

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

Libraries and Archives

1. On the 17 April, I met with Gill Furness MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Libraries, to discuss how the LGA can, on behalf of local government, work with the All-Party Parliamentary Group to support and maintain libraries in a changing environment. The work of the joint LGA and DCMS Libraries Taskforce was also discussed.
2. On the 29 March, Cllr Greg Smith attended the launch of Archives Unlocked, the National Archives' strategic vision for archives, created in collaboration with the archives sector. Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre, Matt Hancock MP, Minister for Digital and Culture, and Jeff James, Chief Executive and Keeper of the National Archives all spoke on the vital role played by archives and their potential in an increasingly digital world.

Sport and Physical Activity

3. On the 12 June, Jennie Price, Chief Executive of Sport England, attended the CTS Board meeting and spoke about progress on Sport England's 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy 2016-2021. The strategy was launched in May 2016 and will triple investment in tackling physical inactivity to over £250 million and potentially open up more funding opportunities to councils and local partners.
4. At the same meeting, the Board was also joined by Mark Coulson, Parklife Programme Manager at the Football Association. Mark discussed the FA's commitment in their new football strategy to invest over £250 million in the next four years in grassroots football, including investment in the 'Parklife' football hubs programme.
5. On the 17 May, I was pleased to speak at the Why Sports Conference 'Putting policy into practice' on the role of councils as major investors in local grassroots sport and physical activity. I also discussed the benefits that devolution and localism can offer in this context.
6. I attended a roundtable with the Lawn Tennis Association on 20 June to discuss their largest investment to date in local tennis facilities. Over the next 10 years they will invest £125 million in the local game, and attract a further £125 million from private sponsors.
7. Cllr Sonja Crisp has been appointed as the LGA's representative on the London Marathon Charitable Trust. The trust provides capital funding for building or facilities projects that inspire increased participation in physical activity, sport and play. It prioritises projects that target individuals or groups that currently have low levels of activity and children and young people outside of school hours. Cllr Crisp will be attending a board meeting on the 20 July.

Tourism, Culture and Museums

8. Cllr Colin Organ attended the Tourism Alliance Board meeting on 27 March as the Board's representative. The meeting discussed the tourism industry and a number of key issues currently impacting on this.
9. On the 27 March, I attended a VisitEngland reception to thank Lady Penelope Cobham for her work during her time as chair of the organisation, and to meet the new Chairman of the VisitEngland Advisory Board.
10. I attended the launch of the next phase of the Museums' Association: Museums Change Lives in London on the 29 March. This campaign helps museums to develop their role as socially purposeful organisations and highlights evidence that museums are working with their communities and delivering positive social impact.
11. On the 2 May, Cllr Faye Abbott spoke on the importance of tourism to the economy as one of the fastest growing industries, and how councils can support it by making the best use of their regulatory and business support offers at a Westminster Briefing Session on Tourism and Culture: Policy and Practice in 2017.
12. Cllr Faye Abbott attended the British Board of Film Classification's meeting on the 14 June as the LGA's representative. The board discussed the Digital Economy Act.
13. I was pleased to chair a workshop session on 'Cultural capital – place-making and identity' at the LGA Annual Conference on the 4 July. The session explored how councils can use sporting and heritage assets to create a shared identity to help their communities adapt, move forward and become even stronger. The session focused on how three councils are implementing these approaches to engage communities, promote cohesion, instil civic pride, and encourage democratic participation.

Historic Anniversaries

14. 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. A paper on the project was discussed by the LGA Executive on the 15 June, and Cllr Lesley Clarke wrote an article on the project for the July edition of the LGA's First Magazine. The society also hosted an exhibition stand at the LGA Annual Conference from the 4-6 July.

CTS political leadership offer 2016-17

15. On the 22 June, I was pleased to speak at the latest LGA Leadership Essentials Sport Programme. 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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