

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

1. On 16 March 2022, the Board visited Coventry to experience first hand the work that has been done as part of the City of Culture programme, and hear about the positive impact that it has had on residents and businesses.
2. On 8 June 2022, the Board visited [Buxton in Derbyshire](#) to learn about the transformation of the historic crescent into a thriving destination, including hotel and thermal spa.
3. The learning from these visits is being built into conversations with civil servants, Ministers, and Government advisers, including on levelling up; and discussions with funding bodies such as Arts Council England and Historic England on refining place-based investment approaches.

Culture

4. The new [culture commission](#), chaired by Baroness Lola Young, has now met three times, including an introductory session for commissioners, a session on the role of public culture in supporting economic growth, and a session on tackling health inequalities using culture. The Commission has received widespread attention and has started sharing [visual records](#) of its conversations, with short films due to be published shortly. Cllr Peter Golds acts as the representative of the CTS Board on the Commission.
5. Cllr Julian German chaired a conference on the Unboxed festival on 25 March, taking place across the country, identifying how councils could become involved and support community engagement with the activities.

Sport and physical activity

6. Cllr Vernon-Jackson met with Nigel Huddleston, Minister for Sport, to discuss the future of sport and activity services and DCMS' plans for a new sports strategy. At the meeting, DCMS committed to the development of a sport facilities audit, to better understand the challenges facing councils and providers with their asset management and maintenance.
7. Cllr Vernon-Jackson also spoke at the APPG on Swimming to highlight the significant threat to the sector as a result of rising energy costs, as outlined in the [LGA briefing note](#). Following the session, the Chair of the APPG wrote a follow up letter to the Minister highlighting these concerns.

Contact officer:

Ian Leete

Position:

Senior Adviser – Culture, Tourism & Sport

Phone number:

0207 664 3143

E-mail:

ian.leete@local.gov.uk