

Note of last Culture, Tourism & Sport Board meeting

Title:	Culture, Tourism & Sport Board
Date:	Tuesday 1 December 2015
Venue:	Rathbone Rooms 1&2, 7th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome and Declaration of Members' Interests The Chair welcomed members to the Board meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Tom Fitzpatrick and Faye Abbott. Cllr Richard Henry substituted for Cllr Faye Abbott. There were no declarations of interest.	
2	VisitEngland - A new direction Viscountess Penelope Cobham CBE, Chairman of VisitEngland, and James Berresford, Chief Executive of VisitEngland presented to the Board. Viscountess Penelope Cobham began by praising the years of fruitful collaboration between VisitEngland and the Board. James Berresford highlighted the benefits of the visitor economy to England. He pointed out that tourism in England generates £6bn per annum and creates a variety of careers at all skill levels. He noted the regional spread of the tourist trade, which touches all parts of England. Mr. Berresford highlighted two areas he felt needed to be addressed in order to create sustainable growth of the tourism trade in England. First, further research into the principal motivations spurring peoples' decisions to visit certain places. Second, smarter infrastructure investment, particularly in terms of ensuring that rail and road investment supports a wider strategy to grow the visitor economy. Mr. Berresford finished by noting that the Discover England Fund, which is £40m of funding per year for three years, came out of the Spending Review and he will share more information about this fund with the Board as it emerges. Board members were interested in why London attracts more tourists than other areas and whether VisitEngland could promote a more even regional	

spread of tourism. They highlighted the fact that some parts of the country are harder to access by public transport. More generally, Board members thought that devolution deals were an opportunity to bring additional focus to local tourism strategies.

Members expressed concern about the proposed changes to VisitEngland and VisitBritain and were keen to ensure that English destinations continued to have a strong voice in any new governance arrangements.

Action

Lead members will send a letter to John Whittingdale OBE MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, in response to the recent announcement about VisitEngland and VisitBritain.

3 Update on the Government's Sport Strategy and Towards a New Sport England Strategy

The Chair noted the LGA's strong partnership with Sport England, especially our joint events for portfolio holders, and the valuable tools and advice that Sport England offers councils.

Mike Diaper, Executive Director Community Sport, Sport England, updated the Board on plans to refresh Sport England's strategy in the light of the Government's imminent new sports strategy.

He began by noting that Sport England expects to widen its remit to include other forms of activity and for there to be greater emphasis on promoting sport for its health, economic and social cohesion benefits.

Mr. Diaper highlighted that the number of people playing sport in England has increased in recent years, but 25.2m people are inactive, and 12.8m are totally inactive, meaning that they walk for less than 30 minutes a week. He emphasised that large numbers of people move between these groups over time. Mr. Diaper noted the importance of the EAST principles (Easy, Attractive, Social, Timely) at the core of their approach.

Board members were keen for further information on why participation rates have dropped in a number of sports. They identified the greater use of local school facilities as a promising way to allow for more activities without prohibitive increases in councils' costs. Members expressed concern over the lack of funding for grassroots sports by national bodies with high profits. They also identified neighbourhood plans as a possible way to use existing funding streams to facilitate healthier lifestyles.

Focussing on Sport England, members asked if the application process for capital spending could be simplified so that social enterprises can apply with greater ease. They also asked for further information on the types of interventions that are most likely to succeed in boosting sports participation.

Members asked about membership of the Sport England Board and Mr. Diaper said this was a public appointments process decided by the

Culture, Media and Sport Secretary of State.

Action

Members' key points to be reflected in the LGA's response to the forthcoming Sport England consultation.

4 Spending Review and Early Implications for Culture, Tourism & Sport

The Chair invited Board members to discuss the Spending Review and its possible implications for culture, tourism and sport. He noted that the LGA's *On the Day Briefing* was circulated to members on 25 November 2015.

The Board welcomed the relatively positive national settlement for culture, tourism and sport but highlighted that council services will be under significant pressure.

5 Update on The Leadership for Libraries Taskforce - Cllr Ian Stephens, oral update

The Chair provided the Board with an update on the work of the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce.

He informed members that, following their steer, he sent a letter to Ed Vaizey MP, Culture Minister, outlining the Board's views on next steps for the Taskforce.

The Chair noted that the Spending Review allocated up to a further four years of funding to the Taskforce. He invited members to discuss how the Taskforce's activities might best support the work of councils over this period.

The Board noted the update.

6 Heritage and Landscape - Cllr Barry Lewis, oral update

Cllr Barry Lewis updated the Board on the latest heritage and landscape issues facing local authorities.

He noted that, although the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has many advantages over previous planning legislation, its implementation might pose some risks to the preservation of built landscapes and heritage landscapes. In particular, there is a possible conflict between local authorities meeting their housing plans while at the same time preserving ancient monuments, national parks and other important landscapes that may be statutory.

Cllr Lewis also identified a risk in the way that new neighbourhood plans might deal with cultural heritage. He thought it crucial that local authorities get advice from the right national bodies on such matters, for example

Historic England.

Board members welcomed the update. The Chair notified the Board that he recently met with Quinton Carroll, Chair of the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), and Board members expressed an interest in inviting him to attend a future Board meeting.

Decision

Board members **agreed** to discuss the issues raised at the 25 February Board in Leicester.

Action

Officers to invite Quinton Carroll to attend the Board on 25 February.

7 Update on CTS Annual Conference

A number of Board members expressed concern that their council budget meetings clashed with the scheduled timing of the next Culture, Tourism and Sport Board meeting on the first day of the Conference in Leicester.

Cllr David Burbage proposed a vote to move the timing of the Board meeting to the lunch break on the second day of the Conference. Cllr Stewart Golton seconded the motion.

The Board voted by a show of hands. The result was:

- 9 in favour of the new proposed timing for the next CTS Board meeting
- 0 against

Decision

The Board **agreed** to move the timing of the next CTS Board meeting from 4.30 – 6.30pm on Wednesday 24 February 2016 to 12.50 – 1.50pm on Thursday 25 February 2016.

8 Outside Bodies

The Board noted members' activities on outside bodies since the last Board meeting and the forthcoming meetings in members' diaries.

Cllr David Burbage informed the Board that the Conservative group would like to appoint one of its members to the Tourism Alliance for the 2015/16 cycle. The Chair proposed a vote on the matter.

The Board voted by a show of hands. The result was:

- 9 in favour of the Conservative group appointing one of their members to the Tourism Alliance
- 0 against

Decision

The Board **agreed** that the Conservative group will appoint one of its members to the Tourism Alliance for the 2015/16 cycle.

Action

Lead members to agree on which specific councillors will represent the Board on outside bodies for the 2015/16 cycle and submit this to the next Board meeting for approval.

9 Minutes from the Last Meeting and Updated Work Programme

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015 were **agreed** as an accurate record.

10 Any Other Business

The Chair thanked officers and members for their work.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Mike Bell	North Somerset Council
Members	Cllr Peter Golds OBE	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
	Cllr Greg Smith	Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council
	Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Colin Organ	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Terry O'Neill	Warrington Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
	Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Geoff Knight	Lancaster City Council
	Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
	Vacancy	
Apologies	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Barrie Grunewald	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Faye Abbott	Coventry City Council