

Outside bodies feedback from Members

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides Members with the opportunity to feedback on recent meetings of outside bodies at which they have represented the Board. The last Chair's Reports are attached at **Annex A**.

Recommendation

Members currently representing the Board on outside bodies are asked to **provide any appropriate feedback** from recent meetings, details of which are enclosed.

Actions

Subject to comments from the Board, officers to take forward any suggested actions.

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Outside bodies feedback from Members

This report covers Member activity since the last Board on 3 March.

Recent

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllrs Flick Rea MBE, Andrew Lewer MBE and Simon Henig met William Sieghart, Chair of the Independent Libraries Panel, 8 April		
To inform the Sieghart Review of Public Libraries, commissioned by the Departments for Culture, Media and Sport and Communities and Local Government.	Lead Members said 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. Lead Members also encouraged the panel to build on good practice and help to drive innovation in the locally-managed service.	William Sieghart wrote an article on his review for the LGA's First magazine (attached at Annex B) and is speaking at LGA Annual Conference on 8 July. Lead Members are giving oral evidence to the Sieghart Review on 7 July.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE attended the LGA-led Betting Commission, 4 June		
To represent the CTS Board.	This was the second meeting of the Betting Commission and it focussed on responding to recent government announcements on betting, which went some way towards addressing councils' concerns, but stopped short of the tougher measures we argued for. Please see item 3 for further information.	Agreed to develop a set of principles to help shape local engagement between councils and betting shops. The Betting Commission is on this Board agenda to provide Members with an opportunity to give a steer on the work going forward.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE attended an English Heritage breakfast seminar on 5 June, hosted by Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair of English Heritage, and attended by Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.		
To represent the LGA.	Cllr Rea highlighted the vital leadership role of councils in making the most of heritage assets and drew attention to the innovative ways of working councils are adopting to ensure continued access to expert conservation advice in the face of budget pressures.	Raised the profile of councils' leadership role of heritage with the new Secretary of State.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE attended the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) Annual Conference, 5 June		
To chair Lord Bichard's session on leading transformational change and to contribute the political perspective to the conference.	Lord Bichard chaired a lively debate on transforming public libraries and new delivery models. Other plenary sessions included Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, who emphasised the digital opportunities for libraries.	Consolidated the LGA's positive relationship with SCL.

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllr Flick Rea MBE spoke at the Leading Learning Programme residential, 9 June 2014		
To share the politicians' perspective with latest recruits to the Leading Learning leadership programme for aspiring senior culture managers.	Cllr Rea reflected on her political career to offer thoughts on what makes a successful Member / Officer relationship.	Supported delegates to develop the enhanced political understanding and skills that are essential for operating at a senior level in councils.
Cllr Chris Knowles-Fitton chaired the LGA / English Heritage seminar, and Cllr Caitlin Bisknell gave a case study presentation, 11 June		
To support heritage champions and portfolio holders to lead transformational change.	Presentations covered a range of topics, including Cllr Bisknell's case study on driving growth through heritage-led tourism. English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund shared how they are supporting councils to make the most of local heritage assets.	20 heritage champions and portfolio holders supported.
Sir Merrick Cockell met Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, 11 June 2014		
Introductory meeting.	Sir Merrick outlined how councils' full range of services help to achieve shared priorities, such as driving growth through culture and supporting people to get more active. Discussion focussed on progress of the Superfast Broadband Extension Programme, and arts funding.	Established a positive relationship with the new Secretary of State and opened up a dialogue on broadband and arts funding.

Forthcoming at the time of writing

Title	Date	Attendees
Oral evidence to the Sieghart Independent Libraries Panel.	7 July	Cllr Flick Rea MBE Cllr Simon Henig Cllr Roger Begy
Libraries workshop at LGA annual conference. William Sieghart is speaking.	8 July	All Board Members invited. Cllr Flick Rea MBE is chairing.
Broadband workshop at LGA annual conference. Chris Townsend, Chief Executive of Broadband Delivery UK is speaking.	10 July	All Board Members invited. Cllr Simon Henig is chairing.
LGA / Public Health England / UKactive Moving More Living More forum, LGA	15 July	Cllr Flick Rea MBE co-chairing.

Title	Date	Attendees
LGA / Arts Council England libraries leadership seminar, new Manchester Central Library.	18 September	As these events take place in the next municipal year, CTS Board representation will be confirmed in early September.
LGA/Sport England sport leadership essentials programme, Sussex.	4-5 Oct	
LGA/Sport England sport leadership essentials programme, Coventry.	15-16 Oct	
LGA / Arts Council England Culture Leadership Essentials Programme, Coventry.	4 – 5 November	
LGA / Arts Council England Culture Leadership Essentials Programme, Coventry.	4 – 5 December	