

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

Culture

1. On the 17th November Cllr Julian German, Vice-Chair of the Board gave a presentation at the Arts Council England/LGA **Leadership Essentials** culture programme.
2. On the 6th December Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Chair of the Board met with the Director General of the **Royal British Legion** to discuss changes to the Legion's acceptance of risk in the delivery of Remembrance Day events and agreed to resume sending a joint letter to councils ahead of memorial events.
3. Lead Members had a constructive introductory meeting with **Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, Minister for Arts** on the 9th December. Lead Members set out a clear position on the vital role of councils in funding, supporting and convening cultural activity.
4. The CTS Board has contributed to the development of the **Commission on Culture and Local Government**. Cllr Vernon-Jackson met with Baroness Lola Young on the 15th December to invite her to chair the Commission, a role which she has accepted. Lord Neil Mendoza, DCMS Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and Renewal, has expressed his support for the aims of the project.
5. The LGA Board has held two meetings outside the standard Board cycle to focus on issues of interest to the Board in more detail. The first looked at council support for the creative industries, with a presentation from the **Creative Industries Council**. The second focused on the work of Business and IP Centres in libraries, with a presentation from **the British Library**.
6. Cllr Phil Seeva has joined the **Creative Industry Council's Regions and Clusters Working Group** as a Board representative and spoke at their October meeting.
7. Cllr Tom Hollis has become co-chair of an Arts Council England/LGA **councillor sounding board for libraries**, which will meet twice a year to provide insight into library developments from an elected member perspective.

Responses

8. Responding to the Museum Association's new report on **Local Authority investment in Museums** on the 26th October, [Cllr Vernon-Jackson commented](#) that funding for museums and other cultural services has been affected in recent years by rising pressure on council budgets and growing demand for statutory services like social care, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. [Cllr Vernon-Jackson responded](#) on the 27th October to the announcement of **new funding for culture, tourism and sport in the Spending Review**.

10. [Responding to the announcement](#) of further funding made available through the **Cultural Recovery Fund** on the 21st December, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson welcomed the news and urged the Government to keep this support under review if restrictions tighten.

Tourism

11. On the 8th of November Cllr Vernon-Jackson joined the **APPG for Holiday Parks and Campsites** to discuss councils' role.
12. On 1st December the LGA joined its first meeting as a member of Government's **Tourism Industry Council** to discuss issues such as skills and support to businesses.
13. On the 15th of December officers joined a **DCMS roundtable on plans for short-term lets registration** to represent councils' views and contribute to the early development of government policy.

Sport, Leisure, Parks and Green Spaces

14. Ahead of the Spending Review, Cllr Vernon-Jackson called for the Government to [invest £875 million in leisure facilities, pitches, and parks](#).

Responses

15. On the 27th October Cllr Vernon-Jackson [welcomed the Government's announcement](#) of funding for **pocket parks** in the Spending Review, but commented that there is a need to deliver parks provision at scale, rather than on the micro-scale of pocket parks.
16. [Responding to the publication](#) of this year's **National Fitness Day activity levels** by ukactive on the 22nd November, Cllr Vernon-Jackson, said it was positive to see an increase in the number of people taking part in National Fitness Day this year.
17. [Responding to Sport England's new implementation plan](#) on the 2nd December, Cllr Vernon-Jackson welcomed the plan which would enable the right support and funding to be directed to places that need it most.
18. [Responding to a new report](#) from The House of Lords Committee on a **National Plan for Sport and Recreation** on the 10th December, Cllr Vernon-Jackson commented that local authorities are place-shapers at the forefront of delivery in sport and recreation and stand ready to support the development and implementation of the plan.

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