

Notes of London Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Meeting
6 December 2011 at London Councils

Present:

Toni Ainge (Bexley) chair, Sue Thiedeman (Secretary) Ian McNichol (Harrow), Dianna Neal (London Councils), Simon Gardener (Enfield), Hilary Renwick (LB Lewisham), Sue Appleton (Sport England) Fiona Dean (Camden) Jenny Isaac (Brent) Rosemary Doyle (Islington) Cate Caniffe (ACE) Moira Sinclair (ACE) Brian Woodcock (Hackney) Simon Parkinson (Havering) Margaret Jackson (City)

1. Moira Sinclair London Executive Director ACE:

ACE role is changing, in total there is more resource and more responsibility as ACE takes over part of MLA responsibility and also music education.. Cate Canniffe is the key Director for Local Government in London.. The ten year strategy, "Great Art for Everyone", now also reflects Museums and Libraries. Arising from this there will be a three year plan for London which will be published in the spring of 2012 and this will set out the priorities for London. These are likely to be:

- Outer London Boroughs - in partnership with the Mayor
- East London Investment - particularly the Olympic legacy
- Touring - in particular reaching under represented areas of London and going out of London. Also looking to establish long term relationships.
- Community Engagement - dedicated funds eg for the Active People Dataset. A bridge organisation "A New Direction" is being funded to improve access for Children and Young People across London.
- Civic Spaces and Cultural Buildings – to support and develop the widening of the cultural footprint

Questions and comments

IM: Museums and Libraries are not the same; libraries are very different from other areas that ACE deals with.

MS There are many areas that cut across, such as CYP, Leadership and Talent, ACE is already involved with literacy and reading. Ace has senior officers and relationship managers in place, some of whom have MLA background, eg Nicky Morgan, Kirsten Gibbs, Emma Whiting and Headley Swain.

ACE may conduct a "Public Value Exercise" for libraries, to begin to look at long term needs.

Film , Archives and Heritage sit outside ACE

IM Will ACE contribute to the DCMS select committee on libraries?

MS Yes, but It is not ACE's remit to get involved in specifics. ACE has a strategic role and needs to focus on what a library service should look like in the 21st Century.

FD In many Councils Libraries are not within cultural services, but have much stronger links with customer information and access

SP How much will ACE support consortia, partnerships and trust models?

MS ACE will help to broker relationships and use its resources effectively, eg ACE funded partnerships such as Stratford Rising in East London, supporting the coordinator to build links into different organisations. ACE will take a strategic approach and support a range of organisations to focus on “Hard to Reach” areas demonstrating low cultural infrastructure and engagement

ACE has a good track record of cross sector funding. The successor to the Future Libraries Programme is shortly to be announced.

SP Are there plans to generate new funding through large scale endowments? Will this favour a few big organisations?

MS Large scale match funding will realistically be focussed on a few larger organisations. The gearing ratio will be 1:1 or 1:3. An effective business model and resources need to be in place and the organisations need to demonstrate that they have both capacity and capability within the organisation and board. In addition ACE will support fund raising capacity building and also small scale consortia approaches, eg 10 galleries are working together in SE London to support

IM The future of Library services still needs to be shaped, eg Harrow is in the early stages of a three borough initiative with Brent and Ealing.

RD Some of these discussions have started to happen , SCL has been scenario planning, Nicky Morgan attended on behalf of ACE

TA The sector needs to come up with solutions, there has been a culture shift in people’s expectations and there will be another spending round in 2013, with imminent elections the full impact of this is likely to be from 2014, we need to plan for change.

MS There will be real benefit in conducting a “Public Value” exercise, expert witnesses will be needed from the sector, ACE is more interested in outcomes than processes.

Save Our Libraries Campaign has produced a London wide map , which provides useful insight and CILLIP is currently conducting a survey

2. DCMS Select Committee into Library Closures

As Previously stated ACE will do a response, ML will co ordinate response for CLOA. DN will co ordinate for London Councils, but this is subject to political decision within London Councils

3. The Role of Cultural Services in public Health

Item deferred to March meeting

Funding available for Childhood Obesity via GLA Health Improvement Board, Richard Barker from Westminster is on the board

March CLOA Meeting to have a health focus

4. Borough Updates (Olympic Focus)

Enfield: The only growth item in the budget is £200K investment in Olympic Legacy and festival. There is currently a lot of planning underway to cope with practicalities, such as waste management, torch relay etc.

Havering: Very positive, cuts are only 10%, and there are strong lead Members. All the detailed panning is underway. Havering has a campsite for the Olympics

Harrow : Reducing staff, particularly in libraries, “Tri Borough initiative being investigated for libraries. Strong Member support for cultural services.

Camden: is a major transport hub for the Olympics and there has been significant additional funding for waste management etc. "Look and Feel " is a proving very challenging and is taking a disproportionate amount of resource. Three libraries are closing, and bids are being received from community organisations to run them. Planning has been approved for a new Hub – leisure centre and library at Kings Cross

Islington: Transport and waste management has been the main focus of Olympic planning, as well as the torch relay. Islington has a Volleyball training centre and the Jamaican and C republic teams will be based in Islington. There will be no library closures. But a 16% budget cut, which will mean reduced opening hours

Hackney 2012- 2013 budget is secure. Olympic focus is on building legacy, participation and celebration in collaboration with the other Olympic boroughs. Hackney Marshes is being used as a car park and will need significant reinstatement. Japanese women's team may be based in Hackney and the US Tai Kwon-Do team.

City of London The service has been restructured into a new Culture, Heritage and Libraries department. An Olympic resourcing plan has been developed to deploy staff for July , August and September and planning is underway for dealing with transport issues and waste management etc. 150 staff volunteers will act as city guides at strategic points and will advocate for the City's cultural offer, eg Guildhall Art Gallery, Museum and events programme etc. Tower Bridge might have the Olympic rings and there will be an Olympic exhibition. There is also a fireworks spectacular in conjunction with the GLA. It is possible that the tourist numbers will be down overall as there is a main Olympic focus.

Lewisham has established a "Preparedness Forum", along the lines of business continuity. The Look and Feel Festival and the Torch relay is proving problematic and time consuming, Lewisham have the last mile of the torch relay and a big screen on Blackheath with a 17 day festival during the event. Community libraries are now asset transferred 5 sites with 5 different organisations. Performance has increased and opening hours extended. New pool at Forest Hill is opening in July 2012 and Lewisham Town Centre planned for 2013. There have been 25% cuts to services, but the voluntary sector has been protected.

Brent is hosting 3 Olympic events, men and women's football and rhythmic gymnastics . Staff are banned from taking holiday from June to September. English National Ballet tour will be in Brent as part of the Big Dance. . An exhibition has been organised on Wembley Road linking to the 1948 Olympics. Taster sessions have been organised in every Olympic sport. Libraries reduced to 6 with 7 day opening and 2 new libraries / cultural hubs planned for 2014 for Wembley and Willesden.

Bexley Same issues as everyone else for the Olympics - and in addition the borough is hosting one of the 6 london evening celebrations, which is proving challenging.. A £5m gymnastics and multisport venue ('Europa') has been funded through a combination of ODA, SE and section 106 money. Shared libraries management and back office with Bromley has saved £800K, the project was delivered 3 months early. 1 Library will be transferred to community management, Trust options may be considered going forward.

5. Standing Items

Notes of September Meeting



CLOA NOTES 20
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Update from National CLOA and NCF

CLOA is developing a new website

Although there were calls from CLOA for case studies in relation to Crime and ASB intervention projects,

there was no response from London Boroughs, so there will be no evidence from London in the publication.

NCF ADUK will be taking on the admin function for NCF, which has now got a total of 9 organisations confirmed as members. It will meet 4 times a year at DCMS with one of the DCMS directors in attendance. IV will ask for nominations to the chair at an appropriate time

Cultural Agencies Written Report

No report has been produced this time, ACE will coordinate in future

SE is organising workshops on its new strategy; JB has sent emails round offering places.

A Member event has been organised with the Local Government Group for the end of January 2012.

Active People survey results will be released this week

AOB

Culture First (East Region's Culture and Sport Improvement Group) is setting itself up as a Social Enterprise

DONM

6 March 2012 London Councils ,2- 4pm

18 June 2012 TBC ,2-4 pm

6 November 2012 London Councils, 2-4pm