

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date:	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020
Place:	Virtual via Microsoft teams
Times:	0930 – 1200
Participants:	CLOA Executive – Val Birchall, Alison Hibbert, Caroline O' Neill, Chris Holliday, Debbie Kaye, Ian Brooke, Iain Varah, Ian Jones, Ishbel Murray, Jane Wilson, Jayne Knight, Mark Allman, , Nigel Lynn, Polly Hamilton, Stefania Horne, Sue Thiedeman, Symon Easton, Tony Witton, Vincent Paliczka, CLOA Business Manager – Heidi Bellamy LGA Observer – Ian Leete
Apologies:	John Wileman, Julie Russell, Matt Partridge

	Item	Relevant business considered, facts noted, decisions taken and
	Description	actions agreed
1	Minutes &	Minutes of meeting 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020 were circulated in advance of
	matters arising	the meeting and agreed as an accurate record.
		Work to further explore 'cold spots' started, with some Executive
		Members contributing local knowledge. However, this has paused
		due to limited capacity during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.
2	Covid-19 –	Executive Members were invited to contribute thinking in advance of
	Impact on the	the meeting via the Executive LinkedIn Forum around the following
	sector	points:
		Key issues for service delivery and any replicable
		solutions/adaptations
		Unintended consequences arising
		Priorities immediate and moving forwards
		•Requests – this may be that CLOA highlight specific problems to
		other bodies, help identify support, undertake collective action
		A separate document is available that captures these comments.
		CLOA is engaging in the National conversation through the Local
		Government Physical Activity Partnership (LGPAP), which is meeting
		weekly to discuss the practical implications and is beginning to think
		about co-ordinating actions around remobilisation and how to
		reposition for the future.
		IB – Chairs this group and acknowledged that there is 'reduced

bandwidth' to think about the future amongst LA's, as many are focused on managing emergency responses. ukactive have recently been invited to join the conversation and the notes of the meetings can be found in the <a href="Executive LinkedIn Forum">Executive LinkedIn Forum</a>. Sport England has put together a framework of consultants to help, which may enable the LGPAP group to do something collaboratively.

CLOA are also engaging in the national debate for Culture via the LGA & Partners/ACE Covid-19 group, which includes CLUK, Core Cities, Key Cities, NCVO and Rural Services Network. The focus of the group is to consider the impact of the central government response to the arts, museums, libraries and heritage sectors and make recommendations for policy.

VB – has posted updates about this group in the Executive LinkedIn Forum and would welcome any observations or recommendations. JW – noted that Let's Create, the ACE 10 year plan focused on everyday engagement, however their emergency fund is focused on supporting those that have previously been publicly funded and are already plugged into the ACE system, missing out significant parts of the sector and opening up a gap in support.

## Action – VB to raise this at the next meeting of the LGA & Partners/ACE Covid-19 group

IL – advised that the LGA has written to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Oliver Dowden to raise concerns about the future survival of the leisure sector.

https://www.local.gov.uk/future-survival-leisure-sector

Focus for LGA is on supporting gaps across the CTS sectors. Trying to establish an advocacy structure for recovery, which will initially be around the economy, but will also be seeking to influence around the communities agenda. Council Leaders have been clear that this isn't about resuming normality, but valuing the things that we are able to do, so Parks & Open Spaces have moved to the top of the agenda. The LGA CTS has also set up a coronavirus hub

https://local.gov.uk/our-support/coronavirus-information-councils/covid-19-culture-tourism-leisure-and-sports

The discussion moved onto recovery planning, what will an incremental reopening involve, what support is required?

DK – highlighted the need to think about what communities need and want and repurpose services in response with the resources available. It isn't viable to expect LA's/Government to infill everything.

Also felt that a National position was required for those client LA's; offering to support commercial contractors in isolation isn't necessarily going to save them.

PH- heading up managing the deceased for Rotherham has

highlighted how important memorialising people lost and celebrating the key workers contribution will be in recovery planning. Enabling people to get active, creative and go outdoors is important. However, people resorting to their own creativity has featured highly on social media alongside venues and individual artists sharing digitally. It has created opportunities and raised the profile beyond access to physical spaces, i.e. theatre in Rotherham holds 350 people, but a recent live stream comedy even reached over 3000 and raised money. This demonstrates the need to provide an alternative offer. MA – suggested that a position statement from CLOA setting out a leadership vision, the challenges and providing guidance/examples around where the sector needs to go. This would help with advocacy in advance of an inevitable reduction in resources. VB - agreed that setting out the important role of culture and leisure to health and wellbeing, community cohesion and rebooting local economies is key. It was agreed that a small working group comprising of VB, MA, IB, SE and JW would pull together a draft document. SH agreed to input on Parks & Open Spaces, TW offered to add content regarding the Creative Industries and CO'N to add a Wales dimension. Other Executive Members would then be invited to contribute content. Action – VB to lead the development of a position statement outlining the role of culture and sport in recovery. Action – HB to collate evidence to inform a draft response to the DCMS enquiry. 3 AGM HB – had circulated a draft programme for consideration in advance of the meeting and advised that initial conversations with speakers and the venue regarding potential postponement of the event had already been undertaken. This prompted a discussion regarding postponement. In the constitution it is stated that: 12.1 An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held before the 1st September each year, except where in exceptional and unavoidable circumstances a reasonable extension to this is agreed by the Executive Committee. There were some differing opinions regarding this issue and, after some debate, it was agreed that a virtual AGM would be held as planned on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to meet the constitutional requirements with a conference convened later in the year, circumstances allowing, to bring members together and build on recovery best practice. HB – advised that for the AGM to be quorate a minimum of 25 members need to take part. The Executive felt that we should take the opportunity to use the Chairs Report to update members what CLOA has been doing for the sector re. Covid-19. A further incentive to join online would be to

		invite an inspirational speaker to give a short address or present a
		paper relevant to the local government sector.
		Action – HB to progress planning for a virtual AGM and seek input
		from an inspirational speaker
		Action – Executive Members to safeguard 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 20 in their
		diaries and, where there is a Corporate membership in place,
		encourage other CLOA members to participate.
		Action - As the AGM will go ahead as planned on 23 <sup>rd</sup> June, requests
		for nominations will be issued on 12 <sup>th</sup> May.
4	Review draft	HB – circulated a draft budget in advance of the meeting and
	budget for	highlighted that: Pitchbooking have decided that in the current
	20/21 - 1140	circumstances they are unable to renew as Associate sponsors and
		Morgan Sindall was going to be a new sponsor from 1 <sup>st</sup> May, but they
		have 'paused' until post-Covid.
		VP – led a conversation regarding whether, due to the potential
		impact of Covid-19 on membership levels, we need to revise the
		Membership Fees estimate. This would lead to a deficit budget
		projection and impact on the reserves.
		It was agreed that some membership attrition was inevitable and that
		the draft budget would be revised based on a loss of 25% of
		membership income.
		Action - HB to liaise with Annelli Bryant, Finance Manager regarding
		a revised budget.
	Membership	The Executive also considered the issue of timing for membership
	renewals	renewals, which would under normal circumstances have been sent
		out w/b 6 <sup>th</sup> April.
		HB – informed the Executive that several LA's have already issued
		PO's without these being requested as their Councils have instructed that small suppliers should not be adversely affected.
		NL –advised that severe financial cutbacks would follow as LA's
		income from car parking, property and leisure has been lost. The true
		extent of the moratorium on spending is not likely to be evident until
		the next financial year, with subscription budgets and discretionary
		services at risk.
		CLOA has been in discussions with Sport England regarding the
		implications of a potential loss of members and actual loss of
		sponsorship. They have devised a Sector Partner Fund; however it
		focuses largely on 'immediate financial distress for organisations with
		a risk of ceasing operations due to the ongoing crisis.' CLOA are not
		currently in this position.
		It was agreed to start issuing renewal notices along with a
		communications message about the importance of leisure/culture
		and collective support and action through CLOA.
		Action - HB to respond to Sport England to advise that we can't
		currently demonstrate 'immediate financial distress', but may wish
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		to be considered at a later point.  Action – HB to instruct Annelli Bryant to begin issuing renewal notifications  Action – VB to draft a short message to members for incorporation in renewal
5	A.O.B	HB advised that two CLOA affiliated events had needed to be
	Events cancelled	cancelled - Maximizing the benefits from your leisure centres and
		Navigating Local Systems evaluation.
		SH – queried whether the former event could be delivered virtually.
		Action - DK to liaise with IB regarding the potential, however Covid-
		19 has had a dramatic impact on the proposed content for the event.
	Dates of next	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020, AGM virtually via Microsoft Teams
	Executive	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 Arts Council England Offices, London
	meetings	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 The National Archives, Kew
		Wednesday 21st April 2021 The Hepworth, Wakefield