

3 March 2015

## Outside bodies feedback from Members

### Purpose of report

For information.

### Summary

This report has three parts:

A - Report back on Member meetings since the CTS Board on 2 December 2014.

B - Forthcoming meetings.

C – Chair’s Report from Cllr Ian Stephens, to Councillors’ Forum.

### Recommendation

Members currently representing the Board on outside bodies are asked to **provide any appropriate feedback** from recent meetings, details of which are enclosed.

### Actions

Subject to comments from the Board, officers to take forward any suggested actions.

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**A – Report back on Member meetings since the CTS Board on 2 December 2014**

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
<b>Cllr Flick Rea, Cllr Doreen Stephenson and Cllr Sonja Crisp led the LGA/Arts Council England Culture Leadership Essentials Programme, Coventry 4-5 December 2014</b>		
To represent the LGA and introduce the event, facilitate and speak about good practice within councils	Cllr Rea gave an overview of the LGA's work. Case study presentations included Cllr Stephenson sharing East Lindsey's culture led regeneration and new cultural trust. Cllr Crisp facilitated the event, supported by Cllr Richard Morris.	Fourteen culture portfolios supported to lead transformational change.
<b>Cllr Flick Rea attended a Positioning Community Sport Workshop in London on 9 December 2014</b>		
To introduce the event and set it within the context of the LGA's wider work.	A number of case studies and interactive sessions covered topics, including links to public health, commissioning, working with National Governing Bodies and improving facilities.	Thirteen sport portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change of sport services.
<b>Cllr David Phillips attended the Local Authority World Heritage Forum at Portcullis House on 9 December 2014</b>		
To represent the LGA.	The meeting focused on plans to set up a new charity. Cllr Phillips said that the LGA greatly values our engagement with the Forum and very much wants this to continue with the charity. We can help to connect the charity to wider LGA work, support members to seek wider local engagement, for example from Local Enterprise Partnerships, raise the profile and relevance of World Heritage Sites to local government nationally, share good practice more widely and advance shared advocacy messages through our strong relationships with Ministers, VisitEngland and English Heritage.	Raised awareness about how the LGA is supporting councils to make the most of their heritage assets and how the LGA might support the new Charity.

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<b>Cllr Sonja Crisp attended the Tourism Alliance on 9 December</b>		
To represent the LGA.	Cllr Crisp raised awareness about local government's vital role driving further growth from the visitor economy how the sector will benefit from the LGA's call to devolve funding and decisions on transport, skills and economic development to English cities and counties. Cllr Crisp also made the case for local government representation on the Tourism Council.	<p>Raised awareness of the role that local government and English devolution can bring to improving the visitor economy.</p> <p>Cllr Stephens has written to Helen Grant MP, Tourism Minister, to make the case for local government representation on the Tourism Council. The letter is attached at <b><u>Annex A</u></b>.</p>
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens attended the British Destinations Meeting on 14 January</b>		
To represent the LGA.	The meeting was an opportunity for British Destination members to share policy updates. Cllr Stephens shared the LGA's key views as set out in our recent written evidence on the visitor economy to the Culture, Media, and Sport Committee.	Raised awareness amongst British Destination members about the LGA's key positions on the visitor economy.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens met Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, on 14 January</b>		
Introductory meeting.	Cllr Stephens and the Minister mainly discussed libraries. Cllr Stephens said it was encouraging that Mr. Sieghart's libraries report recognised the locally-led nature of the library service and sector led improvement. Both confirmed their support for the rollout of public Wi-Fi.	Cllr Stephens and the Minister agreed the governance arrangements and next steps for the Libraries Task Force.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens attended "Invigorating Our Libraries" - a panel discussion with William Sieghart" hosted by the Libraries All-Party Parliamentary Group on 14 January</b>		
To represent the LGA.	Lord Tope, Chair of the Libraries APPG, chaired the debate. Panel Members, including William Sieghart, Joanna Trollope OBE and Paul Martin, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Wandsworth, debated the state of public libraries and next steps for the Sieghart	Cllr Stephens reinforced that the Libraries Task Force will be sector led.

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	Report. The debate recognised existing locally-led innovation.	
<b>Cllr Peter Golds attended “Parliament in the Making” at the House of Commons on 20 January 2015</b>		
To represent the LGA.	Mr Speaker, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP and the Lord Speaker, The Rt Hon the Baroness D’Souza hosted an event to launch “Parliament in the Making”, a year-long programme of activities to mark the Magna Carta 800 and De Montfort Parliament 750 anniversaries.	Raised awareness about how LGA is supporting councils to involve communities in marking the 2015 Anniversaries.
<b>Cllr Sir William Lawrence attended the launch of the Society of Chief Librarians and the Reading Agency’s Books on Prescription for Dementia on 26 January</b>		
To represent the LGA at the launch event.	Public libraries in England have launched the latest Reading Well Books on Prescription scheme to support people with dementia and their carers. This builds upon the first national Books on Prescription scheme in England launched in June 2013	Nearly every public library authority has signed-up to the scheme, and the LGA is sharing widely across local government.
<b>Cllr David Burbage gave oral evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on the visitor economy on 27 January</b>		
To give oral evidence to the Committee.	Cllr Burbage emphasised the vital leadership role of councils in creating the conditions for the visitor economy to thrive – from planning to infrastructure, investment in culture heritage and sport, and supporting local businesses.	Raised awareness amongst the Committee about how councils up and down the country are boosting local growth through the visitor economy.
<b>Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee on 28 January 2015</b>		
To represent the LGA.	Key organisations involved in the anniversary, including the 10 Charter Towns and Cities, shared their latest plans for marking the anniversary.	Greater awareness about the relevance of the anniversary for all councils and improved coordination between national and local plans.

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<b>Cllr Ian Stephens met Jeff James, Keeper and Chief Executive, The National Archives on 2 February 2015</b>		
Introductory meeting.	Cllr Stephens and Mr. James discussed shared priorities including the impact of budget pressures on the capacity of local archive services, innovative delivery models, historic anniversaries, and the introduction of the 20 year rule. Cllr Stephens emphasised the importance of New Burdens Funding for councils covering the total costs of the shift from the 30 to 20 year rule.	Launched a new set of joint case studies sharing innovative approaches to local archive services. Agreed to continue seeking out and sharing good practice. Mr. James and colleagues are speaking at the CTS Conference.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens attended the LGA / ACE Library Seminar for portfolio holders on 5 February 2015</b>		
To introduce the event and set it within the context of the LGA's wider work.	Cllr Stephens updated portfolio holders on the Sieghart Libraries review and spoke about the vital role of political leadership in driving reform and making the connections that will enable public libraries to thrive in a challenging fiscal climate. The event included case studies from Devon County Council and Somerset County Council, with a focus on links to health.	Thirteen library portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change.
<b>Cllr Sonja Crisp attended the LGA/Sport England Leadership Essentials Programme on 11-12 February 2015</b>		
To introduce the event and set it within the context of the LGA's wider work.	A number of case studies and interactive sessions covered topics including links to public health, commissioning, working with National Governing Bodies and improving facilities.	Nine sport portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change of sport services.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens met Emma Chappel, Senior Production Services Manager, Creative England, on 16 February</b>		
To discuss how Creative England works with councils to support and promote	Cllr Stephens and Ms Chappell discussed how the creative industries can boost local economies. Cllr Stephens said that	Greater awareness about councils' leadership role driving economic growth and the importance of Creative

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film, television, games and digital content production in England, outside London.	with councils having to find £2.6 billion of savings in 2015/16, we encourage Creative England to keep focusing on how the creative industries can boost local growth, and keep forging partnerships with councils who can make the connections to the wider economic landscape.	England funding reinforcing locally determined priorities.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens attended the launch of the Warwick Commission report “Enriching Britain: Culture, Creativity and Growth” on 17 February at the Shard.</b>		
To represent the LGA at the launch event.	The Warwick Commission report makes the case for continued public investment in culture and the creative economies. Commissioners including Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair Arts Council England, and Roly Keating, Chief Executive The British Library, attended the launch event.	Vikki Heywood, chairman of the Warwick Commission and RSA, is keen to discuss the recommendations with LGA.
<b>Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Stakeholder Network Event on 20 February 2015</b>		
To represent the LGA.	The six monthly stakeholder events bring together a range of organisations representing local government, central government, churches, academics and the legal profession, as well as Anniversary Committee Members to update on latest plans.	Greater awareness about how the LGA is supporting councils across the country to involve communities in the anniversary.
<b>Cllr Ian Stephens spoke at VisitEngland / Isle of Wight visitor economy event 24 February</b>		
To represent the LGA	Cllr Stephens outlined how the LGA is supporting councils to drive local growth through the visitor economy.	Raised awareness about councils’ vital leadership role creating the conditions for the visitor economy to thrive.

**B – Forthcoming meetings at the time of writing**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
English Heritage event to outline the projects that English Heritage and Historic England will undertake after they split into two bodies	26 February	To be determined
Parliamentary launch of VisitEngland and Creative England report <i>Quantifying the Economic Value of Screen Tourism in England</i> .	10 March	Cllr Ian Stephens
RSA event to discuss the RSA's work on a new contract for arts and culture	11 March	To be determined
Tourism Alliance Parliamentary reception	16 March	Cllr Sonja Crisp
Local Authority World Heritage Forum	16 March	Cllr Phillips
Farrell Review 'One Year On' Parliamentary reception	17 March	To be determined
Magna Carta 800 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	22 April	Cllr Peter Golds
Tourism Alliance	19 May	Cllr Sonja Crisp

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## **C - Chair's Report from Cllr Ian Stephens, to Councillors' Forum, 22 January 2015**

### 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 800<sup>th</sup> 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.



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### 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.