

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Ian Stephens (Chair)**

### **Libraries**

1. I provided the joint foreword to, and welcomed, the publication of 'Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021' by the Libraries Taskforce in early December. We support the proposals set out in the report and the funding that has been made available to help libraries transform. The joint LGA and DCMS Taskforce was set up to create a vision for the future of library services and prepare them to meet the needs of communities of the future, as well as place them on a more sustainable footing.
2. I will be attending the launch of the Libraries all Party Parliamentary Group on 31 January. This APPG will provide information and opportunities for debate about the important role libraries play in society and their future, as well as highlighting the contribution that a wide variety of library and information services make.

### **Sport and Physical Activity**

3. We continue to work closely with Sport England on the delivery of their strategy 'Towards An Active Nation 2016-2021' 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. I will be meeting with Robert Sullivan, Strategy & Communications Director at the Football Association, on the 17 January to discuss the Parklife football hub programme (which is part of the strategy).
4. On 16 November, Cllr Greg Smith attended the Everyone Active talent development scheme launch of Everyone Active's Sporting Champions, a talent development programme which aims to provide ongoing support for talented athletes across the UK.

### **Culture**

5. I wrote, with Councillor Tett, to Karen Bradley MP, Secretary of State for Culture, to urge her to provide clarity on whether UK cities would still be able to bid to host to the European Capital of Culture in 2023. I am pleased that it has now been announced that the bidding round will launch as planned.
6. I was delighted to meet Diane Lees, Chair of the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC) and Director General of the Imperial War Museum on 15 November. We discussed museums within the current local government context. The LGA and NMDC agreed to keep in touch on key issues such as council funding and supporting museums, and will continue to share good practice.
7. On 31 October, Cllr Mike Bell attended the Historic England Angel Awards. The Angel Awards were founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber and celebrate the efforts of local people who have saved historic buildings and places.

### **Archives**

8. On 29 November and 30 November 2016, Cllr Greg Smith and Cllr Faye Abbott attended National Archives Expert Panels on Resilience and on Demonstrating Impact. The events presented opportunities to collaborate with archive professionals and key stakeholders; and to reinforce the LGA's support for the development of a strong strategic vision for archives as part of the nation's heritage.

### **Tourism and the Visitor Economy**

9. I will be giving evidence on rural tourism at the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee in Parliament on the 11 January, with a specific focus on council and LEP support for/promotion of tourism as a key sector providing rural economic growth.
10. We were delighted to welcome Viscountess Penelope Cobham CBE from Visit-England, Patricia Yates from Visit-Britain and Kurt Janson from the Tourism Alliance to the CTS board meeting on the 12 December. This was an excellent opportunity for members to engage with three key tourism organisations and we had an excellent discussion. We will continue to work with these organisations going forward.
11. Cllr Colin Organ attended the Tourism Alliance Board meeting on 7 December, which explored the Alliance's contributions to the Tourism Industry Council's work on the impact of Brexit. This is in turn informing the CTS Board's work on this matter.

### **Historic Anniversaries**

12. The Women's Local Government Society (WLGS) is working with Buckinghamshire County Council and the LGA on a national project to mark the centenary of women's suffrage in 2018. Volunteers will find and pay tribute to 100 pioneers who fought for universal suffrage and then participated in public life. Representatives from the WLGS and Buckinghamshire County Council will be meeting with the LGA Chairman and Deputy Chief Executive on the 26 January.

### **CTS political leadership offer 2016-17**

13. I am delighted that the next CTS Annual Conference will take place on 22-23 February 2017 in Bristol. Keynote speakers for 2017 will include: Dame Kelly Holmes DBE, Tracey Crouch MP (Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage) and Viscountess Penelope Cobham CBE (Visit-England), Sheila Healey (Arts Council England) and Duncan Wilson (Chief Executive of Historic England).
14. I was pleased to give the introductory presentation at the latest Sport England/LGA Leadership Essentials Sport Programme on 17-18 November 2016. I also spoke alongside Cllr Faye Abbott and Cllr Mike Bell at the Leadership Essentials Culture programme on 8-9 November. Cllr Mike Bell also spoke at the Leadership Essentials Culture programme on the 7-8 December. These events, organised in partnership with Sport England and Arts Council England, support portfolio holders and help councils meet the challenges facing sport and cultural services.

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