

Outside bodies: Feedback from Members

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides Members with the opportunity to feedback on recent meetings of outside bodies at which they have represented the Board. The latest Chair's Report is attached at **Annex A**.

Lead Members are considering 2014/15 appointments to outside bodies and these will be circulated to members once finalised.

Recommendation

Members currently representing the Board on outside bodies are asked to **provide any appropriate feedback** from recent meetings, details of which are enclosed.

Actions

Subject to comments from the Board, officers to take forward any suggested actions.

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Outside bodies feedback from Members

This report covers Member activity since the last Board on 1 July 2014 and therefore includes some engagements undertaken by last year's Lead Members.

Recent

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllrs Flick Rea MBE, Andrew Lewer MBE and Simon Henig gave oral evidence to the Sieghart Independent Libraries Panel on 7 July		
To influence on behalf of local government the Sieghart Review of Public Libraries, commissioned by the Departments for Culture, Media and Sport and Communities and Local Government.	Lead Members made the case for a review that recognised the local accountability of libraries and built upon existing innovation in the locally-led service.	Lead Members' evidence was received positively by the Panel.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE chaired a libraries workshop at LGA annual conference on 8 July		
To give Leaders and Chief Executives the opportunity to debate the biggest issues facing public libraries.	William Sieghart shared his impressions from visiting libraries across the country. He emphasised the huge amount of creativity evident in the library sector and encouraged councils to keep innovating, share services and make the most of digital technology. Mr. Sieghart said he welcomed continued strong engagement from councils in his review. Simon May from Southend Council gave a presentation on the recent re-development of Southend library and learning zone "The Forum".	Leaders and Chief Executives influenced the Sieghart review of libraries and shared the latest innovative practice.
Cllr Simon Henig chaired the broadband workshop at LGA annual conference. 10 July		
To give Leaders and Chief Executives the opportunity to debate the biggest issues facing the publicly funded broadband rollout and digital skills.	Chris Townsend, the new Chief Executive of Broadband Delivery UK, highlighted that he wants to strengthen local partnerships with councils to keep the rollout on track and drive growth. Cllr Jonathan Owen, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, shared how his councils is supporting residents and businesses to get online and develop digital skills, for example volunteer digital champions.	Leaders and Chief Executives given the opportunity to share concerns with the broadband rollout.

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllr Flick Rea MBE co-chaired the LGA / Public Health England / UKactive Moving More Living More Forum, LGA, 15 July		
To bring together local government, sports clubs, health, the voluntary sector, the fitness industry and others to discuss opportunities to joint working to encourage people to get more active.	A wide range of ideas and case studies were shared through presentations and group discussions, including County Sport Partnerships, UKactive, Public Health England, and Birmingham's Be Active programme.	Over 120 delegates attended the conference – one of the biggest events that we have held. Strengthened our joint working with the Community Wellbeing Board.
Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800th meeting on 15 July		
Building upon the already strong engagement of the Magna Carta Towns and Cities, the purpose is to bring the wider local government view.	In February the four oldest copies will go on display at the British Library and will be joined by the original US Declaration of Independence and the Original Copy of the US Bill of Rights. There is to be a Royal event on Charter day, which coincides with Garter day. There will be limited places and we need to ensure strong representation for local government. There is Magna Carta merchandise and the possibility of copies in the original Latin and a translation being printed for distribution at schools. A fuller update was circulated to the Board on 1 August and is included in the Magna Carta update for this Board.	Local government's role and perspective represented at the highest level to the Magna Carta 800 th Committee.
Cllr Roger Begy attended the Farrell Review roundtable "The Big Meet" roundtable, UCL's Bloomsbury Campus on 17 July		
To represent the LGA at a forum to discuss following-up the Farrell Review recommendations on strengthening national leadership of design.	Cllr Begy emphasised the importance of local political leadership to bringing together design professionals and others to develop a vision for places really worth living in. Cllr Begy also raised the LGA's serious concerns about creating a new central entity with a remit for sharing good practice funded by a local levy on planning fees.	A greater understanding amongst the organisations involved in following-up the Farrell Review of the role and importance of local leadership. Nearly all organisations shared the LGA's concerns about the proposed funding mechanism for a new national organisation.

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllr Simon Blackburn attended The National Youth Libraries Board on 17 July		
To represent the LGA at the Board.	Cllr Blackburn updated the Board on the LGA's 100 Days publication, our engagement with the Sieghart Review of public libraries, and offered the LGA's support for the Reading Activists programme which is supporting young volunteers to engage other children and young people in reading.	The Reading Agency, Arts Council England and other key organisations updated on latest policy developments affecting public libraries and young people.
Meeting between Cllr Flick Rea and Diane Lees, Chair of the National Museums Directors Council (NMDC), and Director General of the Imperial War Museum, on 23 July		
To follow-up Diane Lees' attendance at the CTS Board on 3 March.	Cllr Rea and Ms Lees discussed how the NMDC is supporting larger museums to loan objects and generally work in partnership with smaller museums to widen access to collections and support sustainability. They also discussed the very successful First World Centenary Partnership which is supporting councils and other organisations to involve councils in the First World War commemorations.	Reinforced our positive partnership with the NMDC.
Meeting between Cllr David Sparks OBE, LGA Chair, and Sir Robert Worcester, Chair of the Magna Carta 800th Committee on 31 July		
An introductory meeting	This was a very positive meeting. Cllr Sparks emphasised that the LGA values its engagement with the Magna Carta 800 th Committee, and that we are mobilising councils across the country to involve communities in events and projects to mark the anniversary. Cllr Sparks also highlighted the political significance of Magna Carta for local government and referred to his opening remarks at LGA annual conference when he talked about the constitutional role of local and central government. Sir Robert Worcester emphasised the value he attaches to the Committee's partnerships with the LGA and agreed a number of actions to ensure that we remain embedded in the preparations.	Cemented the positive relationship between the Committee and the LGA at the highest level. Sir Robert has agreed to speak at the annual CTS Conference in Durham. Cllr Sparks has joined the Magna Carta Advisory Group, which is meeting on 19 November. Cllr Ian Stephens is speaking at the launch of the Magna Carta tourism trail on 25 September.

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllr Ian Stephens met Viscountess Penelope Cobham, Chairman of VisitEngland, 2 September		
An introductory meeting	Cllr Stephens and Lady Cobham discussed shared priorities for the coming year. In particular, driving growth through the visitor economy, the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships and improving productivity through a higher value offer so that visitors stay longer and spend more in destinations.	Reinforced our strong partnership with VisitEngland

Forthcoming at the time of writing

Title	Date	Attendees
Society of Chief Librarians' Digital War Memorial First World War Project launch	8 September	Cllr Ian Stephens
Magna Carta 800th Committee meeting (Outside Body)	17 September	Member to be determined
LGA-led Betting Commission	17 September	Cllr Flick Rea MBE
UK-Local Authority World Heritage Forum Meeting, Tamar Valley Centre – Cornish and West Devon Mining Landscape (Outside Body)	17-18 September	Member to be determined
LGA / Arts Council England libraries leadership seminar, new Manchester Central Library.	18 September	Cllr Sonia Crisp Speaking
Launch of the Magna Carta tourism trails, Mayfair Hotel, London	25 September	Cllr Ian Stephens speaking
Tourism Alliance, BHA Offices, London. (Outside Body)	26 September	Member to be determined
Introductory meeting Sir Laurie Magnus, Chairman of English Heritage	30 September	Cllr Ian Stephens
Sport Leadership Essentials programme at Roffey Park	4 October	Cllr Ian Stephens speaking
Launch: Delivering social value through arts & culture: Cultural Commissioning Programme.	14 October	Member attendance to be determined

Title	Date	Attendees
LGA/Sport England sport leadership essentials programme, Coventry.	15-16 October	Member Speaker to be determined
Magna Carta 800th: Stakeholder Networking Event at Bury St Edmunds. (Outside Body)	24 October	Member to be determined
Introductory meeting Nick Bitel, Chair Sport England	29 October	Cllr Ian Stephens
Introductory meeting Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair Arts Council England	29 October	Cllr Ian Stephens
LGA / Arts Council England Culture Leadership Essentials Programme, Coventry.	4 – 5 November	Cllr Ian Stephens speaking
National Youth Libraries Board Arts Council England outside body.	27 November	Member to be determined
LGA / Arts Council England Culture Leadership Essentials Programme, Coventry.	4 – 5 December	Member speaker to be determined

Note: Lead Members are currently determining 2014/15 CTS representation on outside bodies

Annex A: Chair's Report to Councillors' Forum, from Cllr Ian Stephens

I am delighted to have been appointed Chair of the LGA's Culture, Tourism and Sport Board. The Scottish referendum, 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, and a general election, provides a unique context for this year's work programme. I have written to relevant Ministers and the Chairs of VisitEngland, Arts Council England, English Heritage and Sport England to reinforce our shared priorities and the value of our strong relationships, and am looking forward to early meetings. Austerity makes good joint working between local government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the agencies ever more important.

2015 Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference

I am delighted to confirm that next year's Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference will be Tuesday 3 March – Wednesday 4 March at Durham. We will build on the success of last year's event in Portsmouth, which attracted the highest number of delegates in recent years (170). For the first time, the Secretary of State for Culture and the chairs of VisitEngland, Arts Council England, Sport England and English Heritage all attended and gave plenary speeches.

As 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, it is very fitting that we are coming together in Durham, home to three copies. The conference is an exciting opportunity to set out a compelling vision to an incoming government for the future of publicly funded culture, tourism and sport – how it can shape identity in a potential new constitutional settlement, rejuvenate democracy, and in the important context of continued austerity – how it can help to tackle the most intractable and costly economic and social challenges the country faces. We will also give delegates access to the latest innovation and delivery models.

We will be continuing to work very closely with Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council and Vice Chair of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, in planning the event.

2014/14 Culture and Sport Improvement Offer

I am very pleased that the Board is once again able to offer a comprehensive support and improvement offer to culture and sport portfolio holders, in line with the sector-led approach led by the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board. We plan to reach over 100 portfolio holders through a mix of Leadership Essential Programmes, one-day leadership seminars and peer challenges on key issues including the transformation of library services, new delivery models for culture and the future of sports provision and links to public health. The activity is externally funded by Arts Council England and Sport England.

I look forward to working with LGA colleagues and to the CTS Board making positive progress for councils across its remit.