

21 January 2020

The new Government

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This paper outlines the details of the DCMS ministerial team and provides an overview and analysis of relevant manifesto commitments for consideration by the Board.

Recommendation

That the Board note this information and consider how it may affect their priorities.

Action

As directed by members.

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Introduction

1. This paper outlines the details of the new Government and its manifesto commitments for the Board to consider as it plans its activity.
2. The Prime Minister began his ministerial career as shadow arts minister and has shown an interest in culture throughout his time as Mayor of London. He has retained Munira Mirza as the Director of the Number 10 Policy Unit, which provides policy advice directly to the Prime Minister. Mirza was Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture when Johnson was Mayor of London, and has held various strategic culture roles, including Executive Director of Culture at King's College London.
3. The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan has remained as Secretary of State for DCMS, having entered the House of Lords as the Rt Hon. the Baroness Morgan of Cotes. The ministerial team remains as follows:
 - 3.1. Nigel Adams: Minister of State for Sport, Media and Creative Industries
 - 3.2. Helen Whately: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism
 - 3.3. Matt Warman: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Digital and Broadband
 - 3.4. Baroness Barran MBE: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Civil Society and DCMS Lords Minister.
4. Tracy Brabin has been announced as the Shadow Secretary of State for DCMS. The Shadow Ministers are as follows:
 - 4.1. Liam Byrne: Shadow Minister for Digital Economy
 - 4.2. Kevin Brennan: Shadow Minister for Arts and Heritage
 - 4.3. Rosena Allin-Khan: Shadow Minister for Sport
 - 4.4. Vicky Foxcroft: Shadow Minister for Civil Society
 - 4.5. The Lord Stevenson of Balmacara: Shadow Spokesperson
5. Daisy Cooper is the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for DCMS

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6. It is possible that DCMS may face a restructure as part of the new Government's rumoured reforms of the civil service.

Boris Johnson as Mayor of London

7. As Mayor of London, Boris Johnson saw culture a key part of making London a 'great city', setting ambitious, global-facing plans. His 2014 cultural strategy took a broad view of culture, including the creative industries¹.
8. As Mayor, Boris Johnson was in post for the delivery of the 2012 Olympic Games, which the GLA had designed to regenerate East London. This included development of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the helter-skelter and the stadium conversion. He launched 'Olympicopolis'², a programme for cultural and educational legacy which included the development of V&A East, as well the Sports Legacy programme³ which aimed to increase sports participation and maximise the social impact of sport.
9. Johnson was interested in the role of culture in revitalising communities, and how culture could improve residents' skills, connect communities and improve the public realm. Projects demonstrating this included the relocation of the Museum of London and the regeneration at Battersea. Projects to promote art in public places included 'art on the underground' and a guide to culture on the high street⁴. He also published planning guidance which aimed to protect arts venues and called for more artists' studios and cultural spaces to retain London's cultural diversity⁵.
10. Munira Mirza led a number of projects which linked culture with education and skills, including the creative employment programme⁶, scholarships and festivals to encourage young people to learn musical instruments, and events volunteering opportunities to develop employment skills.
11. Mirza also initiated the London Night Time Commission⁷, which provided recommendations to boost the city economy 6pm-6am, and designated Creative Enterprise Zones⁸, areas of London where artists and creative businesses could find

¹ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cultural_metropolis_2014.pdf

² <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-east/news/2015/nov/boris-johnson-announces-multi-million-pound-boost-delivery-olympicopolis-project>

³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/md1543-mayor%E2%80%99s-sports-legacy-programme-%E2%80%93-phase-iii>

⁴ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/cultural-places-and-creative-spaces/culture-high-street>

⁵ <https://www.artlyst.com/features/opinion-boris-johnson-calls-for-new-artists-studios-and-cultural-spaces/>

⁶ <https://ccskills.org.uk/whats-new/blog/boriss-message-for-londons-employers>

⁷ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/24-hour-london/think-night#acc-i-55976>

⁸ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/culture-and-good-growth/creative-enterprise-zones>

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permanent affordable space to work and grow and where local people would be helped to learn creative sector skills and find new jobs. Mirza has stated she sees culture as an engine for economic growth⁹.

Manifesto Commitments¹⁰

12. The 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto did not contain a separate section relating to culture, tourism and sport. The commitments made to these areas are distributed across a number of other areas, including education, environment and towns.
13. There is an emphasis in the manifesto on strengthening the UK's position in the world, and culture is identified as a tool for achieving this objective. The manifesto talks about 'taking pride in the world-beating strengths of the UK's creative industries and its unparalleled cultural heritage.'
14. The document has a strong focus on the environment and climate change, referring to the government as 'stewards of our environment' and many of the commitments to green space and physical activity are found under this area. There are specific policies designed to encourage and improve the experience of cycling, which will be of interest in relation to council policies around physical activity, active travel and carbon neutrality.
15. There are no specific commitments to tourism in the manifesto, but it is clear from the context in which cultural commitments are made that culture and sport are seen as tools for projecting the UK's 'soft influence' globally, which relates strongly to our tourism offer. The proposed 'Festival of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' in 2022 will also have a bearing here.
16. The culture, tourism and sport commitments relevant to the work of the LGA in the manifesto are as follows.

The Creative Industries

17. Maintain support for creative sector tax reliefs (p.42).
18. Reduce business rates [...] via a fundamental review of the system. Reduce business rates for retail businesses, as well as extending the discount to grassroots music venues, small cinemas and pubs. (p.32) Cut taxes for small retail businesses and for local music venues, pubs and cinemas (in the context of 'thriving high streets) (p.26)

⁹ <https://www.standard.co.uk/futurelondon/culturecity/culture-is-the-engine-for-our-economic-growth-says-munira-mirza-a3934301.html>

¹⁰ https://assets-global.website-files.com/5da42e2cae7ebd3f8bde353c/5dda924905da587992a064ba_Conservative%202019%20Manifesto.pdf

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Museums and Libraries

19. £250 million [...] will support local libraries and regional museums. (p.26) We have announced the largest cultural capital programme in a century, of £250 million. This will support local libraries and regional museums.
20. Maintain support for [...] free entry to the UK's national museums. (p.42)

Arts and Music

21. Invest in arts, music and sport. [and] offer an 'arts premium' to secondary schools to fund enriching activities for all pupils (p.13). This has now been announced by the new Government.
22. Invest £500 million in new youth clubs and services (p.26). This has now been announced by the new Government.
23. The Festival of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2022 – a national celebration which coincides with the Birmingham Commonwealth Games – will encourage our leading arts and cultural organisations, universities, research institutes and businesses to come together to inspire the next generation in British innovation and creativity (p.40).
24. Through the Cultural Investment Fund [...] support activities, traditions and events that bring communities together (p.26).

Commemoration

25. Ensure that the historic contribution of migrant groups is recognised. Maintain [...] support for a memorial recognising the contribution of the Windrush Generation in a prominent site in London (p.23).
26. Support the construction of the planned UK Holocaust Memorial (p.53).

Parks and green spaces

27. Help communities that want to create 'pocket parks' and regenerate derelict areas (p.26).
28. Invest in nature, helping [...] to reach our Net Zero target with a £640 million new Nature for Climate fund. Building on [...] support for creating a Great Northumberland Forest, will reach an additional 75,000 acres of trees a year by the end of the next Parliament, as well as restoring [...] peatland (p.43).

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29. Welcome the Glover Review and create new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as making [...] landscapes greener, happier, healthier and open to all (p.43).

Sport and physical activity

30. Invest in primary school PE teaching and ensure that it is being properly delivered (p.13).

31. Establish a £150 million Community Ownership Fund to encourage local takeovers of civic organisations or community assets that are under threat – local football clubs, but also pubs or post offices (p.26).

32. Support commuter cycling routes, so that more people can cycle safely to work and more families can go out together. [...] create a new £350 million Cycling Infrastructure Fund with mandatory design standards for new routes (p.28).

33. Extend Bikeability – cycling proficiency training – to every child. [...] will work with the NHS to promote cycling for healthier living (p.28).

34. Support the upcoming Commonwealth Games, UEFA European Women's Championships and Rugby League World Cup – and [...] back a potential UK and Ireland bid for the 2030 FIFA World Cup (p.51).

Investing in Wales

35. Support Welsh institutions such as S4C, the National Library and Museum, the Urdd and the National Eisteddfod. (p.47)

Other announcements

36. During the election campaign, the now Government committed to investing £550 million in grassroots football with enhanced funding to the Football Foundation. This is part of a £2 billion plan to transform grassroots football with the aim ensuring every family in England will be, on average, 15 minutes from a well-maintained local football pitch by the time of the 2030 World Cup. This responds to the recent FA campaign that the Board endorsed and provided supportive media releases.

37. A 'pupil premium' to support arts and music provision in schools appears in the manifesto's costing document. £80 million has since been announced for investment in music hubs, which in many areas are coordinated by councils, and a further £4 million for other cultural education programmes.

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Issues/opportunities to consider

38. The Festival of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is planned to go ahead in 2022. Martin Green CBE, who led the Hull UK City of Culture 2017, and was the former Head of Ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, has been given the brief of planning the festival, alongside his existing role as Chief Creative Officer of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
39. The emphasis on culture and sport enhancing the UK's global 'brand', alongside the renewed commitment to the Festival of Great Britain and Northern Ireland may pose an opportunity in relation to our position on a tourism levy. It also relates well to our work around Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) plans. Although it is as yet unclear what the future of LEPs may be under the new government, economic growth will certainly remain a key policy objective of the new Government and the Prime Minister has previously noted the important role of culture and sport in building thriving economies.
40. It will be important that we continue to make the case for the role of culture and sport both within the curriculum and in schools more broadly to ensure these manifesto commitments and investments remain a priority. The commitment to funding of youth services is also of interest in the context of spending on culture and sport.
41. The environment appeared repeatedly in the manifesto and this is reflected in the commitment to the new Nature for Climate Fund, as well as pocket parks (previously announced), the creation of new National Parks and several policies around cycling. The Nature for Climate Fund will receive £60 million in its first year and we will be seeking further information on the details of the programme. £70 million has also been allocated to cycling initiatives in the first year of Parliament.
42. This manifesto again commits to a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to replace the EU Structural Fund, renewing commitments previously made in the 2017 Conservative party manifesto and in the Industrial Strategy. After the UK leaves the European Union, it will no longer receive structural funding, which is worth about £2.1 billion per year, and serves as match funding for many cultural infrastructure bids.¹¹ We will be working to better understand the potential impact on the cultural, tourism and sport sectors of the shift to the UKSPF as details become available and to feed this into the LGA's existing workstreams on the Fund.

¹¹ <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8527>