

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date:	Thursday 10 April 2025
Place:	LGA offices 18 Smith Square, Westminster, London, SW1P 3HZ
Times:	1115 – 1245
Participants:	CLOA Executive – Bobsie Robinson, Debbie Kaye, Donna Pentelow, Hagan Lewisman, Jonathan Cochrane, Julie Russell, Nigel Lynn, Paula Redway, Penny Greenwood-Pearsons, Thorsten Dreyer, Vincent Paliczka, Val Birchall, Ullash Karia CLOA Business Manager – Heidi Bellamy LGA Observer – Ian Leete
Apologies:	CLOA Executive – Caroline O’ Neill, Iain Varah, Ian Jones, Jon Finch, Mark Allman, Robert Campbell, Zsuzsi Lindsay

	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, decisions taken and actions agreed
1	Minutes & matters arising	The minutes of the meeting 30 January 25 were reviewed and agreed to be an accurate record. In advance of the AGM NL and DK advised that this would be their last meeting. JR voiced thanks to Nigel Lynn for 30 years on the Executive and all the work undertaken to connect CLOA with national bodies and act in advocacy at CEX level. Also, to Debbie Kaye, who has served on the Executive Committee since 2013 and provided a super handover to HL on all things aquatics. Both Nigel and Debbie have been Chair of CLOA during their respective periods of service.
2	Task & Finish group	VP – shared feedback from the initial meeting of the Task & Finish group reviewing membership price and future structure. It had been a wide ranging discussion that compared CLOA subscription and benefits with other membership bodies. An internal review of the CLOA offer was last undertaken in 2016 and there was support amongst the group for investment into commissioning an external review of the benefits that CLOA offers , which of these members rate most highly, what they would welcome more of/or as an alternative, in terms of support. The research might also explore why some councils decide not to join despite being offered a 3 month free trial.

	Draft Budget 25/26	<p>In terms of subscription charge – an increase of £10 for Individuals and £30 for Corporates took effect from April 23. There was considerable discussion amongst the Executive about whether or not to increase the subscription, and it was agreed that it would be preferable to have this as part of the review.</p> <p>Action – Task & Finish Group to meet again to develop a brief for this review.</p> <p>Uptake of membership in Wales remains low. IJ had previously advised the Task & Finish Group that Welsh officers get sufficient information and connection from Chief Leisure Officers Wales meetings. However, it was mooted that there is potential to disband CLOW and direct officers towards CLOA membership, then set up a Wales regional group with some funding devolved to allow for meetings.</p> <p>Action – IJ & C O’N to have exploratory conversations with colleagues across Wales.</p> <p>HB - advised that provision already exists for the Mayoral Combined Authorities to join as Corporate members (as per Greater London Authority)</p> <p>Action – HB to target Mayoral Authorities with 3 month free trial offer.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that roundtables are no longer taking place as frequently, due to limited capacity amongst the Executive to input into theme development and hosting.</p> <p>To help support roundtable development VP recommended that CLOA set aside £2,000 in the budget for some expert speakers, and/or research to inform content.</p> <p>The Task & Finish Group conversation also highlighted an opportunity to work more closely with Community Leisure UK on events and training to provide enhanced benefits for our members and make best use of resources/capacity, as there are many topics that are of common interest.</p> <p>Action - IV (VC of CLUK) volunteered to have an informal conversation with Kirsty Cumming and the Board.</p> <p>NL – suggested that alongside virtual roundtables, more physical meetings for members in settings of interest might be welcomed.</p> <p>PR – suggested investigating the interest in and viability of setting up a CLOA members WhatsApp group.</p> <p>IL – advised that there is an existing scheme for alumni of the Sport England/LGA Leadership Group. However, JC found the level of activity to be burdensome.</p> <p>A draft budget for 25/26 was circulated in advance of the meeting. VP - talked through the budget projection, which is based on a reduction in Individual membership and a slight increase in Corporate and income from four sponsors.</p>
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3	Draft AGM programme	<p>JR – introduced the draft programme for the AGM, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, detailing the keynote speakers who have all now been secured to talk about ‘The role of culture, creativity and active wellbeing in supporting community cohesion’.</p> <p>Sunder Katwala, Director at British Future has agreed to speak to CLOA members about ‘How arts and creativity can help build more cohesive communities’ drawing on the report Creating Connections and research that has been done on the role of the creative arts in helping to build social connection and community cohesion.</p> <p>Action – JR to organise to meet with Sunder Katwala for an initial discussion.</p> <p>We have also secured Sally Lloyd-Evans & Alice Mpofo-Coles, from the University of Reading, who will be talking about ‘Communities, culture and cohesion: using participatory action research to tackle social inequalities in Berkshire’.</p> <p>Invitations have also been sent to the Culture secretary Lisa Nandy (who has subsequently sent apologies) also Children’s Commissioner Dame Rachel de Souza and Baroness Thangam Debbonaire – as yet no responses have been received.</p> <p>HB – suggested that it may be advantageous to identify someone who can speak on the topic from the perspective of Active Wellbeing?</p> <p>The Executive suggested the following potential keynote speakers.</p> <p>Professor Chris Whitty</p> <p>Cllr Jane Ashworth Leader of Stoke-on-Trent City Council or Tanni-Grey Thompson</p> <p>Dr Justin Varney-Bennett, Regional Director of Public Health for NHS England – South West</p> <p>Sir Gareth Southgate (spoke out about the ‘manosphere’ during the Richard Dimbleby Lecture) PGP knows his parents and can make contact.</p> <p>Baroness Sue Campbell brought together sport coaching and transformed PE, Director of women’s’ football in FA.</p>

		<p>Sarah Massey Managing Director of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025</p> <p>Action – HB to chase outstanding speaker invitations.</p> <p>Action – JR to consider additional speakers to approach from those suggested.</p> <p>Additional content aligned to the theme will be secured by issuing a call to the membership for examples of they are working with partners and across systems and convening networks to build social connection.</p> <p>Action – HB to issue call out on 15 April 25.</p>
4	Roundtable programme	<p>HB – advised that currently no roundtables are in the planning stage. There will be a webinar focused on updates to Moving Communities (social value calculator) for CLOA members to attend on 7 May, PGP is leading on this. It is likely to be a combined event with LGA.</p> <p>Action – PGP to liaise with HB regarding promotion of the webinar.</p> <p>However, there is a members networking meeting scheduled for straight after the Executive meeting and 43 people have registered to attend. There is also a series of 3 informal meetings to find out more about join the Executive coming up.</p> <p>Monday 28 April hosted by CLOA Chair, Julie Russell (5 people booked)</p> <p>Monday 12 May hosted by CLOA Chair, Julie Russell (3 people booked)</p> <p>This year there will also be a specific session held for London members</p> <p>Wednesday 14 May hosted by Thorsten Dreyer (1 person booked).</p> <p>DP - LGR/Devolution would be a useful topic for future, should these be separated and who would bring the experience? Is it more of a sharing of challenges/lessons learned from previous LGR (i.e. Durham and Buckinghamshire) to illustrate how it impacted on the sector?</p> <p>Supporting members moving into new governance models, for example North Yorkshire brought their five leisure services in one. Cumberland and Northamptonshire given as other examples. This might include a cases study on a mayoral authority.</p> <p>It was agreed that an event focused on this topic would benefit from being co-designed with LGA as they have significant in-house expertise.</p> <p>Action – HB to liaise with IL regarding the potential for a collaborative event.</p> <p>VB – Suggested Cultural Education as a topic, give that a new national centre for arts and music education is planned. Speakers might include DfE, representatives of the coalition that developed Creative Education Manifesto, and the Cultural Learning Alliance.</p> <p>TD – noted that the new visitor economy strategy is being launched later this year and we might construct an event around this that includes speakers from the creative industries and the night time economy (linked to the review of licencing)</p> <p>Action – sub-groups to review plans and formulate priorities for topics.</p>
5	LGA update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGA has commissioned Belong: The cohesion and integration network to work with five areas that experienced disorder last Summer, and five areas that did not, to explore whether culture

		<p>and sport services provided a protective factor, and if they are being used differently afterwards. A report will be published in June 25 to share learning from the disorder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGA CTS Board is meeting the ACE review team in June. • The report on supporting young people to be active is nearing completion, with a report specifically on how children in care are being supported to follow in June. The next deep dive to launch shortly will be on supporting disabled people to be active. • At the LGA annual conference the CTS team will have an opportunity to profile culture and sport on improving pride in place. The theme will align to the Culture Secretary's aim to position government as a positive influence on people's lives. The LGA's CTS conference will take place on 10/11 September in Bradford, to coincide with City of Culture; booking opening shortly. • The LGA has a funding bid in for some work, in partnership with the National Alliance for Cultural Services, to refresh the creative industries guide for combined authorities. This will build on learning from their role over the past few years, but also explore in more depth the nature of subsidiarity and which type of support is best delivered by which layer of government, and where particular strengths lie with each tier. This will be accompanied by a set of top tips for service areas, building on learning from areas that have undergone reorganisation, including service models, procurement and rationalisation opportunities and risks, and mistakes from previous reorganisations.
6	<p>A.O.B Swimming Alliance</p> <p>Timetable & Process for Elections</p> <p>Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill:</p>	<p>DK – advised that she will be standing down from the role of Chair of the Swimming Alliance. It was agreed that Hagan Lewisman will represent CLOA on the Swimming Alliance moving forwards. Action - DK to contact the Swimming Alliance and formally handover to HL.</p> <p>HB – advised that nominations forms will be circulated on 7 May detailing the process for re-election to the Executive Committee. These should be returned with the self-assessment form, which should be used to outline the contribution made in the last year. Deadline is 21 May. There is also a requirement to reflect on the contribution to progressing CLOA's EDI commitments. Action – HB to re-circulate the self-assessment form with the minutes.</p> <p>Naheed Mughal from Martyn's Law Policy Team has contacted CLOA to see whether CLOA would be willing to help inform their assessment as to whether there is a new burden to Local Authorities resulting from this</p>

	New Burdens Assessment	<p>Act, any information/data about premises operated by LA's (directly or indirectly) in the relevant sectors would be very useful, libraries, leisure centres, theatres etc</p> <p>CLOA representatives met with Naheed last year on 16th January 24 for an initial discussion.</p> <p>Action – HB to liaise with Naheed Mughal and find a date to meet with DP, IV, UK, PR</p> <p>VB – advised that CLOA needs to identify a representative for the English Public Libraries Group. VB to attend.</p>
	Dates of next meetings	<p>Dates of next Executive mtgs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •AGM and members conference – Wednesday 18th June 25 <p>Further dates will be set once the incoming Chair has been appointed</p>