

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

Parliamentary Engagement

1. Engagement with the DCMS Secretary of State and Ministers continues to be a priority for the Board. CTS Lead Members met with the Secretary of State for DCMS on 13 July, discussing the contribution of local government to DCMS sectors, and particular concerns about the finances of public leisure services. The Minister for Sport also attended the CTS Board on 24th March and the Commissioner for Cultural Recovery met with CTS Lead Members on 4 March prior to attending the CTS Board on 17 March.
2. Cllr Vernon-Jackson also spoke at the APPG for Theatre on 18 June to discuss how Local Authorities and theatres can help each other recover from COVID-19, and a follow-on meeting with Giles Watling MP, Chair of the APPG, has been arranged.
3. The LGA provided a parliamentary briefing ahead of the [debate on promoting tourism in the House of Lords on 24 June](#), and the debate subsequently included several mentions of local authorities. This complemented our [response to the consultation on the future of Destination Management Organisations](#).

Events

4. Cllr Vernon-Jackson chaired a webinar on the Mass Events Pilots attended by over 650 delegates; and a webinar on the new Sport England Strategy and Webinar attended by over 60 councillors, providing a chance to influence Sport England's spending and delivery plans.
5. Cllr Golds also spoke at the Leadership Essentials for Sport and Physical Activity on 13 July.

Summer Workplan

6. The CTS teams' work over the Summer will focus on the following key areas:
 - 6.1 **Supporting reopening and the recovery** – the majority of facilities have now reopened, but issues are emerging with interpreting guidance on the safe running of events, and the financial outlook for some facilities and community partners remains challenging. As part of this work, on 23 June, we published our '[guide to the emergency insourcing for leisure services](#)' publication to assist councils respond in the event of a provider becoming insolvent.
 - 6.2 **Making the case for financial investment** – the leisure sector remains financially vulnerable, with particular risks in areas of deprivation, so the team will continue to make the case for a further round of the National Leisure Recovery Fund, drawing on data collected through the Moving Communities Platform, and working with partners to build a collective and consistent ask of Government. We will also develop plans across the CTS portfolio in preparation for the Comprehensive Spending Review expected in the Autumn,

and explore opportunities to strengthen cultural and heritage focused bids to the Levelling Up Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

6.3 Strengthen the Board's engagement with DCMS and key stakeholders – the pandemic has demonstrated the importance of having strong, effective networks. We have begun regular meetings with the DCMS place team and are setting up similar engagements with the DCMS sports team – these relationships will need an investment of time before they reach the strength of relationship experienced with the DCMS libraries and museums teams. New sector partnerships have also been established, primarily in the sport and physical activity sector, and we will continue to work with them to ensure that they have an understanding of the local government role, and that it is reflected in the collective offers and asks they are developing for Government.

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