

6 February 2014

Outside bodies

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides Members with the opportunity to feedback on recent meetings of outside bodies at which they have represented the Board.

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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Outside bodies

Recent

Purpose	Key points discussed	Outcome
Cllr Flick Rea MBE and Cllr Andrew Lewer MBE attended an event hosted by the Legacy Trust and Kings Cultural Institute on 26 November 2013		
<p>The event brought together a wide range of senior stakeholders from across the sports, arts and heritage sectors to present the findings of a 'cultural enquiry into Culture and Major Events'.</p>	<p>The report revealed that 62% of the UK public would like to see arts and culture routinely programmed as an integrated element of major events. The universal agreement among contributors across arts and sport, that arts and culture can and do add value to major events, was supported by a review of relevant research, which confirmed the economic impact of cultural festivals as well as benefits stretching across health and well-being, social inclusion, skills, employment and human capital.</p>	<p>LGA represented at the event.</p>
Cllr Flick Rea MBE met Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair of English Heritage on 27 November 2013		
<p>This was an introductory meeting with Sir Laurie Magnus, new Chair of English Heritage.</p>	<p>Sir Laurie Magnus updated Cllr Rea on the proposed "new model" for English Heritage. Cllr Rea said that the changes were an opportunity to improve even further partnership working between English Heritage and councils. Cllr Rea referred to the many different reasons why councils value heritage and highlighted the new ways of working that are emerging, such as sharing conservation expertise between councils. Cllr Rea and Sir Laurie also agreed on the importance of working together to strengthen local political leadership and agreed to explore joint events for next year.</p>	<p>Further strengthened the LGA's strategic relationship with English Heritage. Sir Laurie Magnus is also addressing the CTS Conference. LGA will submit a response to the "new model" consultation.</p>

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<p>Cllr Flick Rea MBE, Cllr Andrew Lewer, Cllr Sonja Crisp and Cllr Doreen Stephenson spoke at the LGA/Arts Council England (ACE) Cultural Leadership Academy on 4-5 December 2013.</p>		
<p>To develop and strengthen political leadership skills amongst councillors with a portfolio for cultural services in local government.</p>	<p>Cllr Rea introduced the event by sharing with councillors our work with ACE to embed a single cultural conversation locally and nationally. Cllr Lewer and Cllr Crisp co-facilitated the Academy. Cllr Stephenson shared how East Lindsey District Council has boosted growth through a programme of cultural events and festivals. Other case studies covered working with Local Enterprise Partnerships, commissioning and how culture can help to improve outcomes for children and young people, and strengthen cohesion.</p>	<p>6 portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change of cultural services.</p>
<p>Cllr Flick Rea MBE and Sir Merrick Cockell met Viscountess Penelope Cobham and James Berresford, Chairman and Chief Executive of VisitEngland, on 19 December 2013</p>		
<p>Regular annual meeting to maintain the strategic relationship between LGA and VisitEngland.</p>	<p>Lady Cobham outlined progress against VisitEngland's Strategic Plan. Sir Merrick Cockell and Cllr Rea updated VisitEngland on the LGA's Rewiring Public Services Campaign and especially proposals for a localised and more proportionate approach to licensing. They also discussed the implications of the changing economic landscape for the visitor economy and how to encourage visitors to spend more time in destinations around the country.</p>	<p>Agreed to host a joint visitor economy seminar for portfolio holders.</p>
<p>Cllr Flick Rea MBE and Cllr Steve Bedser (Community Wellbeing Board) gave evidence to the All Party Commission on Physical Activity on 15 January 2014</p>		

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To share how councils are supporting people to get active with the All Party Commission of MPs on Physical Activity.	Cllrs Rea and Bedser shared the wider context that councils are operating in and emphasised the opportunities presented by health reform for a proactive focus on promoting wellbeing. They also shared examples (including the Be Active scheme in Birmingham) about how councils are supporting people to get more active.	Raised the profile in Parliament of councils' leadership role in relation to physical activity.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE met Helen Griffiths and Don Earley from Fields in Trust on 16 January 2014		
For the LGA to feed into Fields in Trust's review of its recommendations relating to policies, standards and the design of outdoor provision for sport and children's play.	Cllr Rea emphasised that councillors have to balance different views when taking decisions on outdoor space and that councils support a huge range of formal and informal outdoor spaces. Cllr Rea also raised our concerns about creating new statutory consultees in the planning process and said that we want to work with Fields in Trust to make a locally-led plan system work as effectively as possible.	LGA contributed towards Field in Trust's review.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE attended the Rt Hon Maria Miller MP's Value of Culture Speech at the British Library on 23 January 2014		
To represent councils at this keynote speech by the Secretary of State for Culture.	The Secretary of State set out her vision regarding the social, cultural and economic benefits of culture. She also highlighted the importance of Britain's cultural offer to attracting visitors and businesses.	Cllr Rea wrote to the Secretary of State to emphasise that councils value culture for many different reasons and that outside London, councils invest more in culture than central government.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE gave evidence to the Warwick Commission on 23 January 2014		
To help shape the Warwick Commission's	Cllr Rea highlighted the innovative ways in which councils are	Ensured that the Commissioners (including

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inquiry into the value of culture, which will publish policy recommendations next year.	supporting culture in the current fiscal climate. She particularly emphasised the importance of strong partnerships between ACE and councils.	Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair (ACE) were aware that even in the context of severe budget pressures councils are valuing, investing in and supporting culture.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair English Heritage, and also attended by the Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, Culture Secretary of State on 29 January 2014		
To bring together key heritage stakeholders to discuss the proposal to split English Heritage in 2 – a charity to manage the National Collection, and Historic England to discharge the planning and regulatory functions.	Cllr Rea set out the LGA's vision for councils working with Historic England in a whole place approach to conserving and opening up local heritage in the context of a locally-led approach to planning. Cllr Rea also emphasise the LGA's strong support for properties in the National Collection remaining in public ownership.	Key heritage players updated on the LGA's position in response to the English Heritage consultation.
Cllr Flick Rea MBE attended the In Battalions Delphi Study Parliamentary Launch on 29 January 2014		
To attend the launch event.	Finn Kennedy, playwright, launched his latest study investigating how theatres can respond creatively to budget pressures.	LGA represented at the event.

Forthcoming at the time of writing

Title	Date	Attendees
Meeting with Lord Coe, Legacy Ambassador	3 February	Sir Merrick Cockell & Cllr Flick Rea MBE
LGA/ACE Libraries Seminar	11 February	Cllr Flick Rea MBE

Title	Date	Attendees
BBFC Consultative Council Meeting	14 February	Sir William Lawrence
LGA/Sport England Leadership Academy	18-19 February	Cllr Flick Rea MBE
Annual CTS Conference, Portsmouth	3 – 4 March	Board Members
Meeting with Helen Grant MP	6 March	Cllr Flick Rea MBE