Framework](#), and the [Moving Communities Platform](#) developed by Sport England has also been invaluable. However, there is still a significant gap on data available for many cultural services, and particularly in academic research interpreting the impact of the data. **Is there more we could do together to merge local insight and national policy into a robust evidence base of impact?**



9. **Independent** – Creative Industries are one of our fastest growing sectors and Government initiatives like the new strategy and the Creative Industries Council are positive, but **could we make more use of council services to develop a skills pipeline for this sector, particularly for young people?** Our Culture Commission found that council cultural service often acted as an incubator for people developing their practice and moving between public and private sector.
10. **Liberal Democrat** – The visitor economy is starting to recover, particularly with American visitors, which is very positive. However, the pressures on council finances are starting to hinder councils' ability to curate places as destinations. The visitor sector itself is very keen to see a reduction in VAT to remain competitive, but that still leaves an issue about getting investment into the destination as a place, rather than into an individual business. **Can we undertake some formal testing of the possibility of local levies**, with the money ringfenced for the visitor economy, as are in widespread international use; and in place in the UK for other service areas such as the late night levy for hospitality.

Proposal

11. Board members are invited to develop supplementary questions based on the agreed lobbying priorities below. These should be submitted to the group lead member ahead of their political group meeting. Due to time constraints, it is likely that there will be time for only one or two questions per political group.
12. Where possible Board members should illustrate these questions with local case studies, particularly drawing on:
 - 12.1. The use of the Swimming Pool Support Fund to help leisure centres (please include approximate number of users benefiting)
 - 12.2. The use of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to help culture, leisure or tourism facilities reduce their energy consumption and become more sustainable
 - 12.3. Local work through culture or leisure provision to support young people participate, or to boost career pathways and skills for young people
13. Lobbying priorities:
 - 13.1. Securing better value for money through place-based investment by DCMS-related arms-length bodies and non-ministerial departments, allowing pooled funding across agencies.
 - 13.2. Invest in the retrofit of cultural and leisure assets, including heritage sites, swimming pools and leisure centres through the extension of the [Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund](#)



- 13.3. A Royal Commission on the future of public culture and leisure facilities
- 13.4. Support the vital creative industries, leisure sector and visitor economy with a more local approach to skills and employment support, as set out in the [LGA's Work Local proposals](#)
- 13.5. Long-term, sustainable funding settlement for local government would give councils the certainty to invest in culture and wider civic infrastructure in place.
- 13.6. Simplify the funding landscape for local authorities and work with cultural and sport related arms-length-bodies to further develop place-based approaches to funding
- 13.7. Investing in future technology in public buildings, for example ensuring libraries continue to open up access to new and emerging technologies
- 13.8. Recognise councils' key contribution in managing destinations for both domestic and international visitors by confirming ongoing local government representation on the Tourism Industry Council
- 13.9. Reduce inefficiency by ensuring the value of culture and physical activity to the economy and wider wellbeing is recognised in wider Government policy outcomes, in particular education, health, economic growth and planning.

Implications for Wales

- 14. The Secretary of State's remit is UK-wide, but most culture, sport and tourism policy is devolved to the Welsh Assembly, including funding allocations.

Financial Implications

- 15. None.

Equalities implications

- 16. There are no specific equalities implications from this conversation.

Next steps

- 17. Board members will submit their questions in advance of the meeting to their group lead member.
- 18. The Chair will send a follow up note and thank you to the Secretary of State following the meeting. After the Board meeting, members may identify key points they want raised or shared in this follow up note and send to member services by 19 January for consideration by the Chair.

Trends in funding announcements for culture, tourism and sport

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This paper summarises available information about planned council funding for culture, tourism and sport in 2024. Many councils are in the process of setting budgets for 2024/25 so this is a snapshot of information currently available.

LGA Plan Theme: A sustainable financial future

Recommendation(s)

That the Board:

- **Contribute insight into local discussions about the future funding of culture, tourism and sport**
- **Consider key messages to be given to the LGA Executive and Government partners**

Contact details

Contact officer: Ian Leete

Position: Senior Adviser – Culture, Tourism and Sport

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Trends in funding announcements for culture, tourism and sport

Background

1. This paper summarises available information about planned council funding for culture, tourism and sport in 2024/25. Many councils are in the process of setting budgets for 2024/25 so this is a snapshot of some of the budget information currently available.
2. Councils face ongoing inflationary and pay pressures alongside spiking demand and market challenges in areas such as children's social care and temporary accommodation. This is happening at a time of low financial resilience across the sector following a 27.0 per cent real-terms reduction in core spending power from 2010/11 to 2023/24. Councils are currently facing funding gaps of £2.4 billion in 2023/24 and £1.6 billion in 2024/25. These gaps relate solely to the funding needed to maintain services at their current levels.
3. Given the financial pressures affecting local government, this report includes announcements by a number of councils who have received a s114 report or have publicly stated they expect to receive one, and who are undertaking public consultations on their proposed response. A [recent LGA survey](#) found that almost 1 in 5 council leaders and chief executives think it is very or fairly likely that their chief finance officer will need to issue a s114 report this year or next due to a lack of funding to keep key services running. However, it should be noted that councils will have been taking significant steps to balance budgets long before a s114 report is received. This provides some opportunity to extrapolate how local universal services might be affected if, as expected, more councils receive these notices.
4. The [Autumn Statement 2023 failed to provide funding needed to protect the services the people in our communities rely on every day](#), although changes to planning fees may have a small positive effect on councils' ability to resource expert planning advice on heritage and culture.
5. The subsequent [Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement](#) was announced on 18 December and [LGA analysis](#) shows that the settlement does not change the funding gap facing councils and does not provide enough funding to meet the severe cost and demand pressures which have left councils of all political colours and types warning of the serious challenges they face to set balanced budgets next year.
6. The pressure from increased demand for social care support has led several councils to highlight the way in which the proportion of budget available for other services - including culture, tourism and sport - have been affected. Although

variation exists between social care authorities, the proportion of council budget spent on social care obligations has shifted to an average (at the median) of 63.9 per cent of budgeted service spend (excluding education) in 2023/24 amongst councils with social care responsibilities, up from 56.5 per cent in 2016/17. This is squeezing councils' ability to spend on other services. Ultimately spending is increasingly concentrated on fewer people, so councils are less able to support local and national agendas.

7. For instance, [Bradford Council](#) - the next City of Culture - is predicting a £73 million overspend this year, which is set to rise to £103 million for the next financial year. Cllr Hinchcliffe, leader of the council, told the meeting 87 per cent of this year's total budget was spent on essential children's and adult services.
8. [Research published by the New Statesman](#) on 15 December 2023 revealed that since 2010, four in ten councillors (42 per cent) said their council had made cuts to libraries, while a quarter (26 per cent) cited cuts to leisure centres. More than a third (39 per cent) said parks and recreational facilities had been cut back, while nearly half (45 per cent) said culture, events and tourism had. This means that, on average, more than a third (38 per cent) of councillors mentioned cuts to recreational, leisure and cultural services.
9. This echoes findings from a [ukactive survey of public leisure providers](#) in November 2023 that found 38.5 per cent are considering reducing services or closing entirely by March 2024. Crucially, these findings come after the allocation of the revenue element of the Swimming Pool Support Fund. Only 9.6 per cent of public sector respondents that received support said the scheme had made a significant impact in improving the risk rating for their facility.
10. It also found that three quarters (75 per cent) of private facilities are extremely likely to have to increase their customer pricing in the next six months, with 87.5 per cent having already been forced to raise prices over the past year to cope with high operating costs.
11. Forthcoming research from Arts Council England into the levels of public investment into museums, conducted by DC Research and Wavehill, identified 413 'local authority reliant' museums. This accounts for 31 per cent of all accredited museums in England, with almost twice as many museums in the North reliant on local authorities than in the South. The report identifies a funding reduction that equates to a 17 per cent decrease in cash terms, and once inflation has been accounted for, this equates to a decrease in real terms of 37.4 per cent in the Net Current Expenditure on Museums and Galleries by local authorities between 2009-10 and 2022-23.
12. Equally significantly, it identifies the impact of funding reductions to services that do not lead to asset closure. It identifies that many services have less bandwidth to address the multiple challenges they face because of existing financial



pressures and often from legacy infrastructure and contractual decisions. Many services reported they lack a range of curatorial or commercial skills. Consequently, services indicated that this not only limited their ability to drive change in their operational model but also their ability to deliver learning, health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities. This in turn served to undermine the position of services in making a case for investment by demonstrating the positive contribution they provide to achieving local and national policy objectives. This report is due to be published shortly and Arts Council England would be happy to attend a future Board to present on it.

Public announcements

13. This section gathers public announcements already made by councils about their spending decisions for culture, tourism and sport. It draws heavily on information from councils whose Chief Finance Officer has issued a s114 report, which remain a small part of the sector, and is therefore not fully reflective of the overall health culture, tourism and sport services.
14. Many of the announcements considered, both in areas that have received a s114 notice and those that haven't, are also currently in the proposal stage and are subject to revision following analysis of consultation responses. For instance, decisions in both Woking and Kirklees to retain key facilities following consultation have illustrated that councils will adapt proposals to reflect local feedback.
15. It should also be recognised that these proposals form part of broader proposals to find savings across all councils services. However, these consultations can be taken to illustrate the extent to which culture, tourism and sport services feature in plans to reduce spending, in these councils, as demand for other services grows.
16. Nottingham City Council received a s114 report in November 2023. [It has agreed a public consultation](#) on reducing grants made to external cultural organisations in the city, saving £198,000. However, it will retain ownership of the Theatre Royal and Concert Hall. £9,000 will be saved from the Museum budget and the service itself will explore alternative delivery models. The library service will also be reviewed.
17. Woking Borough Council received a s114 report in June 2023. Their consultation outlined closures to the Lightbox gallery, the pool in the park, removal of funding for sports pavilions, an end to events and dance activities, and further investigation of savings in leisure services.
18. [Analysis of feedback](#) to the Woking public consultation revealed that the top three most highly-valued services across all demographics were access to parks, play areas and green spaces, closely followed by keeping the borough a safe place



for everyone and keeping streets clean. Access to swimming pools and access to leisure facilities at came fourth and fifth. However, when asked which services the council should consider closing, arts and theatre services was the most frequently select answer (27 per cent), as opposed to leisure (5 per cent) and community centres (5 per cent). Following this feedback, the council has decided to retain access to the pool in the park.

19. [Bristol City Council](#) has not received a s114 report but is facing a £20 million funding gap. Over the past 5 years, it has reduced its funding to external organisations by 40 per cent, most recently culminating in [some venues losing all of their council funding from April 2024](#). The council will continue to invest £1.4 million in cultural grants.
20. [Kirklees Council](#) has not received a s114 report but has identified the need to find £47 million in savings ahead of the next financial year. It proposed closing three leisure centres, as well as the sale of a heritage library building. Following public consultation, the council has announced that two leisure centres will remain open under a new operating model.
21. [Suffolk County Council](#) has not received a s114 report but has identified £74 million needed to protect the most vulnerable over the next two years, and the need to make £64.7 million savings over two years. Proposals published include £0.5 million of savings by stopping core funding to Art and Museum sector organisations (100% reduction). To assist with the transition, £528,000 of COVID recovery money will be made available to arts and museum sector organisations for 2024/25 which will fully cover the funding reduction for one year. The council will also achieve £140,000 of savings by centralising Suffolk Archives to 'The Hold' and closing the branches in West and East Suffolk.
22. These examples are intended to be illustrative and are not a comprehensive report of closures or changes across these services.

Investments

23. Despite the difficult financial climate, councils remain the biggest public funders of culture and sport, and councils are still making investments in these services. In particular, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund has provided a welcome capital investment in leisure facilities, while the Levelling Up Fund has earmarked £100 million for cultural investment across the country.
24. Significant investment is taking place across London, with Westminster, Greenwich, Southwark, Newham, Epping and Enfield all announcing new leisure centres.



25. Elsewhere, Melton Council has announced a [£1.7 million investment in their leisure facilities](#) to ensure they are fit for the next decade; while [Spelthorne Council](#) has announced a new leisure centre, which will include a 25m, eight lane swimming pool.
26. On the cultural side, [Harlow Council](#) has secured £20 million from the Levelling Up Fund to develop a new Arts and Culture Quarter, including a gallery and arts-led pavilion.
27. [Reading Council](#) has invested £13.7 million in upgrading the Hexagon Theatre, including £12 million from a successful Levelling Up Fund bid.
28. Councils are also able to take non-financial decisions to support their services. For instance, [Worcester Council](#) recently extended the lease of a historic museum in the city to 999 years to help secure its long-term future. This provides the museum with the ability to more effectively fundraise.

Implications

29. Most announcements relating to funding pressures cite concerns about statutory services, particularly children's and adult social care services and housing and homelessness services. These funding pressures also impact on universal services and councils' ability to provide valuable services such as culture, leisure and sport. As demand for services is increasing, public expectations about how limited resources are allocated will need to be managed robustly.
30. The majority of the funding investments are asset acquisition or refurbishment, primarily secured through applications to central government capital grants. The majority of closure announcements refer to an inability to cover revenue costs. This points to a mismatch of the funding types available to secure a long-term future for any new build or refurbished facilities.
31. In order to secure revenue income, many services report an increased focus on charging, including price rises. This impacts on the social value generated by these services, which in many cases subsidise access to culture and sport for those who cannot afford private provision. These services provide well known mental and physical health benefits, so a reduction in the number of people accessing them is likely to reduce places' ability to mitigate health pressures, which could include worsening the productivity gap as individuals on low incomes are unable to self-manage their conditions.
32. There are also market constraints on how much can be charged for services, with early Sport England research suggesting some users are already being priced out of the market.



33. The LGA Commission on culture and local government found that council services were a critical element of the cultural ecosystem, while Sport and Recreation Alliance found that three quarters of grassroots sports clubs were reliant on public facilities to operate. There are indications that the withdrawal of council funding for these services is starting to destabilise the wider systems, affecting organisations' ability to secure match funding and investment, including from Arts Council England. An individual council reduction in funding may therefore lead to a much wider drop in investment in that council area.
34. LGA members have reported two particular challenges emerging from a s114 report:
- 34.1. Councils who have received a s114 report may not be able to apply for government funding as they are unable to guarantee the continued functioning of the facility to be funded. This example came to light with the Swimming Pool Support Fund, which required a guarantee that the pool continued to operate for five years following receipt of funding.
- 34.2. The speed at which financial savings need to be achieved poses a challenge to exploring alternative models of delivery, including community asset transfer, which typically require a longer development time for capacity building and engagement. This means that some assets may be lost to community use even though long-term retention for the community could be possible with more time to explore options.

Implications for Wales

35. Culture, tourism and sport funding is a devolved matter, so this report focuses on England only. Welsh authorities are reporting similar financial challenges for these services.

Financial Implications

36. No implication for the Board budget.

Equalities implications

37. Paragraph 31 highlights the probability that inequalities will worsen as a result of the financial challenges facing services, with possible solutions to the funding problem risking making these services unaffordable for low incomes families and individuals.



Next steps

38. The LGA is commissioning a snap survey of council chief executives on likely reductions in funding to universal services, including culture, tourism and sport services. This is expected to be launched mid-January.
39. The LGA is also commissioning a series of infographics, ahead of the annual Culture, Tourism and Sport conference on 5 March, highlighting some of the challenges facing local cultural services including:
 - 39.1. fragmentation of funding streams for local cultural services;
 - 39.2. the proliferation of different local governance structures affecting culture (including work to address this); and
 - 39.3. reduction in core local authority funding since 2008 and pressure on council budgets due to rising demand for social care.
40. More widely, the LGA is undertaking an intelligence gathering approach to support councils who have declared or at risk of declaring a s114 notice. This has included webinars with finance directors, and conversations with heads of service.
41. The LGA is also exploring the possibility of greater collaboration with the private sector with ukactive.
42. Our improvement offer has been adapted to reflect feedback from members on the biggest challenges to sustainability for culture and sport services. This includes the commissioning of the routemaps to sustainability, and our leadership training programmes for councillors and officers.
43. LGA officers will maintain a watching brief on this, as more councils announce the results of their budget decisions.

Support for care leavers

Purpose of Report

For discussion

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

The Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA), Councillor Shaun Davies, has announced that one of his priorities for 2023-24 is corporate parenting, in particular support for care leavers. Recognising that all councillors are corporate parents to children in care and care leavers, all policy boards are being asked to share their own ideas for this priority area, to shape the LGA's work in relation to supporting care leavers. This report outlines current ideas for this programme and next steps, and is an opportunity for Board members to put forward their own ideas and good practice.

LGA Plan Theme: Putting people first

Recommendation(s)

That the Board comments on the current plans for this programme of work and suggest any additional ideas as to how the LGA can promote positive outcomes for care leavers, including those based on their own councils' work.

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Support for care leavers

Background

1. The Chair of the LGA, Councillor Shaun Davies, announced at the LGA Annual Conference that one of his priorities for 2023-24 is corporate parenting, and in particular how the LGA can support improved outcomes for care leavers and others with care experience. This was also discussed at Executive Advisory Board on 20 July 2023.
2. The Children and Young People Board will lead on this work, with regular updates also going to Informal Group Leaders and the Executive Advisory Board for organisation-wide oversight and join-up.
3. All policy boards at the LGA are being asked to consider how services within their remit could improve outcomes for care leavers, including potential policy positions and sharing of good practice. This reflects the fact that all councillors and council officers are corporate parents to children in care and care leavers.
4. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 outlines the following corporate parenting principles that all local authorities must have regard to when carrying out functions in relation to children in care and care leavers:
 - 4.1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people;
 - 4.2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
 - 4.3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
 - 4.4. To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
 - 4.5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
 - 4.6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their homes lives, relationships and education or work;
 - 4.7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Outcomes for those with care experience

5. Many people with care experience leave care and go on to happy, fulfilling lives. Care experienced people told the Independent Review of Children's Social Care

that it was important to recognise that, while a lot of policy and media attention is given to the disproportionate numbers of care experienced people who experience negative outcomes, such outcomes are not inevitable and care can be a “positive, transformational and lifesaving experience”¹. For example, there is [evidence](#) that longer-term care can be a protective factor in children’s educational outcomes. One of the aims of the LGA’s campaign is to emphasise a more positive narrative around those with care experience.

6. However, by understanding where those with care experience are more likely to experience negative outcomes than their peers, it is possible to identify opportunities to address these issues. The Care Review highlights several key areas where government, business and society can play a role in supporting care experienced people:
 - 6.1. An estimated 26 per cent of the homeless population have care experience.
 - 6.2. Almost a quarter (24 per cent) of the prison population in England have spent time in care.
 - 6.3. Four in ten (41 per cent) of care leavers aged 19-21 are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people of the same age.
 - 6.4. Adults who spent time in care between 1971-2001 were 70 per cent more likely to die prematurely than those who did not.
 - 6.5. Six per cent of care leavers report having no-one at all to provide emotional support, and nearly one in ten only had support from their leaving care worker.

Current work programme

7. Colleagues across policy, improvement, leadership and communications have been working to develop a programme of work to support the Chair’s priority.
8. Partner organisations are being engaged in this work, including Spectra which runs the Care Leaver Covenant, Become (the national charity for children in care and care leavers) and the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF) which connects local authority leaving care teams.
9. Ensuring that the voices of those with care experience directly influence this work is vital to ensure the impact and relevance of the programme. Become and the NLCBF have provided advice on engaging those with care experience, as well as evidence from their own work with care experienced people on key priorities.

¹ [Independent Review of Children’s Social Care 2022](#)



10. Work is being considered across three strands:

- 10.1. The LGA as an employer: including training for all staff, guaranteed interviews where minimum criteria are met for roles (subject to legal advice) and ring-fenced apprenticeship positions.
- 10.2. The LGA as a convener: working with the Care Leaver Covenant to promote their work and encourage sign ups; communications campaign to raise awareness; Work with LAMIT (Local Authorities’ Mutual Investment Trust) and CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management) to publicise their work to support care leavers.
- 10.3. The LGA’s work to support and improve local government: dedicated outreach and support for care experienced graduates applying to the National Graduate Development Scheme; guidance and case studies for councils; lobbying government in relation to funding for children’s social care and to support care leavers who were formerly unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; training for councillors and officers on corporate parenting, including across the ‘corporate core’.

What care leavers say is important to them

11. The following list has been compiled from a variety of organisations (including the [National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum](#), the [Care Leavers National Movement](#), [Barnardo’s](#) and the [Children’s Commissioner](#)) that have worked with care leavers to identify key support that they would like to see, noting that young people would like to see support offered to all care leavers, including those who are living outside of their local authority area.

Issue	Examples of good practice
Finance: support managing household bills; cold weather allowance; council tax exemptions; savings; higher rate of universal credit for under 25s	Winter fuel payments in Gateshead ; paying council tax for those living out of authority in Doncaster
Housing: priority access to housing; Staying Put and Staying Close; access to a ‘handyman’ service and a maintenance fund.	Rent guarantor schemes (e.g. in Devon); home improvements via EQUANS
Travel: support with the cost of getting to appointments, work and staying connected with family and friends; driving lessons.	Greater Manchester free bus travel ; Cornwall free bus travel ; free driving lessons and paid for licenses in Medway ; bicycle packages in Reading

<p>Health: timely access to mental health services; access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services until 25 where necessary to avoid moving into adult support too early; paid-for prescriptions; NHS dentists; optician appointments.</p>	<p>Dedicated mental health worker in Lincolnshire; paid prescriptions in Oldham;</p>
<p>Digital connection: devices and access to WiFi and data to connect with health services, apply for jobs and stay connected to friends and family.</p>	<p>TalkTalk free broadband and data for active job seekers; Greater Manchester free data, devices and digital skills training</p>
<p>Leisure: gym passes, including for a friend to go with them; funds for leisure activities.</p>	<p>Cornwall Culture Card; free activities in leisure centres in Dudley; Christmas/festival allowance in Cheshire West and Chester</p>
<p>Education, employment and training: guaranteed interviews for apprenticeship roles; “work wardrobes”; financial support until a first pay check clears; education bursaries up to the age of 25 (these are currently available for those aged 16-19).</p>	<p>Year-round accommodation at the University of Kent; interview clothing through Smart Works or Suited and Booted; financial support between benefits ending and first wage payment in Cheshire West and Chester;</p>
<p>Practical support: starter packs for new homes or going to university; mentoring or buddying schemes; clothing allowance; passports.</p>	<p>Clothing allowances in Kent; setting up home start packs and TV licences in Northamptonshire; coaching for care leavers in Southwark</p>
<p>Offers for specific groups of care leavers: including care experienced parents, former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, young people with additional needs, those involved with the criminal justice system and the LGBTQ+ community</p>	<p>Support for care experienced parents in Hertfordshire; building community for former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Leeds;</p>
<p>Accessing records: including support through the process.</p>	<p>Access to Records training by the Rees Foundation</p>
<p>Post 25 support: to avoid a ‘cliff edge’ or support.</p>	<p>“Always here” support for those with care experience beyond 25 in North Yorkshire</p>



Issues for the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board to consider

12. Many councils support care leavers through access to cultural and sporting activities that they run, supporting the mental and physical wellbeing of young people.
13. Libraries can be valuable community venues for care leavers to access information and services, including digital skills and computer access.
14. Cultural and sporting activities have also been used by councils working with former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children care leavers to help them to build community and take part in positive activities.
15. A range of organisations offers care leavers access to cultural and sporting activities through the Care Leaver Covenant, for example Puregym offers care leavers 50 per cent off of gym memberships and Cambridge Junction offers free arts programmes.
16. Budget reductions are placing pressure on free or discounted activities, with many leisure and cultural services having to consider increasing fees or reducing low cost activities.

Implications for Wales

17. Children's social care is devolved in Wales however learning from the programme can be shared with the Welsh Local Government Association.

Financial Implications

18. This programme will be delivered within existing budgets.

Equalities implications

19. This programme is focussed on reducing inequalities for those with care experience.
20. Around one quarter of care leavers are former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Specific consideration will be given to how the specific needs of this group are recognised in the programme of work.

Next steps

21. Feedback from the Board today will be taken forward by LGA officers and reported to the Children and Young People Board as part of ongoing oversight of the programme.
22. The planned roundtable on supporting young people to be active will include a specific strand on care leavers to further enhance our understanding of what is available to this group.
23. Board members are requested to raise support for care leavers in their meetings with outside bodies and external partners.

Workplan update

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This paper updates the Board on progress against the workplan, and on any major pieces of work since the last meeting.

LGA Plan Theme: Governance and finance

Recommendation(s)

That the Board

- Note the progress to date.

Contact details

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Workplan

Background

1. The Board agreed the workplan at its first meeting in September. Amendments requested at that board meeting, such as Board dates and future equalities work, have been included in the final workplan in Annex A.
2. This report updates the Board on progress to date, and highlights any risks to delivery. The report also updates on key activity not built into the workplan.

Progress

3.

November 23	Briefing paper on the Chiles, Webster, Batson commission	Reducing inequalities	Delayed – LGA comments are with Streetgames for incorporation
	Board meeting	Efficient business management	Delivered
December 23	Visitor economy leadership training, with ‘State of the Sector’ report	Support for councillors and officers	Delivered - training Delayed - State of Sector report will be published at end of month
	Twinning and international relations magazine article (provisional date)	Communications and events	Delivered
	Show and tell on data and evidence for culture	Data and digital	Scheduled 5 th February 2024
January 24	‘Reaching the less active’ briefing	Supporting local people and places	Delivered
	Board meeting DCMS Secretary of State to attend	Efficient business management	In progress
	UK Music webinar on music venues and the visitor economy	Supporting local people and places	Scheduled 30 th January

4. Other key activity that has taken place since the last board meeting includes:
 - 4.1. Cllr Shaun Davies met Thangam Debbonaire MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport. Cllr Davies also met Sir Nick Serota, Chair of Arts Council England.
 - 4.2. Cllr Liz Green represented the LGA at the second meeting of the [National Physical Activity Taskforce](#), launched as part of the Government's new sport strategy.
 - 4.3. Cllr Liz Green met with The National Archives.
 - 4.4. Cllr Julie Jones-Evans is attending the launch of the Government response to Baroness Sanderson's Independent Review of Library Services (18 January).
 - 4.5. Ian Leete and Samantha Ramanah attended roundtables on future sport policy with Stephanie Peacock MP, Shadow Minister for Sport.
 - 4.6. Ian Leete and Lauren Lucas met the National Trust.
 - 4.7. The annual [culture, tourism and sport conference booking page](#) is now live.
 - 4.8. Culture, tourism and sport services are included in the LGA's submission ahead of the planned March budget.
 - 4.9. Proposals for a workshop on creative industries, and one on public leisure, have been submitted for the LGA annual conference in July. We are also working with partners to submit case studies to feature at the Innovation Zone.

Improvement

5. Sport England:
 - 5.1. 3 year application to deliver leadership training submitted (£850 000)
 - 5.2. 8-10 January - delivering officer leadership programme for [place partner areas](#)
 - 5.3. 31 January – 'Capturing value' session 2 for alumin of officer programmes
 - 5.4. 28-29 February – bookings open for cllr leadership programme for [place partner areas](#). Cllr Gary Ridley is co-host.
6. Arts Council England:
 - 6.1. 24-25 January - New and emerging lead library officers programme – fully booked. Speakers include The National Archives, Libraries Connected and CEX of Warrington BC.
 - 6.2. January-April – online senior officer programme applications being considered by ACE. Oversubscribed, including 9 applications from ACE priority places and levelling up for culture places.
 - 6.3. Draft report for Telford and Wrekin culture peer challenge in development. Identifying a peer challenge for Middlesbrough culture challenge in February.

Risks to delivery

7. The routemaps for sustainability have now been commissioned and timescales are back on track for delivery. We have appointed [Nature Positive](#), part of the RSK group, to deliver this for us.
8. The delayed Chiles, Webster, Batson briefing paper is due to limited partner capacity. The delayed visitor economy State of the Sector report is in the final editing stage and on track to be published at the end of the month.
9. All other activities are on track to be delivered as planned and within budget.

Implications for Wales

10. There are no implications for Wales.

Financial Implications

11. All work is on track to be delivered within planned budgets.

Equalities implications

12. The afternoon sessions of the conference include a panel session on inclusion, and a workshop exploring practical delivery of projects that looked at this.

Next steps

13. Officers will address the issues identified in paragraphs 8 and move forward on the next items in the workplan.

ANNEX A

Workplan

Month	Action	LGA business plan heading
September 23	Board meeting	Efficient business management
October 23	'Promoting health and wellbeing' briefing	Supporting local people and places
	'Introduction to archives' webpages	Support for councillors and officers
	Tourism levy magazine article	Communications and events
	' Moving Communities ' webinar	Data and digital
November 23	Briefing paper on the Chiles, Webster, Batson commission	Reducing inequalities
	Board meeting	Efficient business management
December 23	Visitor economy leadership training, with 'State of the Sector' report	Support for councillors and officers
	Twinning and international relations magazine article (provisional date)	Communications and events
	Show and tell on data and evidence for culture	Data and digital
January 24	'Reaching the less active' briefing	Supporting local people and places
	Board meeting DCMS Secretary of State to attend	Efficient business management
	UK Music webinar on music venues and the visitor economy	Supporting local people and places
February 24		
March 24	Board meeting	Efficient business management
	Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference	Communications and events

	Devolution ‘thinkpieces’	Supporting local people and places
	Arts Council England (ACE) leadership training contract	Support for councillors and officers
	10 culture and library peer challenges	Support for councillors and officers
	Sport England leadership training	Support for councillors and officers
	Routemaps for culture and leisure services	Championing climate change and local sustainability
April 24	Roundtable on supporting young people to be active	Reducing inequalities
May 24	Roundtable on twinning	Supporting local people and places
June 24	Board meeting – Leicester	Efficient business management
	Public and private sector collaboration on sport and activity services	Supporting local people and places
	Call for evidence on supporting women to be active	Reducing inequalities
July 24	LGA annual conference	Communications and events
August 24		
TBC items	Roundtable for local government specialist groups	Supporting LG Workforce
	Short term lets response	Supporting local people and places
2024/25		
September 24	Publish results of call for evidence on supporting women to be active	Reducing inequalities
	Launch call for evidence on supporting people with disabilities to be active (drawing on We are Undefeatable campaign)	Reducing inequalities
January 25	Publish results of call for evidence on supporting people with disabilities to be active	Reducing inequalities

March 25	Roundtable on supporting older people to be active	Reducing inequalities
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Outside bodies and partner updates

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This standing report sets out updates from members on outside body activities and meetings with stakeholders.

LGA Plan Theme: Communications and events

Recommendation(s)

That the Board:

- **Provide verbal updates of any partner meetings**
- **Note the appointment of the Board Equalities Champion**
- **Provide a response to Cllr Jeffels' questions in paragraph**

Contact details

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Outside bodies and partner updates

Background

1. The CTS Board has representation on:
 - 1.1. Tourism Alliance – Cllr Chris White (LIB DEM)
 - 1.2. London Marathon Foundation – Cllr Richard Henry (LAB)
 - 1.3. Library champion – Cllr Julie Jones-Evans (IND)
 - 1.4. Creative Industries Council – Cllr Peter Golds
 - 1.5. Improvement Lead – Cllr Michael Graham (LAB)
 - 1.6. ‘Business In The Community’ Taskforce – Cllr Gary Ridley (CON)
2. Equalities Champions are appointed centrally by the political groups and Cllr Julie Jones-Evans has been appointed as the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Equalities Champion for the year.
3. The role of the Champion is to:
 - 3.1. Encourage the Board to consider equality issues in all their work
 - 3.2. Challenge the Board to embed equalities into the work of the Board
 - 3.3. Hold the Board to account around equalities issues.

Partner updates

4. Cllr David Jeffels has provided the following update from [British Destinations](#), representing destination management organisations in the UK.
5. This organisation is a significant long standing voice in the tourism world with membership from local authorities and tourist destinations as well as coastal resorts – it was originally known as the British Resorts Association, and I served as its chairman and its successor some time ago.
6. Based in Southport, it works with Tourism Alliance and Visit England, and other organisations in the industry and has influence at government level as a sounding board.
7. The Director, Peter Hampson, says the experience of 2023 has been that while the volume of tourists has been fairly buoyant, their spending has been down..
8. His take on the 2024 season is that it will be “much of the same” though there are varying responses in different tourist areas.
9. With a General Election on the horizon he says one aim is to influence all the political parties as they create their manifestos. Generally speaking, he says, tourism has not ranked highly in previous GE manifestos, despite it being a big benefit to the national economy and in job creation.
10. There is evidence of spending down in restaurants and hotels, and a major concern is that as more people feel confident about travelling abroad the overseas market will



improve at the expense of the British one which has worked hard to encourage the stay-cation aspect.

11. There is in existence a government fund which is available to help marginal coastal communities, says Peter and perhaps this is one which could be expanded to aid the tourist industry as a whole.
12. With the Chancellor holding his annual Budget Day in March (6th I believe) this could be an opportune time to press the government for more support for the British tourist industry.
13. Questions:
 - 13.1. With a General election on the horizon, what could an incoming government do to boost the tourist industry in the UK?
 - 13.2. Should the government make grants available to aid the industry with such funding being used to upgrade hotels and tourist attractions?
 - 13.3. With the potential to exploit the stay-cation trend and the likelihood of traditional overseas holiday destinations becoming warmer, should local authorities with tourist accommodation and attractions be encouraged with the aid of grants, to capitalise on the potential, working with such organisations as Visit England and Tourism Alliance?
 - 13.4. Should the new government when elected, give a higher priority in general to the promotion and funding of the holiday industry to create employment and boost local economies?

Implications for Wales

14. None.

Financial Implications

15. There are no implication for the Board budget.

Equalities implications

16. Cllr Julie Jones-Evans has been appointed Equalities Champion for the Board.

Next steps

17. Officers will provide a response to Cllr Jeffels' questions in line with the Board's discussion.

