**The Value of Culture**

**Purpose of report**

For discussion.

**Summary**

The Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport gave a keynote speech on the Value of Culture on 23 January 2014 at the British Library. The key points were:

1. The Secretary of State talked about the ability of culture to shape our national identity and impact on our global reputation.
2. The Secretary of State also mentioned that a strong cultural sector within a strong Britain benefits us all socially and economically and that the Spending Review settlement was significantly better for culture than most other areas of Government expenditure outside of healthcare.
3. She also emphasised the importance of the arts in education and stated her belief that it should remain a core component of the curriculum.
4. You can read a transcript of the speech [here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/culture-secretary-maria-miller-keynote-arts-and-culture-speech) In response to the speech, Cllr Rea wrote to the Secretary of State to highlight that councils value culture for different reasons and are continuing to invest in, innovate and support this country’s rich cultural offer.

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| **Recommendation**  Members are asked to note the report.  **Action**  Officers to action as appropriate. |

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