

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – from Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair)

Recovery

1. Letter was sent on behalf of Chair of CTS Board and all lead members to SoS setting out our [proposals for enabling the culture and tourism sectors to recover](#). A similar letter on sport and physical activity is being developed.
2. We have also [written to the Minister for Arts and Culture](#) highlighting councils' limited capacity to respond to the DCMS' survey on the impact of Covid, and asking to engage in another way.
3. The LGA has been representing councils on several of the sub-groups supporting the Government's [new recovery taskforces](#), including those on libraries, museums and galleries, sport, and young people. These have now published guidance on safe reopening of these facilities.
4. The CTS Board held two Board meetings to discuss councils' response to the situation and identify common themes and issues. The meetings included presentations from ACE Deputy Chief Executive, Laura Dyer, VisitEngland's Head of Partnerships, Anke Monestell, Sport England's Director of Partnerships, Chris Perks, and Historic England's Deputy Director.
5. We have commissioned a guide on how councils can support the creative industries to flourish, which will be launched on 5th August. We have also commissioned best practice by cultural and leisure services and their staff during the lockdown period, which will be published at the end of July.
6. We have conducted 20 in-depth interviews with councils to understand the financial impact of Covid on their culture, tourism and sport services, and these have informed our lobbying. An anonymised and aggregated summary of the findings will be published shortly.

Culture and libraries

7. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson has joined the Minister for Arts and Creative Industries for discussions about the needs of the sector, including what role they can play in the future recovery phase.
8. We have responded to the DCMS Select Committee Inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on all its sectors, the Government response, and what support is needed going forward.
9. We have [responded to the historic announcement of £1.57 billion investment in the cultural sector](#), highlighting the importance of it reaching local cultural institutions and activities, as well as our national institutions.

10. We have signed a [joint statement with Arts Council England](#) (ACE) and other local government bodies on how we will collectively collaborate and support the sector. We continue to meet regularly with ACE to discuss the developing situation and support offers.
11. We have held webinars for councillors and heads of service to discuss the immediate pressures on cultural services, and the role they can play in future recovery.
12. Cllr Vernon-Jackson chaired a conference call with senior representatives of the Theatre Industry with UK Theatre, and identified a collaborative approach to supporting the sector, which is likely to be among the last to reopen to the public.
13. We have raised issues around some cultural organisations, and particularly freelancers, being unable to fully access the support packages available. More recent Government announcements around the discretionary grant fund and the freelancers package have responded to some of these concerns.
14. The LGA has launched a [press release](#) outlines some examples of how Wiltshire, Wigan, Newcastle and Leicester engaged with residents digitally to mark the anniversary of VE day. We have also published a [best practice example of how Hackney Council has celebrated the Windrush generation](#).
15. We have [briefed Peers](#) for a debate on supporting museums, galleries and historic buildings open to the public, affected by the restrictions in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
16. We have published a [First article](#) outlining the role of cultural and leisure services during the crisis and during recovery. The article highlights the widespread appeal of creative, cultural and leisure activities during lockdown and underscores the true value such services play in preserving people's mental and physical wellbeing.

Tourism

17. We are liaising closely with Tourism Alliance, and the tourism sector to explore the impact on tourism businesses. Coastal areas have been identified as particularly at risk.
18. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson co-signed a [letter to the Chancellor with industry bodies](#), highlighting that many key tourism businesses had been excluded from the support packages announced.
19. We have partnered with VisitBritain and CLOA to deliver a series of webinars throughout June with councils who are particularly affected by COVID-19's impact on the visitor economy. Separate webinars have also been developed for councils in coastal areas to address their specific challenges with regards to tourism.

20. We have worked with other local government bodies, including Core Cities, Key Cities, DCN, the LEP Network, CCN and M9 mayors to develop a joint local government position on what is needed to restart the visitor economy, and enable councils to best support their local visitor economy.
21. We have [responded to the £10 million investment in restarting the visitor economy](#), highlighting that Councils are best-placed to boost visitor economies and are trying to find innovative ways of supporting culture and heritage.

Leisure and parks

22. Cllr Vernon-Jackson is attending fortnightly meetings with the Minister for Sport as part of the Sports Recovery Group.
23. We continue to work with Sport England, DCMS and MHCLG to develop a bid for funding support for the leisure sector.
24. Local Partnerships are providing support to councils with contracts with one of the largest providers, and this is shortly being extended to the four largest providers. We are also offering a matching service for councils sharing the same provider, so they can collaborate on their responses. Sport England has also made some consultancy support available to assist with this.
25. The Local Government Physical Activity Partnership (LGPAP), which includes the LGA, has produced a [think piece 'Why an active community needs to be at the heart of renewal'](#).
26. Throughout June and July, we ran a series of webinars for alumni of our Sport and Physical Activity Leadership essentials courses to identify key risks and opportunities arising from Covid-19, and identifying what support packages and professional development is needed in the future.
27. We co-commissioned and published reopening [guidance for parks](#), alongside the National Trust and Heritage Lottery Fund. It was downloaded 4000 times in the first week.

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