

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

LGA Annual Cultural and Tourism Conference

1. On the 5-6 March, I chaired the LGA's Annual Cultural and Tourism Conference, hosted by the City of London in the Guildhall. The event saw the launch of our culture-led regeneration research, as well as a key note speech from Sir Nick Serota about Arts Council England's new ten year strategy. Cllr Brigid Jones updated delegates on Birmingham's ambitions for the Commonwealth Games. The conference once again hosted the presentation of the Hearts for the Arts Awards to the 2019 winners, alongside a range of cultural walking tours and workshops.

Response to parks funding announcements

2. I was quoted in the LGA's response to the parks funding announcements. I am pleased to report the LGA's involvement with the Parks Action group has helped make the case for a new £13 million investment into maintaining and repairing our valued parks and green spaces. We welcomed the additional investment from government, while highlighting the importance of local authorities funding in the future of the parks, referring to the upcoming Spending Review.

Cultural Development Fund

3. I was also quoted in the LGA's response to DCMS's announcement of the distribution of their Cultural Development Fund. While we approve of the investments, 'the impacts of culture should be felt in every community across the country whether small or large, urban or rural, economically successful or struggling to attract business'.

Leadership Essentials Courses

4. Since the last Councillors Forum, we have held several of our Sports and Physical Activity Leadership Essentials (LE) courses, delivered in partnership with SE and one of our Culture LE courses, delivered with ACE. Cllr Peter Golds, Cllr Brigid Jones, Cllr Richard Henry and Cllr Faye Abbott all contributed sessions to make these events a success. These courses continue to be well received and command positive feedback from attendees

Library and Culture Peer Challenge Launch

5. Since the last Councillors forum, we have conducted the second and final round of applications for the ten library peer challenges or the three cultural services peer challenges we are offering to councils, funded by our contract with ACE.
6. We are now going ahead with the planning stage for ten library peer challenges and four cultural peer challenges after demand exceeded the original offer.

7 March 2019

7. We have also refreshed and expanded our pool of peers and peer challenge managers to conduct the challenges and hosted a valuable training event for them on the 30 January. Members of the Board Cllr Richard Henry and Cllr Guy Nicholson will be taking part in the peer challenges as member peers.

Tourism Society Event

8. Cllr Peter Golds represented the board, speaking at the Tourism Society's event hosted at the LGA on the 28 February, 'The Changing Shape of the UK Visitor Economy, New Challenges and Opportunities for Tourism Professionals'.

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