

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Ian Stephens (Chair)

Libraries

1. CTS Lead Members met William Sieghart, Chair of the Independent Libraries Panel commissioned by the Culture and Communities Departments, on 14 October. The meeting was an opportunity to reinforce the locally-led nature of libraries and the need to build upon existing innovation. It was very encouraging that the LGA's views were clearly referenced in Mr. Sieghart's report, which was published on 18 December. Mr. Sieghart also recommended setting up a local government led Task Force, which is jointly accountable to LGA elected Members and Ministers, to take forward the recommendations. I have exchanged letters with the Culture Minister to confirm that we will work together to set up the Task Force.

Magna Carta and Culture, Tourism and Sport Board 2 December

- 2 Lord Bew, Co-Chair of the Speaker's Advisory Group on the 2015 Anniversaries hosted the Board at Portcullis House. This was an excellent opportunity to shape how Parliament will be working with councils to mark the Magna Carta 800 anniversary next year. The Board continues to give the highest priority to the anniversary with Cllr Peter Golds representing the LGA at the Magna Carta 800th Committee and Cllr Sparks, LGA Chair, updated councils on the latest plans in the 7 December edition of First magazine.
3. Members also agreed to work with the Environment, Housing, Economy and Transport Board to explore how to secure greater cross-Government recognition of the vital contribution of culture and the visitor economy to jobs and growth.

Culture

4. I was very pleased to have my introductory meeting with Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chairman of Arts Council England (ACE), on 29 October. We reinforced our shared commitment to supporting effective local political leadership, seeking out and sharing the latest innovation and making a compelling case about how culture can help councils to achieve wider community outcomes.
5. I was also delighted to speak at the LGA / ACE Culture Leadership Essentials Programme 4 -5 November, which was attended by 14 culture portfolio holders. A further 15 portfolio holders attended the December programme, which was addressed by Cllr Flick Rea, Deputy Chair.
6. Cllr David Burbage, Deputy Chair, represented the LGA at the ACE-funded Cultural Commissioning Programme's roundtable on health and social care on 14 October. The round table was chaired by Lord Bichard and Sir Peter Bazalgette was among the

attendees. Cllr Burbage raised awareness about the role of elected councillors in the commissioning process.

Sport

7. I was very pleased to have my introductory meeting with Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, on 29 October. We reaffirmed shared priorities, including our joint Sport Leadership Essentials Programme, supporting links with health and securing greater recognition that investing in sport can save money upstream by preventing costly ill health.

Heritage

8. I was delighted to speak at English Heritage's conference for Heritage Champions on 12 November. My speech was an opportunity to highlight how heritage can be embedded across a council's priorities and I was joined by colleagues who shared case studies from Norfolk and Cheshire West and Chester.

CTS Conference

9. We are working very closely with Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council and Vice Chair of the CTS Board, to plan the annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference 3 – 4 March in Durham. Of course, Magna Carta will be a key theme. Confirmed speakers include Sir Robert Worcester, Chairman the Magna Carta 800 Committee, Viscountess Penelope Cobham, Chairman of VisitEngland, Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair of English Heritage, Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, Steve Cram MBE, Chancellor of Sunderland University and former athlete, Ufi Ibrahim, Chief Executive of the British Hospitality Association and Dr Justin Varney, Public Health England.

Upcoming Meetings

10. I am meeting Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, and attending the Libraries All Party Parliamentary Group on 14 January, and meeting Jeff James, Chief Executive and Keeper of The National Archives on 15 January, and will report back at the Forum.

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