

AGENDA: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ARTS

8 SEPTEMBER, 2014

13.30 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS / LUNCH

14.00 CHAIRS WELCOME

Simon Parker, Director – NLGN

14.05 CITY OF LONDON WELCOME

Catherine McGuinness, Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resources,
City of London Corporation

14.10 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Key hit list for speakers include:

Sajid Javid MP

Secretary of State for Culture, *Media and Sport* and *Minister for Equalities* TBC

14.45 FINDINGS OF OUR RECENT REPORT: BUILDING A RESILIENT LOCAL ARTS SCENE

Dr Claire Mansfield, Senior Researcher – NLGN

15.00 BREAKOUT SESSIONS (inc flexible comfort break)

The breakout sessions will follow two themes that appeared in our recent research report. Each session will be co-delivered by two best practice case studies from our report.

THEME 1: UNLOCKING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Laura Guthrie, Arts Development, *Erewash Borough Council*

Ada Burns, Chief Executive, *Darlington Borough Council*

There are opportunities available to local authorities that are peculiar to the arts. Unlike many other services, residents are interested, enthusiastic even, in investing, time and energy in their local arts scene. Local authorities can use the interest and resident demand to their advantage. Erewash Borough Council have set up a culture and arts forum (CAFE) that has successfully used volunteers to support projects with minimal input from the council. In Darlington they have worked with a local protest group, Darlington for Culture, to ensure that the community is involved in the future shape of the arts and culture in Darlington.

THEME 2: NEW MODELS OF DELIVERY AND FINANCING

Melanie Powell, Cultural Development & Events Officer, *Rother District Council*

Stewart Drew, Director and Chief Executive, *De La Warr Pavilion*

Sue Harris, Director for Cleaner Greener and Cultural Services, *Tri-Borough*

Local government funding of the arts and culture is changing, There are, however, alternative models of delivery available to local authorities and arts organisations.. Rother District Council De La Warr Pavilion has been run by a trust for the last 10 years. The trust status not only save the council money, but also means that those running the organisation are more skilled and better connected to other arts organisations than a local authority could ever be. In the Tri-borough area in London (Westminster City Council, the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea), the library service has become a shared service between the three areas.

16.00 PANEL DISCUSSION

What's next for the arts at a local level?

(Each panel member will be asked an opening question by the chair – which they will have been given in advance – to answer rather than being asked to present for 5 minutes. We find this more 'Question Time' style format leads to better discussions amongst the panel and the audience)

Cllr Peter Box, Leader, *Wakefield Council*

Leonora Thomson, Director of Audiences and Development, *Barbican*

Lesli Good, Culture and Heritage Services Manager, *St Albans City and District Council*

Giles Croft, Artistic Director, *Nottingham Playhouse* (TBC)

17.00 NETWORKING AND DRINKS RECEPTION

18.30 CLOSE