

## **Update on current issues**

### **Purpose of report**

For information/ noting.

### **Summary**

This report updates Members on current issues of interest to the Board which are not covered elsewhere in the agenda. Updates are included on:

- CTS Improvement programme
- Physical activity and health
- Tourism and the visitor economy (including Magna Carta)
- Archives and heritage
- Culture and the arts
- Digital inclusion

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the update.

### **Action**

Officers to action as appropriate.

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## Update on current issues

### Culture, Tourism and Sport Improvement programme

1. Following four successful years of delivering the CTS improvement programme, both Arts Council England and Sport England have agreed to fund the programme during 2015-16. Sport England has agreed to fund three Leadership Essentials events and Arts Council England has agreed to fund two Leadership Essentials events, two library seminars and three library peer reviews.
2. Confirmed Leadership Essentials events and library seminars are for portfolio holders and will take place on the following dates:
  - 2.1 Leadership Essentials Sport, Roffey Park, Sussex – 22/23 July 2015;
  - 2.2 Library Seminar, British Library – 15 September 2015;
  - 2.3 Leadership Essentials Sport, Scarman House, Coventry – 21/22 October 2015;
  - 2.4 Leadership Essentials Culture, Scarman House – 3/4 November 2015; and
  - 2.5 Leadership Essentials Culture, Scarman House – 2/3 December 2015.
3. Members are welcome to attend the events. Further information regarding the programmes on <http://tinyurl.com/q8pny92>.

### Physical activity and health

#### Active People Survey

4. A further drop in the number of people swimming once a week has again dominated the latest grassroots sports participation figures, which were published by Sport England on 11 June. The statistics, covering the change during the six month period from October 2014 to March 2015, show that 15.5 million people did some kind of sport once a week, every week – 222,000 fewer than six months ago. But swimming, the country's most popular sport with over 2.5 million people taking part weekly, has seen 144,200 fewer people taking to the pool in the last six months and 390,700 in the last year. The long term trend is also very concerning, with 729,000 people stopping swimming in the last decade. The LGA is fully engaged in conversations to understand and address the disappointing results for swimming.
  - 4.1 The latest figures show increases for:
    - 4.1.1 Running – up 63,000 to 2.1 million a week – following a popular trend towards informal running like parkrun and Color Run;
    - 4.1.2 Tennis – up 38,200 to 422,400 a week – following a significant improvement

in the way the Lawn Tennis Association understands its customers and makes tennis available when and where people want; and  
4.1.3 Basketball – up 21,800 to 152,900 a week – especially among young people in school and further education.

5. The LGA issued a press release highlighting that councils have a key role to play in encouraging participation in sport. It is essential that governing bodies, councils, local sports clubs and community groups keep working well together to maintain this enthusiasm and make getting involved in sport as easy as possible for communities everywhere. [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/7330796/NEWS#sthash.tDVquHC2.dpuf](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/7330796/NEWS#sthash.tDVquHC2.dpuf)
6. In response to the survey results, the Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP, announced she is going to work with the sports sector to develop a new strategy as a matter of urgency with the intention of a more joined-up approach to sport across Whitehall. Members will want to ensure that local government – as the biggest public investor in community sport and key to making the links to health – is right at the heart of shaping the new strategy.
7. The Active People Survey is available on Sport England's website: <https://www.sportengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/june/11/further-decline-in-swimming-numbers-dominate-latest-sports-figures/>

#### Health benefits of culture and sport

8. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has published the findings of research which highlight the health benefits of the culture and sport sectors. Data from the British Household Panel Survey and the Understanding Society Survey enabled DCMS to measure and value these benefits.
9. Using national level data on participation rates in England the total annual NHS cost savings due to reductions in GP visits (predicted as a result of engaging in culture and sport) is estimated to be around £384.9m (all sports), £38.3m (team sports), £347m (individual sports), £168.8m (audience arts), £82.2m (heritage), £18m (library) and £44.7m (museum). These are estimates related only to reductions in GP visits. There may be knock-on positive or negative effects that impact on society elsewhere.
10. Using national level data on participation rates the total annual NHS cost savings in England due to reductions in the use of mental health services (predicted as a result of engaging in culture and sport) is estimated to be around £518.8m (all sports), £51.7m (team sports), £467.9m (individual sports), £227.8m (audience arts), £111.1m (heritage), £24.3m (library) and £60.3m (museum). These are estimates related only to reductions in the use of mental health services. There may be knock-on positive or negative effects that impact on society elsewhere.

11. Ahead of the Spending Review, the LGA is making the case for the wider social and economic benefits of investing in culture and sport.

#### New Chair of UKactive

12. Former Paralympian Baroness Grey-Thomson has been appointed as the new Chair of UKactive. The LGA has been supporting UKactive to organise regional workshops to discuss ways in which the physical activity sector can reduce inactivity levels.

13. Further information at <http://tinyurl.com/oh2ak5g>.

#### £5.4 million Sport England funding to tackle health issues

14. Sixteen schemes across the country, including London Borough of Bexley and Sefton Council have been awarded £5.4 million of National Lottery funding from Sport England in a bid to encourage inactive people to get moving and improve their health.
15. Inactivity also costs the economy £7.4 billion a year and contributes to one in six deaths – the same proportion as smoking. Twenty-eight per cent of people in England, approximately 12.5 million, are currently inactive.

16. Further information at <http://tinyurl.com/q45j4jh>.

#### Disability rights UK launches 'Get Yourself Active' pilots

17. Disability Rights UK have launched a pilot project to increase the number of disabled people using personal budgets to support their care by playing sport or accessing sporting opportunities. The pilots will take place in Cheshire, Leicester and Norfolk.

18. Further information at <http://tinyurl.com/nndjh87>

### **Tourism and the Visitor Economy**

19. A number of visitor surveys have been released in the last month, updating trends on the visitor economy. According to the latest Office for National Statistics International Passenger Survey, nominal spending by overseas visitors to the UK was up by 1% in April 2015 against the same month last year. It was the second highest April spending overall, down 8% against the record set in 2013. Taking a longer term view, spending in the rolling 12 months to April 2015 was on par with the previous 12 months, whereas year to date posted a 7% reduction.
20. The UK welcomed 3.14 million visits in April, 6% more than in the same month last year. Visits were tracking at record levels for the four months to April, having exceeded 10 million for the first time. Visits between May 2014 and April 2015 were 4% higher than during the previous twelve months – again setting a new record.

21. According to the latest Global Destination Cities Index, an estimated 18.82 million international visitors spending £13.15 billion will visit London in 2015. It is the fifth time in seven years that London has topped the Index ahead of Bangkok, Paris and Dubai. London accounts for half of all tourism spend in England and Members have consistently highlighted the importance of using the global pull of the capital to benefit destinations across the country.

## **Heritage**

### Magna Carta

22. The 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta in Runnymede was marked on 15 June 2015 – an event of international, national and local significance. Magna Carta established the fundamental principle that government, including the King, must be subject to the law. It also resonates with the LGA's own campaign to secure greater devolution for councils from central government.
23. The LGA supported the wider engagement of local government in the anniversary and represented councils' interests to the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Committee. The LGA's Magna Carta online resource shared case studies about how councils used the anniversary to help rejuvenate democracy <http://tinyurl.com/n2x2ram>.

### Councils lead VE day 70th anniversary celebrations

24. Councils across the country involved communities in celebrations of the liberation of Europe at the end of the Second World War, with each organising their own festivities across the weekend of 9-10 May as well as observing a national two minutes silence.
25. The LGA's press release is available on the website: <http://tinyurl.com/oueqpof>.

## **Culture and the arts**

### Creative England

26. Following Cllr Stephens' recent meeting with Creative England, they worked with us to publish a new suite of case studies that share how local economies can benefit from film and television shoots. Creative England works with 290 councils and the case studies also cover the brokering role that they can play.
27. Read the case studies at <http://tinyurl.com/pkevrho>.

### £650,000 funding for British Library's Business & IP Centres

28. The British Library is set to achieve national expansion plans for its Business & IP Centres after receiving £400,000 funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government and Arts Council England.

29. The Government pledged £300,000 towards the project with the Arts Council contributing an additional £100,000. The British Library will also make a contribution of £253,000 in cash and non-cash resources.
30. The funding will provide a boost to the British Library's project to "transform" the UK's city libraries into hubs for small businesses and entrepreneurs. It will initially be used to enable Exeter Central Library and Northamptonshire Libraries to pilot a Business & IP Centre service to support local business owners and will also allow the British Library to consolidate its network of centres that are already operational in six cities across the UK – Newcastle, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool and Sheffield.

### **Digital inclusion**

#### LGA's Digital Experts Programme

31. Twenty-seven councils have been successful in securing money from the Digital Experts programme, run by the Local Government Association (LGA). The programme was set up to help councils develop their use of technology by learning from the digital tools and approaches which have already been successfully implemented elsewhere.
32. Further information at <http://tinyurl.com/ojrzaza>