

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

Sport and physical activity

1. Following [extensive lobbying work](#) by the LGA and sector partners, Government has announced a [£63 million fund to support swimming pools](#) through the pressures of rising energy costs. The funding will be a mix of capital and revenue, allowing councils to offset current high prices while adapting their buildings to a more sustainable, energy efficient way of operating. The LGA is working with Sport England to help them design and distribute this biddable funding as quickly as possible.
2. Sport England's [Moving Communities](#) platform, introduced to monitor the impact of Covid-19 support funding, was instrumental in providing the evidence base to underpin this new funding. We are working with Sport England to further refine the platform and to make it easy and accessible for councils to use to monitor their own service impacts, as well as enhance national advocacy.
3. Building on our strengthened relationship with Swim England as a result of our shared lobbying, I was pleased to provide a supportive quote for their new strategy – [Access Aquatics 2023-2033](#). This sets out a number of shared aspirations for increasing the diversity of participation, maintaining a supply of accessible public water space, and ensuring all young people are able to swim 25m or rescue themselves from the water.

Culture

4. We have signed a [joint statement with Arts Council England](#), which sets out how our organisations will work together to support councils in their cultural work. It outlines our shared vision for the contribution that arts, museums and libraries make to the nation, to places, and for people and how the two partners aspire to work together to realise it.
5. Board members have been attending various Deep Dive sessions in support of Baroness Sanderson's consultation on [developing a new national libraries strategy](#). The LGA is one of only three organisations invited to all events, reflecting the critical role local government plays in delivering public libraries. Baroness Sanderson will report in June and strategy development will take place over the Summer.
6. The LGA responded to a number of media queries around councils' support for coronation activities, including acting a mythbuster for claims of red tape and

regulatory restrictions preventing residents from enjoying themselves. Our lines were picked up by a number of national papers, protecting the reputation of local government and correcting misconceptions about councils' role.

7. The Board continues to communicate the finding of our [Commission on Culture and Local Government](#), holding a number of roundtables across the country. A Newcastle session with Northumbria University focused on creative skills, while over 100 delegates attended in Wigan to discuss cultural education.

Visitor economy

8. Government has launched two consultations on regulating short-term lets of accommodation – [one on change of use](#), and [one on statutory registration](#) - which have implications for the visitor economy as well as the number of second homes in some areas. We are pleased that Government has listened to the concerns of members on this issue and are developing a supportive response to both consultations.
9. The Board has been exploring the economic impact of filming on local areas, following the success of Happy Valley for Calderdale and Peaky Blinders for Birmingham. We were pleased to endorse the launch by Creative England of a [new toolkit to help councils measure the impact of filming activity](#) on their wider economy.

Annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference

10. The CTS Conference took place as a hybrid event on 15 March 2023. Despite a number of challenging events later being scheduled for the same day – Budget, Teachers Strike, Tube Strike, and Civil Servants Strike – the day was well attended. 85 delegates registered, with 66 attending in person and 39 attending online, and concluded with a tour of the Coliseum, led by the Chair of English National Opera.

Contact details

Contact officer: Ian Leete

Position: Senior Adviser – Culture, Tourism and Sport

Phone no: 020 7664 3143

Email: ian.leete@local.gov.uk