

Annex A: Reports from Cllr Flick Rea MBE to Councillors' Forums

A1: Councillors' Forum 20 March 2014

Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 3 – 4 March, Portsmouth

1. I was delighted to welcome nearly 200 councillors and senior officers to the annual Culture, Tourism and Sport (CTS) Conference in Portsmouth – our biggest turnout in five years. The Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, gave the keynote speech and I was very pleased that she recognised that outside London councils spend more than government on culture.
2. For the first time the Chairs of Arts Council England, English Heritage, VisitEngland and Sport England all addressed conference, and I was very encouraged by how much importance they all attached to working in partnership with councils. This was a theme CTS Lead Members discussed with the Chairs in a private meeting at conference, and we agreed to develop further our joint work next year.
3. It was very fitting that we met in Portsmouth and the City Council hosted excellent study tours at the Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth Football Club, D-Day Museum and University of Portsmouth.
4. The CTS Board also met in Portsmouth and we were joined by Diane Lees, Chair of the National Museum Directors' Council (NMDC) and Director-General of the Imperial War Museum, for a very helpful discussion on collaboration between museums. We discussed how partnerships between the national, regional and local museum network help to extend access to collections, develop professional expertise and build sustainability. We agreed to feed into the NMDC's work to identify how we can support smaller museums to benefit more from loans from larger museums, and we will also follow this up with Ministers.

Introductory meeting with Helen Grant MP, Minister for Sport and Tourism

5. My introductory meeting with Helen Grant MP on 10 March was an opportunity to demonstrate that councils are leaders and major funders of the visitor economy and community sport, and that DCMS needs to work with councils to achieve its policy objectives.
6. In particular, I said that further growth could be unlocked from the visitor economy by improving productivity through a higher value offer so that people stay longer and spend more in destinations. I set out how councils are leading a whole systems approach to supporting people to be more active – from public health, to sport, transport, housing and planning. I also made the case for councils to have greater flexibility to respond to community concerns about the clustering of betting shops through the licensing and planning system.
7. The Minister's responsibilities also include the First World War commemorations, which start this year, and we discussed how councils are involving communities in locally relevant commemorative activities.

Sport and physical activity

8. I was very pleased to speak at the eighth sport leadership academy, hosted in partnership with Sport England, on 18 February. Sessions explored the creative ways in which councils are keeping sporting assets viable, the opportunities presented by public health reform, understanding the commissioning landscape, and leading transformational change in councils. We look forward to reaching even more portfolio holders next year.

A2: Councillors' Forum 10 April 2014

Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry on ACE

1. The LGA submitted written evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's short inquiry on the Work of the Arts Council (England) (ACE). The inquiry is investigating the scope, scale and remit of ACE and is examining the economic and artistic criteria that underpins its funding decisions and views on the fairness of the geographical distribution of its funding.
2. The LGA's evidence to the Committee emphasised that that the relationship between councils and ACE is important in helping councils achieve their ambitions for attractive places that provide a high quality of life, and drew attention to the agreement between the LGA and ACE about local joint working on places' cultural offers.

LGA Betting Commission

3. I attended the first meeting of a landmark taskforce between councils and the 'Big Five' betting companies to try and address concerns around clustering of betting shops and problem gambling. Coral, Ladbrokes, Paddy Power, William Hill and BetFred joined the LGA, government officials and the Association of British Bookmakers around the table for the first time ever to discuss the issues in play.
4. The first meeting of the Commission provided the opportunity to get key issues on the table and to understand different perspectives. Although there are a number of complex and interrelated issues which are challenging to resolve, the discussions were constructive and there is a willingness to engage in dialogue. In advance of the next meeting of the Commission, which will take place in June, the LGA is seeking examples of local agreements between councils and betting shops, whether these have worked or been unsuccessful.
5. Anyone with examples or who wishes to find out more about the Commission should contact ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk

Farrell Review

6. Sir Terry Farrell was commissioned in June last year by DCMS Ministers to report on architecture and the built environment. Members saw the review as relevant both to the LGA's agenda on planning and to our work on making attractive places, tourism and the heritage. Sir Terry's team attended a meeting of the Culture Tourism and Sport Board in September and the LGA subsequently submitted evidence, arguing that the review needed to go beyond its narrow terms of reference and consider the role of planning in improving design.
7. The final review reflects the Board's input. It argues, as the LGA does, for an approach to planning based on a vision for a place. There are also a number of recommendations in the Review that bear directly on councils, councillors and the LGA itself. They include:

- 7.1. several ideas for creating local champions and spaces for debate about design;
 - 7.2. introducing design training as part of elected members' planning training;
 - 7.3. the LGA to work with the Design Network to draft a template for local partnership agreements between built environment practices and neighbourhoods, villages and towns;
 - 7.4. the LGA, as part of the wider group of agencies with an interest, to research the feasibility of "urban rooms" which would be public spaces in which a place's spatial and design vision could be viewed and debated by the community.
8. Our response to the review was broadly positive.

A3: Councillors' Forum 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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