

LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Annual Conference 2022

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

This report provides an update on the Culture, Tourism and Sport annual conference 2022.

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendation/s

Board Members are asked to:

1. Comment on the draft agenda
2. Agree the date of the 2022 conference and endorse the recommendation that it take place on 11th October;
3. Note that the 2022 conference falls into the next board cycle and agree timings for the 2023 conference.

Action/s

Officers to progress as directed.

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LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Annual Conference 2022

Background

1. Following a discussion at the CTS Board meeting on 16 March 2022, members agreed that the 2022 CTS conference would be held as a hybrid event in the autumn.
2. This will be held at the LGA conference facilities at 18 Smith Square, London, giving us access to our own hybrid meeting technology and maximum flexibility should we need to adapt the conference format at short notice.
3. Given the hybrid nature of this year's conference, it was agreed that the walking tour and dinner, the latter of which were subsidised by the host council in previous CTS conferences, will not take place in 2022, but will return in 2023.
4. To make up for the lack of a walking tour at the CTS annual conference we are running a walking tour of Harrogate's heritage assets at the LGA Annual conference on Wednesday 24th June. We plan to hold the walking tour prior to the CTS session on "Heritage and the visitor economy: how can local heritage contribute to our economic recovery?", which will complement the session and bring it to life.
5. The theme of this year's conference will focus on recovery in the context of levelling up and tackling inequalities.
6. The conference will run over one day from 10.30 to 15.30 on Tuesday 11th October. This date takes into account the political group conference season and the October half term.
7. The October date has been selected allow for more time between the political group conferences and the CTS conference. We anticipate that this will result in a stronger attendance rate. Please note that this date falls into the next Board cycle.
8. The conference format will include a mixture of keynote, panel, and workshop sessions highlighting good practice from all three policy areas.
9. In previous years, the CTS annual conference has been held in March. However, the delay to the 2022 event means that this would mean two conferences in the same financial year which could have implications for the LGA and delegates. Any early views from members on the timings for next year's conference would be welcome.
10. Proposed draft agenda:

10.30	Chair's welcome and introduction
10.35	Ministerial address: Nadine Dorries, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (TBC)
10.50	Q&A with the Minister
11.05	Panel discussion: What does it take to "level up" places? A panel comprised of academics, international case studies, and non-CTS speakers, such as Andy Haldane or Neil O'Brien MP.
11.20	Panel discussion: How is levelling up being interpreted by place? A panel comprised of councils that have secured levelling up or UKSPF pilot funding to deliver culture, tourism or sport related priorities.
11.35	Questions and discussion
11.55	Tea Break
12.10	Workshops: place-based discussion on Levelling up in a post-pandemic world 1. Culture focused 2. Sport focused 3. Tourism focused
12.55	Break for lunch and networking
13.40	Panel discussion: Meet the funders A panel comprised of the arms-length funding bodies like Arts Council England, Sport England, VisitBritain, and National Lottery Heritage Fund
13.55	Panel discussion: Supporting communities through the cost of living crisis A panel comprised of experts discussing the state of council finances, the impact of Covid on earned income, and effective support for the communities most impacted by the rising cost of living/limited access to culture, tourism and sport opportunities.
14.10	Questions and discussion
14.30	Workshops: place-based discussion reaching those who have least opportunity 1. Culture focused 2. Sport focused 3. Tourism focused
15.15	Chair's closing remarks
15.30	Close

Implications for Wales

11. Welsh authorities are eligible to register for the conference at the same rate as English member councils.

Implications for inclusion, diversity and equality

12. All councils now have established online communications technology, but many have travel bans in place and staff who are reluctant to travel, some of whom will have medical conditions making them particularly susceptible to Covid-19. A hybrid event will ensure the widest possible accessibility level for council officers, who typically make up around two-thirds of attendees.
13. A diverse range of speakers will be identified, ensuring a variety of perspectives and experiences are heard, and demonstrating a range of leadership roles.

Financial implications

14. Costs for the event will need to be covered by delegate fees. Hosting the conference at Smith Square for this year allows us to keep costs down to around £4,000, not including speaker expenses or other incidental costs.
15. The table below sets out ticket prices for the conference in line with the LGA's charging policy. Note that while there is still a cost to attend online/virtually, this conference will offer a full day's programme rather than a shorter one-off session as previously proposed, giving attendees greater value for money.

Costs	
Member organisation in-person	£149.00 +VAT
Members online	£75.00 +VAT
Non-member in-person	£299.00 +VAT
Non-members online	£125.00 + VAT

Recommendation

16. Members' views and suggestions are welcome on the draft agenda and are asked to;
- 16.1. Agree the date of the 2022 conference.
 - 16.2. Give their views on the timings for the 2023 conference.

Next steps

17. Officers to confirm and advertise the date and invite speakers.