



Meeting: Culture, Tourism, and Sport Board

Date: 7 December 2022

DCMS Ministers and Autumn Statement

Purpose of report

For information

Summary

This paper outlines the new ministerial team at DCMS and provides an update on the Autumn Statement.

Is this report confidential?

No

Recommendation/s

Board members to note the report.

Contact details

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DCMS Ministers and Autumn Statement

Background

1. The appointment of Rishi Sunak as Prime Minister on 25 October 2022, resulted in the announcement of new portfolio holders as outlined below. For reference we have provided details of the opposition portfolio holders.
2. The [Rt Hon Michelle Donelan](#), MP for Chippenham, is Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. She has served as Member of Parliament for Chippenham since 2015 and served as Minister of State for Higher and Further Education from 2020 to 2022. Responsibilities include:
 - Overall departmental strategy
 - Appointments and honours
3. [Julia Lopez](#), MP for Hornchurch and Upminster, is Minister of State for Media, Data, and Digital Infrastructure. She has served as Member of Parliament for Hornchurch and Upminster since 2017. She served as Minister of State for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure between 2021 and 2022 and was Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office between 2020 and 2021. Before entering the House of Commons, she served as a local councillor at London Borough Tower Hamlets. Responsibilities include:
 - Media
 - Creative Industries
 - Digital Infrastructure/Telecoms
 - Data
 - Cyber
 - Digital Identity
 - Corporate
4. The [Rt Hon Stuart Andrew](#), MP for Pudsey, Horsforth and Aireborough, was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Civil Society, and Minister for Equalities. He was previously Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice between 8 July 2022 and 7 September 2022. He was Minister of State (Minister for Housing) in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities from 8 February 2022 to 6 July 2022. Responsibilities include:
 - [Minister for Equalities](#)
 - Sport
 - Tourism
 - Civil Society (including loneliness)
 - Youth
 - Ceremonials (including the Coronation)
 - Events including Eurovision, Unboxed, City of Culture
 - Arts and Heritage in the Commons
5. Cllr Peter Golds is meeting with the Sports Minister on 5th December 2022 as part of our regular meetings between the National Sector Partner Group members (of

which the LGA is a member) and DCMS. Cllr Golds may wish to feedback the outcomes from this meeting to the Board.

6. [Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay](#) was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Arts and Heritage and DCMS Lords Minister) in October 2022. He was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Arts) at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport between 30 September 2021 and 20 September 2022. Responsibilities include:
 - Arts and Libraries
 - Museums
 - Heritage (including cultural diplomacy)
 - National Archives
 - Appointments
 - All DCMS business in the Lords

7. [Paul Scully, MP](#) was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Tech and the Digital Economy in October 2022. He was also appointed Minister for London on 13 February 2020. He was previously Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities between July 2022 and October 2022. He was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy from February 2020 to 2022. He was elected the Conservative MP for Sutton and Cheam on 7 May 2015. Responsibilities include:
 - Digital Strategy (including Digital Regulation and Digital Markets)
 - Tech Policy
 - Office for AI
 - Online Harms
 - Online advertising
 - International strategy
 - Digital Standards
 - Economic security
 - Gambling and Lotteries
 - Overall legislation and SIs

Update on the Autumn Statement

8. [The 2022 Autumn Statement was delivered on 17 November](#) and the [LGA response was published on 18 November 2022.](#)

9. Of note to the CTS Board, the Chancellor announced that the HM Treasury-led review of the Review of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS) will determine support for non-domestic energy consumers, excluding public sector organisations, beyond 31 March 2023.

10. The Government has published [terms of reference for the review](#) with the findings to be published by 31 December 2022. While the Government recognises that some businesses may continue to require support beyond March 2023, the

overall scale of support the Government can offer will be significantly lower, and targeted at those most affected to ensure fiscal sustainability and value for money for the taxpayer.

11. Public sector organisations will not be eligible for support through the review. The review will however consider private sector firms which are providers of public services and voluntary sector organisations such as charities. This means that about two thirds of sport and leisure services, and a smaller proportion of cultural services, will potentially be able to receive support, but councils with in-house services will be disadvantaged, despite facing the same cost pressures.
12. In our response we said that it is disappointing that the support for non-domestic energy consumers will not include public sector organisations beyond the end of March 2023. We urge the Government to consider the impact of rising energy prices on councils as part of their review.
13. Councils' leisure assets in particular have been significantly affected by the energy crisis because they are energy-intensive buildings. Despite councils' efforts, current projections by Ukactive indicate 40 per cent of council areas are at risk of losing a leisure facility or seeing reduced services before 31 March 2023.
14. Government must recognise the public sport and leisure sector as highly vulnerable in the forthcoming three month review of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme and make funding and support available to help stabilise the sector.
15. LGA officers will continue to work with BEIS and DCMS officials to raise our concerns and influence the EBRS review.
16. The Autumn Statement also sets out a package of targeted support to help with business rates costs worth £13.6 billion over the next 5 years. The business rates multipliers will be frozen in 2023-24, and upward transitional relief caps will provide support 2 Autumn Statement 2022 to ratepayers facing large bill increases following the revaluation. The relief for retail, hospitality and leisure sectors will be extended and increased, and there will be additional support provided for small businesses.
17. While the extension of the relief is a positive step, feedback from the sector is that these reliefs will not significantly offset the funding pressures from rising energy costs, and reducing footfall from the squeeze on personal budgets.

Implications for Wales

18. Culture, Tourism and Sport policy and funding are devolved matters.

Implications for equality, diversity, and inclusion

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19. If unaddressed, the financial pressures on cultural and leisure services will lead to further closures. This will widen existing health inequalities and missed opportunities to unlock talent and potential.

Financial Implications

20. The LGA finance team is undertaking a full assessment of the impact of the various Autumn Statement commitments on council budgets.

Next steps

21. Cllr James Jamieson has already written to the Secretary of State and the letter was shared with the Board at the October Board meeting. A response has not yet been received.

22. A letter to Lord Parkinson has been sent and is attached in annex A. Lord Parkinson has responded positively and will be attending the launch of the Commission on Culture and Local Government on 8 December.

23. Letters to Stuart Andrew and Julia Lopez will be sent shortly.

24. Invitations to attend future board meetings will be issued when members meet with the Ministers.

25. We will continue to work with BEIS and DCMS officials to raise our concerns about the impact rising energy costs is having on leisure providers and to influence the EBRS review. A working group comprised of DCMS, BEIS, Sport England, Ukactive and the LGA takes place fortnightly, while the National Sector Partners Group meets the Minister every other month.

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ANNEX A

Lord Parkinson letter - Please see letter labelled annex A in folder to be attached to this paper.