

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Chair)

Introduction

1. I have recently taken over as chairman of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board from Cllr Ian Stephens. At our first meeting, the Board identified its priorities for this political cycle. Firstly, culture-led regeneration, secondly enabling councils to meet the challenges and opportunities of growing the visitor economy with particular regards to Brexit and relatedly third how to make the visitor economy 12 months through. I have arranged meetings with a number of key outside bodies to take these objectives forward and develop the working relationship the LGA has with them.
2. I am very grateful for the support of the vice-chair Cllr Simon Henig and the two deputy chairs Cllr Peter Golds and Cllr Geoff Knight.
3. On 12 September I met with John Glen MP, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, where we discussed the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board's new priorities and how we can continue our excellent working relationship with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. We have invited the Minister to deliver a keynote address at our annual Culture, Tourism and Sports Conference 2018 on Thursday 8 March 2018 in Hull.

Sport and Physical Activity

4. Lead Member Cllr Simon Henig will be hosting our Leadership Essential Sports event on 16 and 17 November in Loughborough. We have also confirmed Tracey Crouch MP, Minister for Sport, as the keynote speaker at our Sports and Physical Activity conference on 5 December.

Tourism and culture

5. On the 11 October, I met with Sir Nicholas Serota the chairman of Arts Council England. We discussed the ties between our organisations at a time when local government, which is the biggest public sector investor in culture is under increasing financial pressures. We will focus our joint efforts on supporting the cultural offer in rural areas, in addition to our regular leadership offer.
6. On the 12 October, I met with Kurt Janson of the Tourism Alliance. We discussed key issues affecting the tourism sector; such as the impact of Brexit and the effect this will have on the sectors access to workers with the skills it requires to thrive.
7. Also, on the 12 October I met with Ufi Ibrahim, the Chief Executive of the British Hospitality Association. We discussed how we can champion the UK hospitality and tourism industry as the best in the world, including ways to reinvest money raised from tourism businesses in tackling tourism-related pressures in local areas.
8. The following appointments were made at the Culture, Tourism and Sport's last Board meeting on 8 September 2017:
 - 8.1. Cllr Geraldine Carter [CON, Calderdale] was appointed as the board's representative for the Tourism Alliance.

19 October 2017

8.2. Cllr Geoff Knight [IND, Lancaster] was retained as the board's representative for British Destinations.

8.3. Cllr Mike Bell [Lib Dem, North Somerset] was retained as the board's representative for the Libraries Taskforce.

8.4. Cllr Sonja Crisp [LAB, York] was retained as the board's representative for the London Marathon Charitable Trust.

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