

## Community Leisure UK (CLUK)

### Purpose of report

For information.

### Summary

This session will provide members with a chance to hear about the impact of Covid-19 on leisure trusts, and to meet the new chief executive of Community Leisure UK.

CLUK is a members' association representing registered charities, societies or community interest companies (with a public benefit asset lock) delivering public leisure, sport and/or culture services for communities across the UK. They are a key partner for the LGA, assisting with our lobbying, media work, and professional development work.

During the pandemic, they have been collecting key data from their members about their financial stability and providing support to ensure they are making as many savings as well as accessing the available government support.

Cate Atwater, their current Chief Executive, departs at the end of June, and her role is being taken over by Mark Tweedie. Mark's biography is in [Annex A](#).

### Recommendation

That the Board note the report.

### Action

Officers will work with CLUK to stabilise the leisure trust sector.

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## **Community Leisure UK (CLUK)**

### **Background**

1. Community Leisure UK is a members' association representing registered charities, societies or community interest companies (with a public benefit asset lock) delivering public leisure, sport and/or culture services for communities across the UK.
2. Their 110 members operate over 3,800 facilities that received 233m customer visits last year, with over 100,000 staff and over 17,000 volunteers. Their combined turnover is over £2bn. Across the membership 58 per cent of members deliver cultural services and facilities.
3. This equates to 1,100 cultural assets – theatres, town halls, libraries, museums, cinemas etc. They estimate our culture-based members employ over 63,000 staff, engage with 12,000 volunteers, and 400 apprentices.

### **Issues**

4. A members' survey carried out on 23 April indicated, in England, they continue to incur an average of almost £415,000 of monthly costs (excludes Job Retention Scheme and any negotiated expenditure reductions). These costs include utilities, significant pension contributions (not recoverable from the Job Retention Scheme above the 3 per cent threshold) and ongoing building maintenance. In addition, members report they are losing £1.36m of income per month.
5. Members reported grave concerns about their viability over the next 18 months. 27 per cent of members are "not viable" or "insecure" with regards to the next one to two months, 62 per cent report the same over a 2-6 month period, 68 per cent over 6-9 months, and 79 per cent are "not viable" or "insecure" 9 to 12 months from now.
6. Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme: one member (out of 78) has been accepted for a loan. 20 are considering applying but are expressing growing doubts. 26 have actively applied but have been told they are not eligible or been declined.
7. Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant fund: 70 per cent are accessing this funding in some capacity, but 33 per cent have been told they are not eligible.
8. Rates relief support: 27 per cent of trusts have been told they're ineligible or been declined by their local authority. 50 per cent of trusts are accessing rate relief support, this is mainly for smaller leisure and cultural venues.

9. CLUK has identified three asks of Government by its members:

- 9.1. Extend the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme past June, to support organisations through this initial reopening / phased reopening period to ensure that they can survive the next 3-9 months, or, support throughout the reopening period where measures include forms of social distancing.
- 9.2. With no income receipts being taken through leisure, sport and culture services, a longer VAT deferral period past June 2020 would help significantly.
- 9.3. Ensure the Government gives at least two weeks' notice about re-opening facilities and services, and this includes clear guidance on the expected social distancing measures that will be in place. This is important to ensure that the facilities have fully completed health and safety checks e.g. legionella checks take 10 days, materials from suppliers are available, the new measures can be tested and implemented and the staff appropriately trained, vitally, staff are supported and reassured around returning to working in facilities and delivering services, and that staff teams are fully remobilised. This notice period request is equally imperative to ensure that our members can effectively remobilise and reignite their facilities and services – as deemed locally and financially appropriate - to importantly contribute financially to both national and local economies.

**Implications for Wales**

10. CLUK represents organisations in Wales. They worked with Sport Wales, the WLGA, and the Welsh executive to translate the LGA's advice note on supporting leisure providers into a Welsh context, and the Welsh language.

**Financial Implications**

11. None.

**Next steps**

12. The LGA will continue to work with CLUK to make the case for investment in the leisure sector.

## **Annex A: Biography**

Mark has over 25 years experience in the education, sport and leisure industry, first as a PE lecturer then leading into sports development, school improvement consultancy and 10 years as a leisure trust Chief Executive. This included establishing GM Active to bring a collaborative strategic approach to transforming leisure services across Greater Manchester aligned with health and social care devolution.

Mark was CEO of Active Northumberland between May 2018-Feb 2020, which has a £14 million turnover, 17 leisure facilities, 900 employees and over three million visits per year. He was CEO of Active Tameside between Jan 2011-April 2018, which has circa £10 million turnover, 10 leisure facilities, 300 employees and over two million visits per year.

He joined as Chief Executive of Community Leisure UK on June 1st 2020.