

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

Tourism

1. Cllr David Burbage MBE, Deputy Chairman, gave oral evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on the visitor economy on 27 January. 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.
2. CTS Lead Members have reinforced the LGA's significant concerns about the proposed local delivery arrangements for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in 2014-20 by writing to Greg Clarke MP and Lord Ahmad to highlight the potential negative impact on funding for the visitor economy. Tourism is one of the fastest growing economic sectors and an inability to flex ESIF priorities to reflect this could hold back local growth.
3. On 16 February, I met Emma Chappel, Senior Production Services Manager, Creative England, the national organisation that supports and promotes film, television, games and digital content production in England, outside London. The UK's creative industries, which include IT, film and music, are booming and were worth a record £76.9 billion in 2013. We discussed the importance of Creative England forging partnerships with councils who can make the connections to the wider economic landscape.
4. I was delighted to speak at the VisitEngland Isle of Wight Visitor Economy conference on 24 February. My speech was an opportunity to outline how the visitor economy stands to benefit from the LGA's 100 Days campaign and greater devolution of growth, skills, transport, infrastructure and planning.

Magna Carta

5. Cllr Peter Golds OBE, CTS Board lead for historic anniversaries, attended the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee on 28 January and 20 February. Cllr Golds updated Committee members on how the LGA is supporting councils across the country to involve communities in the anniversary and using it as a springboard to renew local democracy.
6. Cllr David Sparks OBE has written an article for the March edition of the Committee's newsletter. This was an opportunity to raise the profile of the LGA's role in the anniversary and link it to the LGA's devolution campaign.

Culture

7. I was delighted to attend the launch of the Warwick Commission report "Enriching Britain: Culture, Creativity and Growth" on 17 February at the Shard. The Commission recognised the innovative ways in which councils are supporting culture and the creative industries in a challenging fiscal climate, but challenged all public bodies to do

more to encourage even wider participation. I am looking forward to exploring the recommendations further with Vikki Heywood, Commission Chair and RSA Chair.

Libraries and Archives

8. I was very pleased to speak at the LGA / Arts Council England leadership seminar for library portfolio holders on 5 February at the wonderful new Exeter Central Library. 13 portfolio holders attended. I updated colleagues on the Sieghart independent 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.
9. I had a very positive meeting with Jeff James, Keeper and Chief Executive, The National Archives on 2 February. We discussed shared priorities including the capacity of local archive services, innovative delivery models, historic anniversaries, and the introduction of the 20 year rule. In particular, I emphasised the importance of the New Burdens Funding for councils covering the total costs of the shift from the 30 to 20 year rule.

Sport

10. Cllr Sonja Crisp, Member Peer, introduced the LGA/Sport England Leadership Essentials Programme on 11-12 February 2015, which supported 9 sport portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change of sport services. Cllr Crisp emphasised the opportunities for sport from health reform. A number of case studies and interactive sessions covered topics including links to public health, commissioning, working with National Governing Bodies and improving facilities.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Annual Conference

11. I am looking forward to welcoming 120 councillors and senior officers to this year's annual conference in Durham. We will be exploring the implications of devolution for the sector, sharing latest innovation and setting out our offer to help the next government tackle the biggest social and economic challenges this country faces. Speakers include Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair Arts Council England, Penelope Viscountess Cobham, Chairman VisitEngland, Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair English Heritage, Rosie Millard, Chair of Hull UK Capital of Culture 2017 and journalist, Roly Keating, Chief Executive the British Library, Steve Cram CBE, Chancellor Sunderland University and former athlete and Fin Kennedy, award winning playwright. We have worked very closely with Cllr Simon Henig, CTS Board Vice Chair and Leader of Durham City Council and are looking forward to excellent study tours.

Contact Officer: Helen Murray
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 0207 664 3266
E-mail: helen.murray@local.gov.uk