

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – Report from Cllr Flick Rea (Chair)

Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 3 – 4 March, Portsmouth

1. I was delighted to welcome nearly 200 councillors and senior officers to the annual Culture, Tourism and Sport (CTS) Conference in Portsmouth – our biggest turnout in five years. The Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, gave the keynote speech and I was very pleased that she recognised that outside London councils spend more than government on culture.
2. For the first time the Chairs of Arts Council England, English Heritage, VisitEngland and Sport England all addressed conference, and I was very encouraged by how much importance they all attached to working in partnership with councils. This was a theme CTS Lead Members discussed with the Chairs in a private meeting at conference, and we agreed to develop further our joint work next year.
3. It was very fitting that we met in Portsmouth and the City Council hosted excellent study tours at the Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth Football Club, D-Day Museum and University of Portsmouth.
4. The CTS Board also met in Portsmouth and we were joined by Diane Lees, Chair of the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC) and Director-General of the Imperial War Museum, for a very helpful discussion on collaboration between museums. We discussed how partnerships between the national, regional and local museum network help to extend access to collections, develop professional expertise and build sustainability. We agreed to feed into the NMDC's work to identify how we can support smaller museums to benefit more from loans from larger museums, and we will also follow this up with Ministers.

Introductory meeting with Helen Grant MP, Minister for Sport and Tourism

5. My introductory meeting with Helen Grant MP on 10 March was an opportunity to demonstrate that councils are leaders and major funders of the visitor economy and community sport, and that DCMS needs to work with councils to achieve its policy objectives.
6. In particular, I said that further growth could be unlocked from the visitor economy by improving productivity through a higher value offer so that people stay longer and spend more in destinations. I set out how councils are leading a whole systems approach to supporting people to be more active – from public health, to sport, transport, housing and planning. I also made the case for councils to have greater flexibility to respond to community concerns about the clustering of betting shops through the licensing and planning system.
7. The Minister's responsibilities also include the First World War commemorations, which start this year, and we discussed how councils are involving communities in locally relevant commemorative activities.

Sport and physical activity

8. I was very pleased to speak at the eighth sport leadership academy, hosted in partnership with Sport England, on 18 February. Sessions explored the creative ways in which councils are keeping sporting assets viable, the opportunities presented by public health reform, understanding the commissioning landscape, and leading transformational change in councils. We look forward to reaching even more portfolio holders next year.

Contact officer:

Position:

Phone no:

E-mail:

Laura Caton

Senior Adviser

020 7664 3154

laura.caton@local.gov.uk