

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

1. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson gave oral evidence to the [House of Lords Committee on the National Plan for Sport and Recreation](#) on Wednesday 16 November at 4.30pm. The Committee's focus was on alternative ways to support more active lifestyles, such as through active travel. They have requested that the LGA write to them as a follow up to outline how we can support more inclusive levels of activity.
2. A written response to the [Committee's call for evidence](#) is also being developed for submission by 29 January. The response will highlight our calls for further investment in public leisure facilities, both as a response to the additional pressures related to Covid-19 and due to the need to replace or refurbish more than half of the public leisure estate.
3. Cllr Peter Golds represented local government at the Ministerial Working Group on Sport on 7 January. Cllr Golds raised the importance of public leisure to the nation's health and wellbeing, and the financial challenge facing public leisure providers.
4. Cllr Vernon-Jackson chaired a joint event with the Football Foundation on '[Unlocking the power of football investment](#)' on 19 November 2020. The event marked the culmination of two years work by the Foundation to develop a [local football facilities plan](#) for every council area. These were published on the day, and the event explored how areas could access the £100 million being made available by the Foundation to deliver the plans, and the benefits of working in partnership to improve facilities. Attended by 275 delegates, the event featured presentations from Gareth Southgate, Tim Hollingsworth, Martin Glenn, Cheshire West and Chester Council, and Sunderland City Council.
5. Cllr Vernon-Jackson wrote two articles for the October edition of *First* magazine:
 - 5.1. [Just do it](#) explored the key role of sport and physical activity in supporting and leading communities through Covid-19.
 - 5.2. [Supporting economic recovery](#) explored the way in which libraries can support an economic recovery, through their CV writing and job clubs, business and intellectual property centres, and free internet access – which was recognised as an essential service during lockdown and granted an exemption to keep operating.

Contact officer: Ian Leete
Position: Senior Adviser – Culture, Tourism & Sport
Phone number: 0207 664 3143
E-mail: ian.leete@local.gov.uk