

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Annual Report**

### **Background**

1. This year, the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board has shaped the national political agenda and made decisive interventions on priority issues for councils. The board has made a significant difference to LGA member councils, contributed to LGA corporate campaigns, and raised its national profile.
2. Key achievements include supporting councillors to lead transformational change, securing a re-balancing of national sports funding, supporting the publication of 'Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021' and delivering a successful annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Bristol in February 2017.

### **Priorities and Achievements**

#### **Sport and Physical Activity**

3. We have continued 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.
4. The LGA strengthened its strategic links with a number of bodies including the Football Association, and the London Marathon Charitable Trust, which now has an LGA representative.

#### **Libraries**

5. This year, I provided the joint foreword to, and welcomed the publication of 'Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021' by the joint LGA DCMS Leadership for Libraries Taskforce in December 2016. The Taskforce secured £4 million for the Libraries: Opportunities for Everyone Fund. I also wrote a think piece on the future of libraries for the Guardian.

#### **Culture**

6. I am delighted that the LGA and Arts Council England continue with their shared statement of purpose agreement. The LGA also submitted a response to the Arts Council Tailored Review, supporting a re-balancing of funding to all parts of the country and emphasising that councils and their local partners are well placed to lead a step-change in cultural participation.
7. The LGA and the Chief Culture and Leisure Officers' Association published People, culture, place: The role of culture in placemaking, celebrating the good work of councils across the country and sharing lessons learned.

8. Jointly with the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board the Board successfully influenced DCMS to open applications for bidding for the UK host of European Capital of Culture 2023, giving councils certainty over the process.
9. The LGA has taken part in DCMS's Museums Review, part of the Culture White Paper.

### **Historic Anniversaries**

10. The LGA is supporting the Women's Local Government Society (WLGS) and Buckinghamshire County Council to deliver 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. The Chairman of the LGA is serving as one of the project's patrons.

### **Heritage and the Visitor Economy**

11. We were delighted to welcome Viscountess Penelope Cobham CBE from VisitEngland, Patricia Yates from VisitBritain and Kurt Janson from the Tourism Alliance to the CTS board meeting on the 12 December 2016. This was an excellent opportunity for members to engage with three key tourism organisations.
12. Cllr Paul Bettison OBE gave evidence on rural tourism at the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee in Parliament on the 11 January 2017, with a specific focus on council and LEP support for/promotion of tourism as a key sector providing rural economic growth.

### **Archives**

13. Cllr Greg Smith and Cllr Faye Abbott have attended National Archives Expert Panels on Resilience and on Demonstrating Impact. The LGA also submitted evidence to the National Archives' consultation on a future vision for archives.

### **2017 Culture Tourism and Sport Conference**

14. I was delighted to launch and take part in the CTS Annual Conference on 22-23 February 2017 in Bristol. We welcomed keynote speakers including: Dame Kelly Holmes DBE, Viscountess Penelope Cobham CBE (VisitEngland), Mayor Marvin Reese, Sheila Healey (Arts Council England) and Duncan Wilson (Chief Executive of Historic England).

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

15. I was pleased that both Arts Council England and Sport England continued with financial support for the LGA CTS political leadership offer this year. The funding enabled five Leadership Essentials Sport and Culture events and four culture peer challenges to be organised, as well as the development of an online cultural hub on the LGA's website. Since 2011, over 500 councillors have attended the various CTS political leadership events.

20 July 2017

**Programme of work and priorities 2017/18**

16. While next year's Board will agree the work programme in September 2017, we can expect a number of priorities to feature:
- 16.1. We will continue to ensure councils benefit from Sport England's strategy.
  - 16.2. We will continue to steer the LGA/DCMS Leadership for Libraries Taskforce so that it focuses on the biggest issues for councils.
  - 16.3. We will continue to deliver the Culture and Sport Improvement Programme (in partnership with Sport England and Arts Council England).
  - 16.4. We will continue to consolidate and promote the Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference as the definitive event for our sector.
  - 16.5. We will continue to support the work of the Women's Local Government Association Project 'From Suffrage to Citizenship'.