

27 November 2018

## **LGA Annual Conference 2019**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction

### **Summary**

The LGA Annual Conference programme is currently being developed. Board members are invited to provide a steer on CTS elements for 2019.

### **Recommendations**

That the Board discuss session themes for officers to explore, suggestions for key note speakers, and some best practice examples to be put forward to the Innovation Zone.

### **Action**

Officers to develop the proposals and submit by 14 December.

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## **LGA Annual Conference 2019**

### **Background**

1. Our flagship [Annual Conference and Exhibition](#) will take place on **Tuesday 2 July to Thursday 4 July** at the Bournemouth International Centre. It's the UK's largest annual gathering of senior local government representatives and more than 1,400 leaders, chief executives, government ministers as well as representatives from business and the voluntary and community sector attended the 2018 conference.
2. Our conference:
  - 2.1. provides opportunities to engage with our membership;
  - 2.2. supports our lobbying and influencing agenda through political group meetings and key speeches;
  - 2.3. showcases local authority best practice through workshops, fringes, the Innovation Zone and the exhibition;
  - 2.4. offers opportunities to highlight or launch our campaigns, research and publications;
  - 2.5. profiles our policy work and the wide-ranging benefits of membership;
  - 2.6. provides opportunities for lead members and senior staff to engage with our membership and partners; and
  - 2.7. generates income.
3. In previous years, the CTS Board has run or supported sessions on place-making, tourism and Brexit, and women in local government (suffrage anniversary).
4. In addition, we have previously secured space in the Innovation Zone to feature case studies such as Chester's Storyhouse, Library innovations, GoodGym, and East Riding's GP leisure referral programme (social prescribing). In 2017, the Innovation Zone was opened by Stella Duffy running a Fun Palace, one of the Board's suggested case studies.

### **Issues**

5. The Board is invited to identify sessions for officers to submit to the conference team by 14 December. These could be linked to the Board's priorities for the year – social prescribing, tourism, and culture-led regeneration – or focus on something of particular relevance to senior decision makers.
6. The session ideas will need to be designed to appeal to strategic decision makers, such as leaders and chief executives.
7. The Board may wish to suggest particular speakers, which could include Ministers.

### **Implications for Wales**

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8. The audience is primarily English local authorities, with the WLGA holding their own annual conference.

**Financial Implications**

9. None. There is a central budget that can be used to cover some speaker fees.

**Next steps**

10. Officers will develop the ideas and submit them to the conference team on 14 December.
11. All ideas suggested are considered by senior LGA officers and members. The final programme is subject to their decision and can also change to accommodate arising issues.