

## LGA Annual Conference 2023

### Purpose of Report

For information.

**Is this report confidential? No**

### Summary

The LGA Annual Conference 2023 programme has now been confirmed. A must-attend event for senior representatives working in local and central government as well as senior colleagues from other public sector bodies, charities, and business, the Conference is taking place 4-6 July and will feature five events relating to culture, tourism and sport, three parallel sessions and two innovation zone sessions.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Communications and events

### Recommendation(s)

**That the Board note the following events relating to culture, tourism and sport taking place at LGA Annual Conference 2023.**

### Contact details

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## LGA Annual Conference 2023

### Background

1. The LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition is a must-attend event for senior representatives working in local and central government as well as senior colleagues from other public sector bodies, charities, and business.
2. This year, the Conference will be hosted in Bournemouth, 4-6 July.
3. The full programme and details of how to book is available on the [Programme](#) tab on the [website](#).

### CTS Events

4. [BCP Council. Bournemouth Beach Walk and Seafront Strategy.](#)

05/07/2023, 08:15 - 09:15.

With award-winning beaches just a stone's throw away from the conference venue, join BCP Council for a morning stroll along the promenade, taking in some of the Council's 15 mile stretch of south-facing beaches. As you're revitalised by the vitamin sea, you'll get to hear about the Council's plans for rejuvenating the seafront as part of their Seafront Strategy and how they will be using Levelling Up funding to enhance the accessibility of coastal activities as well as increasing digital connectivity and keeping people safe plus much more.

5. [Leisure centres: fit for the future](#)

05/07/2023, 11:30 - 12:15

With speaker(s): Cllr Caroline Jackson - Leader, Lancaster City Council; Alice Tai MBE – Paralympic Swimmer.

Leisure centres have faced a challenging return after the pandemic leading many councils to reconsider and review their delivery models. This session will explore the ways in which councils are re-focusing the service to be a preventative wellbeing service, while ensuring access to those on lower incomes. It will also cover the 'greening' of centres, reducing one of the highest direct carbon emitters of a council's estate, leisure centres have faced a challenging return after the pandemic leading many councils to reconsider and review their delivery models. This session will explore the ways in which councils are re-focusing the service to be a preventative wellbeing service, while ensuring

access to those on lower incomes. It will also cover the 'greening' of centres, reducing one of the highest direct carbon emitters of a council's estate.

6. [Cultural place making and levelling up: what role can culture play in supporting thriving places and connecting people to opportunity?](#)

06/07/2023, 09:30 - 10:30.

With speaker(s): Cllr Graham Morgan - Leader, Knowsley MBC; Andrew Emery and Andrea Francis, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council Chair: Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson - Chair, LGA Culture, Sport and Tourism Board.

As the biggest public funders of culture, councils know that investment in local civic infrastructure makes thriving vibrant places for communities. Libraries, arts centres, museums, heritage sites, theatres and other cultural facilities create jobs and contribute to growth in the burgeoning commercial creative sector. They underpin the visitor and night-time economies, create more educational opportunity and support better health and wellbeing for local people. But rising costs and pressure on councils' budgets has created a challenging environment for cultural investment and there are still significant regional inequalities in provision. This session will explore the role of the local authority in cultural placemaking, and the opportunities associated with culture-led strategies for place.

7. **Innovation Zone:** [Modernisation and transformation of a local authority leisure service in Northern Ireland](#)

04/07/2023, 16:10 - 16:40

With speaker(s): Matt McDowell - Director, Parks and Leisure, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council ; Lesley Millar - Performance and Transformation Manager, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council ; Deaglan O'Hagan - Head, Leisure Operations, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

The Innovation Zone is delighted to host Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council to provide their perspective on leisure services and share the learning from their excellent success journey. Following the amalgamation of two councils, elected members and senior management at the council recognised the urgent need to modernise their leisure service to meet ambitious corporate objectives and to provide real value to its users. With an excellent vision, the leisure team radically changed their operating model, developed and introduced innovative programming, and reduced barriers that previously prevented residents from participating in physical activity. The result has seen annual

participation numbers more than double, a significant reduction in subsidy, and the award-winning service cementing itself as a model of outstanding practice.

8. **Innovation Zone:** [Spotlight on... All Our Money: Using theatre to engage communities in Local Authority Budget Setting](#)

05/07/2023, 10:25 - 11:00

With speakers: Karen Cheney - Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development Support Unit, Birmingham City Council ; Dominic Thompson - Digital and West Midlands Producer, Stan's Café ; James Yarker - Artistic Director, Stan's Café

7,000 golden dominoes and a life-size bear named Bordesley have been helping the citizens of Birmingham to learn about their Council's £3bn+ budget. Where does all the money come from, where does it go and how much control does anyone have over any of this? Mixing live performance with video and discussion Karen Cheney from the Council's Neighbourhood Development Support Unit and the theatre company Stan's Cafe explain the background context, what happened, what the impact was and ask you where it could all go next. Not to be missed!

### Implications for Wales

9. No implications for Wales.

### Financial Implications

10. No financial implications.

### Equalities implications

11. Panels have been developed with equalities and inclusion in mind, although a balance of speakers has not been achieved for all sessions.

### Next steps

12. Board members are welcome to book their place for annual conference via the official website: <https://www.local.gov.uk/events/lga-annual-conference-2023>.