

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

Culture and libraries

1. Chair of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke at the virtual whole Directorate away day for the Arts, Heritage and Tourism Directorate at DCMS on the 16th September on the topic of 'place' and local government within the Levelling-Up agenda.
2. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke at a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Theatre, about council's role in UK theatre and how local and national government, and the sector, can work together to secure recovery.
3. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson met with Giles Watling MP, Chair of the APPG for Theatre. Following the meeting Giles Watling MP wrote to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to highlight the need for all Government Departments to improve their strategic relationship with the LGA.
4. Cllr Barry Lewis, CTS Board Member and Leader of Derbyshire County Council chaired an LGA/National Lottery Heritage Fund/Arts Council England/Historic England webinar on Place-based Collaboration for Culture and Heritage in the East and Midlands region on the 5th October. This was attended by over 80 delegates. It highlighted regional best practice and supported council delegates to gain a better understanding of national funding priorities in relation to culture, heritage and place-making.
5. Cllr Tom Hollis as Libraries Champion for the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board has continued to engage with the Library Accreditation programme, led by Libraries Connected and the Arts Council.
6. Cllr Phil Seeva has joined the Creative Industry Council's Regions and Clusters Working Group as a representative of the CTS Board and is speaking at their meeting on the 14th October.
7. The CTS Board have contributed to the development of the Commission on Culture and Local Government, to be launched later this year. The Commission was discussed on the 28th September with Lord Neil Mendoza, Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and Renewal and representatives of DCMS, who have expressed their support for the aims of the project.

Responses

8. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the Government's new Online Media Literacy Strategy on the 14th July, commenting that for many communities, libraries remain one of the most trusted places and sources of information that many people can rely on for help, whether it be accessing wellbeing support, services or developing their digital media skills through online courses.

- 9 On the 6th August, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the announcement of a Government-backed insurance scheme, which the LGA had called for, noting it provided a 'lifeline' for the events industry.
- 10 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the publication of Arts Council England's Delivery Plan on the 16th September, commenting that the LGA is supportive of the plan and that partnership working with arm's length bodies is vital in making sure that funding invested in communities, goes further and has a greater impact. He noted that as place-makers, councils are in a unique position to be able to support this through the provision of locally-led culture facilities, including museums, libraries and arts organisations and that the LGA stands ready to work with Arts Council England to deliver high quality, opportunities to create and engage in culture.

Tourism

- 11 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the Independent Review of Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) in England, concluded by the Department for Culture, Tourism and Sport on the 14th September. He noted the LGA was pleased that the importance of local authorities to tourism was recognised by the report and agreed that DMOs should continue to work closely with councils and combined authorities on the growth of the visitor economy. He strongly endorsed the idea of creating a Tourism Data Hub.

Sport, Leisure, Parks and Green Spaces

- 12 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke at the parliamentary launch of "[Securing the future of public sport and leisure services](#)". The event was attended by almost 100 MPs, Peers, civil servants and council representatives. Delegates heard about the report's two priority recommendations for Government to stabilise the sector and equip it to meet the needs of future communities and the seven recommendations for Government, councils and wider partners as we seek to rebuild back better and local following the pandemic.
- 13 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke about the abovementioned report at a joint meeting for the APPG for Sport, and the APPG for Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Responses

- 14 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the Government's new Health Incentives programme on behalf of the LGA on the 12th July. He commented that the programme represents an exciting approach to encourage people to get active and make healthier choices, drawing on the resources of businesses, public and private sectors to work collaboratively in opening up opportunities to residents of all ages and backgrounds. He noted however, that it is vital to have access to high quality facilities, which will require significant government investment of at least £700 million to redesign, upgrade and renovate to the standard needed.
- 15 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the restarting of Park Run on the 24th July, commenting that our public parks and green spaces benefit people of all ages and

backgrounds, and as one of the largest providers of these facilities councils are committed to ensuring these spaces continue to be accessible for everyone.

- 16 On the 29th July, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the Sport in our Committees Select Committee report, noting that the report rightly recognises that local government is at the forefront of providing facilities, supporting both formal and informal opportunities for activities that are accessible to all members of the community. He urged the Government to use the forthcoming Spending Review to put local government finances on a long-term, sustainable footing, so councils can repair ageing facilities, and resume providing sports development support to the clubs and communities that need it.
- 17 On the 4th August, the LGA responded to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, warning that the legacy of Team GB's success during the Tokyo Olympics risks being lost without further investment in grassroots and community sport facilities, the Local Government Association. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson commented that We must take action now if we want to ensure this success is repeated in the future, and that young people from all backgrounds can aspire to compete in future Games.
- 18 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson responded to the publication of a Swim England report on the 22nd September which warned that nearly 2000 swimming pools could be lost by the end of the decade. He noted that the findings in this report adds to our own recently published evidence highlighting that 72 per cent of schools rely on public swimming pools to teach children how to swim and water safety skills making them essential for delivering the national curriculum.

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