

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 3 March 2015.
- B - Forthcoming meetings.
- C - Latest Chair's Report from Cllr Ian Stephens, to Councillors' Forum.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the report.

Action

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

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A – Report back on Member meetings since the CTS Board on 3 March 2015

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
Cllr Ian Stephens attended the Parliamentary launch of VisitEngland and Creative England report <i>Quantifying the Economic Value of Screen Tourism in England</i> on 10 March 2015		
To represent the LGA at the launch event.	The new study provided evidence that tourists will travel to sites specifically because they have been depicted in feature films and television drama. The best-performing sites attract day-spend value from international visitors of up to £1.6 million annually. Combined with the day-visit value of domestic core screen tourists, the best performing site saw £4.3 million total screen tourism spend annually. International core screen tourism is valued in the range of £100 million-£140 million for the rest of England in 2014. This is considered to be a conservative value.	LGA is working with Creative England on new case studies that share the local economic value of screen tourism and how Creative England can help to broker relationships between councils and production crews.
Cllr Sonja Crisp attended the Tourism Alliance Board and Parliamentary reception on 16 March 2015		
To represent the LGA.	The meeting discussed key issues for the tourism industry. It was also an opportunity to share the LGA's 100 Days offer to the next government and priorities for the first spending review.	Raised awareness of the benefits English devolution can bring to growing the visitor economy.
Cllr David Phillips attended the Local Authority World Heritage Forum and Networking event on 16 March 2015		
To represent the LGA.	Cllr Phillips suggested that for the group to achieve maximum impact with local and national decision-makers, the new charity needs to focus on a small number of key "asks", to demonstrate in an impactful and evidence-based way how World Heritage Sites help to achieve wider political outcomes – from growth to tourism, learning and community engagement, and develop coherent and joined-up communications messages that will help to raise the national profile of the sites.	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.

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee on 18 March 2015		
To represent the LGA.	Cllr Golds reported back on the LGA's annual Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference in Durham 3 – 4 March. The Magna Carta anniversary had a very high profile throughout the two days and there were a number of very successful sessions, including Durham County Council's study tour of the Cathedral and a keynote address from Roly Keating, Chief Executive of The British Library.	Raised awareness about how the LGA is supporting councils to involve communities in marking the Magna Carta anniversary.
Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee on 22 April 2015		
To represent the LGA.	Cllr Golds confirmed that there will be a Magna Carta inspired fringe session at LGA Annual Conference on 1 July. The theme is devolution and rejuvenating democracy. As this event takes place after the big day, it is also an opportunity to reflect on legacy and how councils can help to keep up the momentum on democratic renewal.	LGA continued to promote LiberTeas (14 June) far and wide through LGA social media, e-bulletins and member networks.
Cllr Ian Stephens attended the Libraries Task Force at the LGA on 19 May 2015		
To represent the LGA.	I emphasised the opportunity for the sector-led Task Force to provide timely and practical support for libraries in line with the sector's needs. Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, also attended and confirmed his department's strong support. The meeting developed an action plan about how Task Force Members can help to drive forward the priorities agreed by LGA Members and Ministers.	Raised awareness amongst Task Force Members about the LGA's vision for how it can make the most difference to frontline libraries.

Purpose	Key Points Discussed	Outcome
Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee on 20 May 2015		
To represent the LGA.	Cllr Golds said that the LGA has written to new Ministers, and where appropriate, emphasised the relevance of the Magna Carta anniversary to local government and how we are involving communities to make the most of the opportunity for democratic renewal.	The LGA Chair, Group Leaders and CTS Lead Members have all confirmed their attendance at the Runnymede event on 15 June.
Cllr Ian Stephens met Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, 21 May		
To visit the Isle of Wight and catch-up on national issues.	The meeting was an opportunity to highlight that in the face of continued budget pressures, we need to support and emphasise the significant contribution of sport and physical activity to tackling costly health and social care pressures, including obesity and mental health. I also updated Mr. Bitel on the LGA's campaign to secure fairer funding for grassroots football.	Further strengthened our positive partnership with Sport England.
Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee on 10 June 2015		
To represent the LGA.	This was an opportunity to share final plans for the event in Runnymede on 15 June.	Committee Members updated on the LGA's plans to highlight councils' central role in the anniversary.

B – Forthcoming meetings at the time of writing

Title	Date	Attendees
Society of Chief Librarians' Annual Conference	4-5 June	Cllr Ian Stephens chaired a debate with Darren Henley, Chief Executive Arts Council England, and Pat Ritchie, Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council.

Title	Date	Attendees
Magna Carta event at Runnymede, hosted by Surrey County Council and the National Trust	15 June	Cllrs Ian Stephens, David Burbage, Flick Rea and Peter Golds. (Additionally, the LGA Chair and Group Leaders.)
Leading Learning Programme	16 June	Cllr Flick Rea
Welsh LGA Culture, Sport and Leisure Workshop, Swansea	18 June	Cllr Ian Stephens
Heritage roundtable hosted by Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair Historic England, and including John Whittingdale MP, DCMS Secretary of State, and Tracey Crouch MP, DCMS Sport, Tourism & Heritage Minister.	24 June	Cllr Ian Stephens
LGA Annual Conference, Harrogate	30 June-2 July	Cllr Ian Stephens is chairing a workshop on the creative industries on 1 July
Introductory meeting Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive Historic England	10 July	Cllr Ian Stephens
LGA / Sport England Sport Leadership Essentials Programme	22 –23 July, Roffey Park, Horsham	Cllr Ian Stephens, subject to any further steer from Lead members
LGA / ACE Libraries Seminar	15 September	Cllr Ian Stephens, subject to any further steer from Lead members
LGA / ACE Culture Leadership Essentials Programme	3 -4 November, Scarman House, Coventry	Cllr Ian Stephens, subject to any further steer from Lead members
LGA / ACE Culture Leadership Essentials Programme	2 -3 December, Scarman House, Coventry	Cllr Ian Stephens, subject to any further steer from Lead members

C - Chair's Report from Cllr Ian Stephens, to Councillors' Forum, 11 June 2015

New Government

1. The new Government will need to work closely with councils to achieve its manifesto commitments for culture, tourism and sport. A number of CTS Board priorities are reflected in the manifesto, including supporting libraries, investing in grassroots football, school sport, promoting tourism, building on the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, and growing the creative industries. The Board will work to ensure that Ministers deliver their commitments and that national policy reinforces and supports the locally-led nature of much of this agenda and LGA priorities. The Board will take this forward in partnership with the LGA Chair, Leadership Board, and other relevant policy boards.
2. I have written to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Ministerial Team to welcome new and returning Ministers and to set out how we can work in partnership to deliver shared policy goals. In particular, I emphasised the significant impact further cuts to local government funding will have on local culture and sport provision, and that this will also impact negatively on other policy areas including health, social care and economic growth. I highlighted the strong partnerships between LGA and the DCMS national agencies and the importance of continuing to support effective local political leadership by seeking out and sharing good practice.

Libraries for Leadership Task Force

3. I attended the second meeting of the Libraries for Leadership Task Force on 19 May. The Task Force, which is jointly accountable to LGA Members and Ministers, was set up earlier this year to implement the recommendations from William Sieghart's Independent Review of Public Libraries. As well as local government chief executives, the Task Force brings together The Reading Agency, Society of Chief Librarians, BBC, British Library, Public Health England and others to support locally-led transformation. I emphasised the opportunity for the Task Force to provide timely and practical support for libraries in line with the sector's needs. Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, also attended the Task Force and confirmed his department's strong support.
4. Paul Blantern, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council and Chair of the Task Force, updated on progress against the priorities agreed by LGA Members and Ministers: rolling out Wi-Fi to more libraries, supporting sector-led best practice, raising awareness about the contribution of libraries to wider community outcomes and workforce development. In particular, £7.4 million has been secured to fund the rollout of Wi-Fi to public libraries not already connected.
5. Prior to the Task Force, Paul Blantern met Culture, Tourism and Sport Lead Members.

Magna Carta

6. Cllr Peter Golds attended the Magna Carta 800th Committee on 21 April and 20 May. As preparations enter the final phase, the LGA has continued to promote the LiberTeas event on 14 June far and wide through LGA social media, e-bulletins and member networks. Where appropriate, the LGA's letters to new Ministers emphasised the relevance of the Magna Carta anniversary to local government and how we are involving communities to make the most of the opportunity for democratic renewal. We have confirmed a Magna Carta inspired fringe session at LGA Annual Conference on 1 July and this will be an opportunity to reflect on legacy and how councils can keep up the momentum on civic engagement. CTS Lead Members, the LGA Chair and LGA Group Leaders are attending the national commemoration in Runnymede on 15 June.

Sport and Physical Activity

7. I was delighted to welcome Nick Bitel, Chair of Sport England, to the Isle of Wight on 21 May. The meeting was an opportunity to further strengthen our positive partnership. I highlighted that in the face of continued budget pressures, we need to support and emphasise the significant contribution of sport and physical activity to tackling costly health and social care pressures, including obesity and mental health. I also updated Nick on the LGA's campaign to secure fairer funding for grassroots football.

Visitor Economy

8. The LGA has responded to VisitEngland's consultation on updating its growth strategy. The visitor economy is one of this country's fastest growing economic sectors and councils play a leading role maximising its growth potential. We welcomed the enhancements to VisitEngland's role that will follow the Triennial Review and said that the revised strategy must take account of devolution and the fundamental changes to English governance. Decisions about how to support the visitor economy must be taken locally and councils are best placed to coordinate the work of destination management organisations, Local Enterprise Partnerships, local Chambers of Commerce and others with an interest in the visitor economy.

2015/16 Culture, Tourism and Sport Improvement Offer

9. I am delighted to confirm that once again Sport England and Arts Council England are funding a comprehensive sector-led leadership offer for sport and culture portfolio holders. We will deliver six leadership events and three peer challenges between July and the end of March 2016, with the aim of supporting over 150 portfolio holders to lead transformational change.