

# Enabling you to enjoy our heritage, creativity and sports

## Our commitment to you:

*Wherever you live in the country, we want you to be able to enjoy the best our culture and sports have to offer. We will:*

- *keep our **major national museums and galleries free to enter***
- ***support school sport**, build on our Olympic and Paralympic legacy, and deliver the Rugby and Cricket World Cups and the World Athletics Championships*
- ***freeze the BBC licence fee**, to save you money*
- *support our creative industries and **defend a free media***

One of the highlights of the past five years was the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Those weeks in 2012 demonstrated the best of our country. When the pressure is on, we deliver; when the stakes are high, we come together; when it comes to taking on the world, we can win.

We may not be the biggest country, but our museums are second to none. In music, art, fashion, theatre, design, film, television and the performing arts, we have an edge. Conservatives understand these things do not just enhance our national prestige and boost our economy; they help tie our country together, strengthening the bonds between all of us.

That's why, despite all the economic chaos we inherited, we have put over £8 billion of public and Lottery funding into the arts, heritage, museums and galleries during the last five years. We have also boosted school sports and increased the share of National Lottery funding going to good causes.

***Culture and sport help bring us closer together as a nation, strengthening the bonds between all of us***

## Our plan of action:

*We will support our world-leading museums, galleries and heritage*

We will keep our major national museums and galleries free to enter and enable our cultural institutions to benefit from greater financial autonomy to use their budgets as they see fit. Over the last five years, we have made sure that arts funding benefits the whole of the UK. We will support a Great Exhibition in the North; back plans for a new theatre, The Factory, Manchester; and help the Manchester Museum, in partnership with the British Museum, to establish a new India Gallery. We are also supporting plans to develop a modern world class concert hall for London. We will ensure the protection and enjoyment of one of our most ancient and precious heritage sites by building a tunnel where the A303 passes closest to Stonehenge. We significantly increased National Lottery funding for heritage and have created a brand new heritage charity – English Heritage – to support more than 400 buildings and monuments. And we will continue to support essential roof repairs for our cathedrals and churches, along with other places of worship.

*We will continue to support local libraries*

We will help public libraries to support local communities by providing free wi-fi. And we will assist them in embracing the digital age by working with them