

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

Culture

1. The CTS Board submitted a response to the [DCMS Select Committee Inquiry on cultural placemaking and the levelling up agenda](#).
2. The LGA has launched the new independent Commission on Culture and Local Government, which will explore the value of council funded culture to pandemic recovery.
 - 2.1 The Commission, which will be chaired by Baroness Lola Young, will run between March and December 2022 and will include commissioners from national funding bodies, cultural sector organisations, academia, local government and arts organisations.
 - 2.2 Cllr Peter Golds, Deputy Chair of the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board will represent the LGA on the group, which met for the first time on the 1st March.
 - 2.3 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson has met separately with Sir Nick Serota, Chair of the Arts Council, who will be acting as a commissioner.
 - 2.4 Lord Neil Mendoza, the Government's Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and Renewal will be acting as Adviser to the Commission, to ensure commissioners are briefed on the Government's direction of travel in relation to culture and levelling up. Lord Mendoza's appointment was cleared by DCMS Secretary of State Nadine Dorries, who expressed interest and support for the Commission.
 - 2.5 The core group of commissioners will be supported by a wider advisory group and by the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board. The LGA is commissioning a programme of stakeholder engagement to feed into the Commission, along with literature reviews on the key lines of enquiry.
 - 2.6 The Commission will be investigating the contribution of locally funded culture to four key areas: economic renewal, social mobility, health inequalities and place. It will also consider how better partnership working and place-based funding models can support work in all these areas.
3. The 19 January Board received a presentation from the organisers of the Unboxed festival, discussing how all councils could become involved to ensure that every communities participates and that there is a legacy of cultural engagement from the event. The Board is hosting a [webinar for councils to find out more on 25 March](#).
4. On 25th January, Cllr Vernon-Jackson met Sir Peter Bazalgette, who has been appointed new Chair of the Creative Industries Council. The work of the LGA to help councils engage with the creative industries was discussed, and recognised their importance as one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy.
5. On Wednesday 16th February, Cllr Phil Seeva represented the Board at the Creative Industries Council's 'Regions and Clusters' sub-group and spoke about our work.

Tourism

6. On the 2nd February Cllr Vernon-Jackson attended the Tourism Alliance Board, which has discussed the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan and ongoing needs of the visitor economy as we rebuild confidence after Covid.
7. Cllr Western spoke at the Events Summit on 23 February about the importance of major events to local communities and economies. He stressed the importance of early engagement with councils when planning and designing events, and working to deliver against local priorities and visions wherever possible.

Sport, Leisure, Parks and Green Spaces

8. On 28th January, Cllr Vernon-Jackson chaired a webinar consultation on the Lawn Tennis Association/Government's [funding plans for improving park based tennis courts](#). This has resulted in the LTA and DCMS expanding the proposed approach to also fund multi-use sport areas adjoining tennis courts that will receive funding from the £30 million available.
9. On 23rd February, Cllr Barry Lewis attended a Ministerial roundtable on the Landscapes review, commenting on proposed governance changes to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
10. On 19 January, the Board received a presentation from [Sport England about their new strategy and investment plan](#), which places significant emphasis on local place-based investment and will begin a new way of working with councils.

Media responses

11. Responding on 2nd February to the Government's [Levelling Up White Paper](#), [Cllr Vernon-Jackson](#) welcomed the white paper's recognition of culture, heritage and sport's impact on communities and their inclusion in the list of priorities. The response highlighted their contribution to pride of place, literacy, skills, wellbeing, productivity, innovation, creative and visitor economies and the need for funding flexibilities for councils and joint working between national and local government.
12. Responding on 16 February to the [announcement of the winners of the "Hearts for the Arts" awards](#), Cllr Vernon-Jackson said local arts and cultural provision has never been more important than in the past 2 years. Congratulating the winners for their inspirational work he highlighted the importance of locally funded cultural services in engaging people in creativity and achieving wider objectives around levelling up.
13. On 18th February, Cllr Vernon-Jackson gave an interview on BBC Radio 4 on parks and green spaces, and how councils are encouraging uptake in their use by ethnic minority groups.

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