

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Chair's Report to Councillors' Forum, July 2016**

### **Sport and Physical Activity**

1. Following on from Sport England's announcement that there would be a new £250 million fund to tackle inactivity as part of its strategy "Towards an Active Nation: 2016-21" in May, we are continuing to work closely with the organisation to ensure that councils and local partners are central to their plans to tackle inactivity and to re-balance funding away from national organisations and towards local bodies.
2. I was pleased to welcome Mike Diaper, Sport England's Executive Director for Community Sport, to attend the LGA's Councillors' Forum on 9th June to update councillors on the new strategy and give an overview of the approach. LGA members strongly supported Sport England's focus on tackling inactivity and emphasised the importance of fully involving councils in the implementation of the strategy.
3. The LGA continues to run the Leadership Essentials Sport Programme in collaboration with Sport England, and with the input and support of board members. The next session will take place on the 21st–22nd July and board member Cllr Geraldine Carter will be speaking on 'Leading Change', looking at the challenges and opportunities which face councils in transforming the delivery of sport and physical activity in local communities.

### **Libraries**

4. As the joint accountable body for the Libraries Taskforce, Cllr Mike Bell chaired Kathy Settle's Session at the Society of Chief Librarians' (SCL) Conference in Warwick on 10<sup>th</sup> June as the LGA's representative. Cllr Bell highlighted the importance of political and professional leaders working together during the session and emphasised the strong working partnership between the LGA and the SCL.
5. The Libraries Taskforce 'Ambition for Libraries' Consultation closed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The LGA encouraged councils to respond to the online consultation and hosted a roundtable for councillors on 1 June. Board members are now engaging with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the next stage of this work. We were pleased to welcome Kathy Settle, Chief Executive of the Taskforce, to our board meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> June, where she discussed feedback on the consultation, the conclusions drawn from it and the next steps.

### **Culture**

6. On 21<sup>st</sup> June, Cllr Faye Abbott spoke at the National Leisure and Culture Forum's (NCLF) Leading Learning Programme on 'Managing in a Political Environment'. The event focused on good governance and looked at the values, codes and skills that strengthen relationships between elected members and officers. The LGA has supported the NCLF's Leading Learning Programme for aspiring senior local government managers of culture, tourism and sport for several years, and as it is the only senior professional leadership course dedicated to the sector, it plays an important role in maintaining professional capacity to lead transformational change.

7. Cllr David Burbage MBE will speak at the Westminster Briefing Session on 'A New Strategy for Culture: Boosting Access to Arts, Heritage & Culture' on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. Following the publication of the Culture White Paper in March, the event will look at the government's new culture strategy and examine forthcoming reviews on how they will shape the sector. Cllr Burbage will be discussing improving partnership working, and will examine culture as a core part of local authority plans. The Culture Minister, Ed Vaizey MP, will also be speaking at the event.
8. On 13<sup>th</sup> July, Cllr Burbage will attend a Churches Conservation Trust Reception to say farewell to their current chairman, Dr Loyd Grossman, and thank him for his contribution to the heritage sector over the past 9 years.

### **Archives**

9. The National Archives (TNA) hosted the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Meeting in Kew on 20<sup>th</sup> June. This was an excellent opportunity for board members to engage with TNA's work and gain a clear insight into the everyday functions and activities there. The board had an excellent discussion and Jeff James, Chief Executive of TNA, presented on key challenges and opportunities for the archives sector. We identified a number of shared priorities going forward and we will continue to be involved with their vision/ strategy and help to shape this.
10. In July, board members will be attending a series of National Archives Roundtable Events in Wiltshire, Birmingham, Manchester and London and contribute to the shaping the archive's new vision. The events will present opportunities to collaborate with archive professionals, key stakeholders and strategic partners from the cultural, creative and digital sectors. Members will help to develop a strong strategic vision of archives as a vital part of the nation's heritage and secure the best possible long-term future for users of archive collections and services.

### **Tourism and Devolution**

11. On 6<sup>th</sup> July, I chaired the plenary session on 'An alternative view on English devolution' at the LGA Conference and I was delighted to welcome songwriter, author and political activist Billy Bragg as the session's speaker. The session focused on devolution as an effective way to create jobs, build homes and strengthen healthy communities, whilst also highlighting that proposals are rooted in strong and distinct historic and cultural identities which are essential for economic growth. Mr Bragg also discussed the different options for democratic representation for England. I was pleased to launch a new LGA publication that shares new evidence about how devolution has the potential to boost tourism, one of the country's fastest growing economic sectors, and will assist councils to care for and enhance the assets that make places authentic.