

Policy Update

May 2007

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1. POLITICAL ROUND UP

1.1 Cameron sets out Conservative sporting policy

Conservative leader David Cameron has been setting out his party's views on sport. Writing in *The Observer*, Mr Cameron stated that government should act as a 'funder and enabler, not a micro-manager' and that a 'successful sports policy must come from within sport, not without' – a stance which would give a prominent role to NGBs.

Mr Cameron also stated that a Conservative government would restore the lottery to its original allocations of 25% to each good cause. In order to ensure that sports policy was co-ordinated across different government departments the Conservative leader said that he would consider setting up a British equivalent of the Australian Sports Commission to act as 'a champion for both sporting excellence and participation within government'. The article is available online at: <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/sport/story/0,,2083734,00.html>.

1.2 New Scottish Parliament elected

Alex Salmond was elected as First Minister of Scotland, following the Scottish National Party's victory in the elections to the Scottish Parliament. The SNP have slimmed the Government from nine departments to six and the sport remit will come under the Department for Health and Wellbeing. The Cabinet Secretary for this Department is Nicola Sturgeon MSP and the Minister for Communities and Sport is Stewart Maxwell MSP. Shona Robison MSP becomes the Minister for Public Health. The full remits of members of the Scottish Parliament are available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/msp/ministers/index.htm>.

1.3 Northern Ireland Assembly reinstated

Following the creation of a new power-sharing government in Northern Ireland, Edwin Poots MLA has been appointed Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure.

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

2.1 Smoking ban

From 1 July, smoking will be outlawed in virtually all enclosed public spaces and workplaces in England.

Failure to display no-smoking signs could result in a fixed penalty notice of £200. Managers of smokefree premises and vehicles will have legal responsibilities to prevent people from smoking, with a fine of up to £2,500 for failure to do so.

Guides for organisations, as well as signs (which premises will be required to display), can be found at www.smokefreenengland.co.uk.

2.2 Charities Act 2006 – public benefit test

The Charities Act 2006 requires charities to demonstrate that they provide a ‘public benefit’ and charges the Charity Commission with assessing this. The Commission is now consulting on the principles of ‘public benefit’. The outcome of this consultation could impact on the future status of any CCPR members which are, or are considering becoming, charities, or which have charities within their own membership.

Scope:

England and Wales

CCPR objective:

To ensure that the public benefit test is relevant to sport and recreation organisations.

Next steps:

CCPR would urge any members which are charities or which have charities within their own membership to respond. The consultation documents and a draft CCPR response are available at www.ccp.org.uk (select ‘Policy’ from the left hand menu). The deadline is 6 June 07.

Further help - Charities Act guide

The Cabinet Office and Charity Commission have launched ‘Charities Act 2006 – what trustees need to know’, an easy to understand guide to the new Act. The guide is available online at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/documents/charity_act/charities_act_web.pdf.

2.3 Child Entertainment Licences – does your sport need them?

In recent months a number of CCPR member organisations have been requested by their local authority to obtain a Child Entertainment Licence for children competing within their sports. The basis for these requests is the Children and Young Persons Act 1967, and most relate to sports events with a paying audience. CCPR is concerned that authorities are misinterpreting this legislation and placing unnecessary burdens on sports clubs.

CCPR objective:

To ensure that young people do not face unnecessary obstacles to competing, whilst also ensuring their safety and welfare.

Next steps:

Prior to seeking further advice or taking further action CCPR would like to hear from any members who have been requested to obtain a Child Entertainment Licence. Please email Andrew Hanson (ahanson@ccpr.org.uk) with any relevant information.

2.4 Integrity in sports betting

The Gambling Commission has published an 'Integrity in Sports Betting' issues paper. The paper follows the consultation earlier this year which focused on information-sharing between the relevant sports governing bodies and the betting sector. However, the issues paper covers a wide range of issues of interest to CCPR and its members, including a sports betting audit and risk-assessment and the education of consumers and participants about sports betting integrity. The paper can be accessed online at:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/UploadDocs/publications/Document/Integrity%20in%20Sports%20Betting2205.pdf>.

How you can help:

CCPR will respond to this information-gathering exercise. Please send any comments to Ben Andersen-Tuffnell (bat@ccpr.org.uk) by 20 July 2007.

3. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER

3.1 Water Framework Directive – CCPR to join national liaison panel

CCPR has accepted the Environment Agency's invitation to sit on the National Liaison Panel (England) to represent the interests of recreational water users. The panel provides an opportunity for key stakeholders to input into the river basin planning resulting from the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The WFD is a European directive which promotes a new approach to water management through river basin planning and supersedes the piecemeal legislation that currently exists across the EU. It applies to all surface freshwater bodies (including lakes, streams and rivers), groundwaters, groundwater dependent ecosystems, estuaries and coastal waters out to one mile from low-water. It came into force in December 2000, and was transposed into UK law in December 2003.

Dr Susie Tomson, Planning and Environmental Advisor at the RYA, will represent CCPR on this panel.

Scope:

The Directive will be implemented by the devolved administrations. The National Liaison Panel is for England only.

CCPR objective:

To ensure the views of recreational users of waterways play an important part in shaping the implementation of the WFD.

Next steps:

The first meeting of the panel will take place on 13 July 2007. CCPR will keep members updated on progress.

4. PLANNING

4.1 White Paper – Planning for a sustainable future

Following the Barker and Eddington reviews of planning policy, the Government has now published its White Paper, 'Planning for a sustainable future', which aims to streamline the planning system. Key proposals include:

- Developing national policy statements for major infrastructure projects (e.g. airports, large scale energy production), and establishing an independent commission to consider consent;
- Giving greater emphasis to economic development and climate change within the local planning framework.

Whilst the paper states that the Government intends to improve local engagement in planning decisions through this paper, many commentators have suggested this may not be the case. The consultation closes on 17 August 2007 and the documents are available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2425>.

Scope:

England

Next steps:

CCPR intends to respond to this consultation and would like to hear from members with experience of the planning process – for instance those involved in facility development, and those interested in maintaining open space. Please contact Duncan Carter (dcarter@ccpr.org.uk) with your views.

5. FISCAL & FINANCE

5.1 Consultation on unclaimed assets

HM Treasury has launched a consultation proposing that unclaimed assets should be distributed and reinvested in the community to fund youth services, financial capability and inclusion, and social investment. It is possible that sports facilities could benefit from the initiative. It is also proposed that The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) is used to distribute the unclaimed assets. The consultation document can be accessed online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/unclaimed_assets/consult_unclaimedassets_distribution.cfm.

How you can help:

CCPR will be responding to the consultation. If you have any comments about the consultation or are intending to respond please email Ben Andersen-Tuffnell (bat@ccpr.org.uk) by 17.00 on 13 July 2007.

5.2 Community amateur sports clubs

Figures provided by Deloitte show there are now 4,306 clubs registered as CASCs with an estimated total cash benefit of at least £19 million in rate relief, corporation tax savings and Gift Aid repayments.

As noted in last month's update DCMS has produced a new leaflet and has asked NGBs to circulate it to their clubs and members. CCPR is very pleased by the level of interest so far in the document – nearly 16,000 have been distributed in under four months. If you have not yet taken advantage of this opportunity and would like to help distribute these leaflets at your events or in a mail-out, please contact Christine Barnes at DCMS (Christine.Barnes@Culture.gsi.gov.uk) to arrange a delivery.

CCPR is currently developing a CASC campaign document highlighting the benefits of the scheme and calling on the Government to expand the current fiscal advantages available to CASCs to provide extra support for children's sporting activities. For more information, please contact Ben Andersen-Tuffnell (bat@ccpr.org.uk).

Scope:

UK

CCPR objective:

CCPR will campaign for additional benefits to be added to the CASC scheme.

How can you help:

There a number of ways to help promote the CASC scheme. For example:

- Link to www.cascinfo.co.uk from your own website
- Distribute the new CASC leaflet at your events and in your mail-outs
- Include articles about the scheme in your publications.

5.3 Opening the transfer window – further opportunities for asset transfer

Last month we reported on a £30 million fund to help refurbish public facilities and transfer these to community management. The Government has now followed this with a further six point plan to give communities greater control over local assets, including £400,000 for twenty pilot areas which will transfer up to 40 key assets from local authorities to community organisations.

'Opening the Transfer Window: The Governments Response to the Quirk Review' is available here: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510746>

6. RESEARCH ROUND-UP

6.1 Taking part

On 10 May, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport published the first annual report of 'Taking Part', a continuous survey examining the extent and nature of engagement in culture, leisure and sport. This will set a baseline enabling DCMS to measure progress against its target to increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities by people aged 16 and above from priority groups by 2008.

Sixty nine per cent of all adults had participated in active sport in the previous 12 months, the most popular activities being swimming or diving (indoors), followed by health, fitness, gym or conditioning activities. Of those who had not participated in an active sport during the past 12 months, 'health isn't good enough' was the main reason given for non-participation.

To access all sections of the report, click here: http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/taking_part_survey/surveyoutputs_may07.htm.

6.2 A lasting legacy for London?

Commissioned by the London Assembly and undertaken by the London East Research Institute of the University of East London, 'A Lasting Legacy for London? Assessing the legacy of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games' was published this month. Examining the impact of previous Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in a number of areas – economic, social, cultural and environmental – the report looks at the likely impact of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

It warns that it is unlikely that the 2012 Games will have a lasting impact on the long-term unemployed, given that employment around the Games is often temporary and there is little evidence that volunteer skills will transfer to the post-Games economy. The report also points out that a significant increase in sports participation is unlikely to occur unless urgent action is taken in this area. For the full report, click here: <http://www.london.gov.uk/assembly/reports/econsd/lasting-legacy-uel-research.pdf>.

6.3 Ecotherapy

The mental health charity Mind has this month published two studies demonstrating the beneficial impact on self-reported health and wellbeing of 'green exercise activities'. To view the full report, click here: <http://www.mind.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/D9A930D2-30D4-4E5B-BE79-1D401B804165/0/ecotherapy.pdf>

7. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

The consultations listed below have not yet closed and CCPR would welcome members' views on these issues. To access the documents please visit www.ccpr.org.uk and click on 'Policy' on the left hand menu.

7.1 Draft Guidance on Alcohol Disorder Zones

These proposals could result in increased costs for sports clubs situated in areas with a strong night-time economy. Deadline: 1 June.

7.2 Non-commercial Gaming and Lotteries

These regulations limit the amount of money sports clubs can generate from games nights etc. Deadline: 22 June.

7.3 Community Assets Fund

The Government is making £30 million available to refurbish facilities and transfer these to community ownership. Deadline: 23 June.

8. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

CCPR has responded to the consultations below, and will take further action on these issues as the opportunity arises. To view CCPR's responses visit www.ccpr.org.uk and click on 'Policy' on the left hand menu.

8.1 Proposed traffic regulation orders for National Parks

CCPR's response emphasises that TROs should not be used indiscriminately to limit access.

8.2 Alcohol Disorder Zones

CCPR's response called for a clear exemption of sports clubs, which exist primarily for the playing of sport, not as drinking venues.

8.3 Integrity in sports betting

CCPR's response affirmed the need for betting companies to share information to assist sports to prevent betting-related cheating.

If you do not wish to receive this service, please inform info@ccpr.org.uk.