

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

1. On 21 January, Cllr Vernon-Jackson chaired our [Reimagining the Future of Public Leisure](#) conference, launching the start of our work to determine the unique contribution of public leisure centres to the Nation's wellbeing in the future. Attended by almost 200 delegates, it featured presentations from Tim Hollingsworth, CEX of Sport England, Karen Bradford, CEX of South Kesteven District Council, and Jamie Blackshaw, National Lead for Physical Activity at Public Health England.
2. On 1 March, Cllr Julian German chaired the first session of the annual culture, tourism and sport conference, exploring [the role of culture in our recovery from Covid-19](#). Delegates heard presentations from Sir Nicholas Serota, Chairman of Arts Council England, Cllr Jane Black of Bury Council, and a pre-recorded message from Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister for Arts and Culture.
3. On 2 March, Cllr Vernon-Jackson chaired the second session of the conference, focusing on the role of the [visitor economy in supporting our national recovery](#). Speakers included Kate Nichols, CEX of UKHospitality, Patricia Yates, Director of VisitBritain, Cllr Barry Lewis, Leader of Derbyshire County Council, and Tom Pridmore, Tourism Officer for Ribble Valley Council.
4. On 3 March, Cllr Peter Golds chaired the session on the [role of sport and physical activity in supporting recovery](#). Delegates heard from Tim Hollingsworth, CEX of Sport England, Lipa Nessa and Alison Oliver, respectively, Ambassador and CEX of the Youth Trust, and Karime Hassan, CEX of Exeter Council.
5. The conference concluded with the [Hearts for the Arts awards](#), chaired by Cllr Clare Coghill. Presented by actor and director Samuel West, and guest appearances by Le Gateau Chocolat and Francesca Martinez, the awards celebrated council officers, councillors and projects who had gone the extra mile in promoting culture over the past year. Congratulations to Cllr Janet Emsley of Rochdale Council, Andy Dawson of Inspire Arts, LB Haringey's N17 radio project, LB Wandsworth's Create and Learn Play Kits, and Mole Valley District Council's Arts e-live festival. The conference had 704 registrations in 2021, across all events.

6. The Board responded to the House of Lords Committee on Sport and Recreation [Committee's call for evidence](#) on 29 January. The response highlighted 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. The Board also briefed ahead of a debate on [the impact of Covid-19 on the culture and entertainment sectors](#).

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