

## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board Chair's Report, June 2014**

### **New Culture, Media and Sport Secretary of State**

1. Sir Merrick Cockell has written to congratulate Sajid Javid MP, on his appointment as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, emphasising our sector's contribution to growth and the need for continued strong working between us and the Department and its arm's length bodies. Sir Merrick is meeting Mr. Javid on 11 June and I am also looking forward to meeting him at an English Heritage event this week.

### **Libraries**

2. Culture, Tourism and Sport Board lead members had a very positive meeting in April with William Sieghart, publisher and entrepreneur, who has been asked by the Departments for Culture, Media and Sport and Communities and Local Government to lead an independent review of public libraries. We said to Mr. Sieghart that the future of libraries has to be considered as part of the overall council service offer to communities; libraries are most likely to be viable when they can demonstrate their value to the widest possible group of users. We encouraged the panel to build on good practice and help to drive innovation in the locally-managed service. We are giving oral evidence to the full panel on 7 July.

### **Farrell Review of Architecture and the Built Environment**

3. Sir Terry Farrell has published his independent review of architecture and the built environment, which was commissioned by Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister. I was pleased that following a lively discussion with the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, and a positive meeting with Sir Merrick Cockell, as well as input from the Environment and Housing Board, the Review Team had taken on board many of the LGA's points.
4. In particular, we support the review's emphasis on how elected councillors can work together with design professionals and residents to develop a vision for places really worth living in. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Review Team as they move into the implementation phase.

### **LGA-led Betting Commission**

5. I was pleased to attend the second meeting of the LGA-led betting commission on 4 June. We discussed the recent government announcement on new measures affecting betting shops and Fixed Odd Betting Terminal machines, and I highlighted the importance of partnerships between councils and industry in implementing the changes.

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