

Policy Update

December 2006

	PAGE
1. PARLIAMENT	
1.1 Chancellor forgets promise to sport in Pre-Budget Report	2
1.2 East Midlands MEPs' Sports Summit	2
2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION	
2.1 Performing Right Society	2
2.2 Charities Act 2006	2
2.3 Smokefree venues	3
2.4 Proposed London Low Emission Zone	3
2.5 Gambling Act 2005	4
2.6 Sports betting	4
3. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER	
3.1 Coastal access	4
4. FISCAL	
4.1 www.cascinfo.co.uk	5
5. HEALTH	
5.1 Launch of Obesity Prevention Strategy	5
5.2 The MEND Programme	5
5.3 BHF guidelines on physical activity and older people	6
6. VOLUNTERING	
6.1 Commission on the Future of Volunteering – making sport's voice heard	6
7. PLANNING	
7.1 Planning obligations	7



1. PARLIAMENT

1.1 Chancellor forgets promise to sport in Pre-Budget Report

Despite a public assertion that 'I will set out in the pre-budget report how we can do better with a new focus on sports and fitness for our nation's children', the Chancellor's statement on Wednesday 6 December made no mention of sport. CCPR and its sporting and political partners will continue to make the case for a more supportive fiscal regime for sport and recreation, with the March 2007 budget in mind.

1.2 East Midlands MEPs' Sports Summit

Chris Heaton Harris MEP is hosting a "summit" in Daventry on Friday 12th January 2007 to discuss future plans for sporting programmes and facilities in the Northamptonshire area. Mr Heaton-Harris would welcome input from as many different sporting stakeholders as possible, but in particular would like to have East Midlands or Northamptonshire representatives from national governing bodies of all sports, as well as representatives from Sport England and the London 2012 team. Please reply to this email address to confirm your interest in attending: cheaton@europarl.eu.int

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

2.1 Performing Right Society

CCPR staff have now met twice with PRS representatives to discuss their approaches to sports clubs. Sports club fees are calculated according to a Members' Club tariff which PRS will review during 2007, with any changes in fee levels likely to be implemented from 2008. Securing a reduced fee for sports clubs will not be a quick or easy process, and will be dependent on clear information with regard to numbers of clubs, and the impact of fees on them.

Scope

UK

CCPR objective

To achieve a fee level that recognises the voluntary nature of sports clubs and the benefit they provide to the community.

Next steps

CCPR will continue to collect information from sports clubs with regard to the impact of PRS fees on their operations via the www.cascinfo.co.uk website.

How you can help

Please urge clubs in your sport to visit www.cascinfo.co.uk and complete the survey, which will assist CCPR in its negotiations.

2.2 Charities Act

The Office of the Third Sector has published the implementation plan for the Charities Act 2006, setting out the timetable for the implementation of the legislation. In the first half of 2007 a plain English guide to the Charities Act will be published and a series of regional events to explain the Act to charities in England and Wales will be held. A modernised framework for the Charity Commission will also be produced.

The plan can be found at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/law_and_regulation/charities_act_2006/.

Scope

England and Wales

2.3 Smokefree Venues

The implementation of the smokefree elements of the Health Act 2006, from 6am on the 1st July 2007, will require all enclosed public places and workplaces to be smokefree environments. This includes offices, factories, shops, pubs, bars, restaurants, membership clubs, public transport and work vehicles that are used by more than one person. All smokefree premises and vehicles will be required to display no-smoking signs.

Scope

England

Next Steps

The regulations providing the detail of how the smokefree legislation will operate are being finalised and will be laid before Parliament shortly. A copy of the Government's proposals for regulations are available on the Department of Health's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/ClosedConsultations/ClosedConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4139521&chk=nsx

How you can help

Direct your clubs to information and resources which will help them implement smokefree legislation at www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

2.4 Proposed London Low Emission Zone

The proposed 'LEZ' will affect all sport and recreation organisations that use minibuses to travel to activities, or Transit sized vans to carry equipment or tow trailers.

Under the scheme, as of October 2010 any minibus or large van not meeting specific emissions levels would be required to pay a fee of £100 for driving within London. Failure to pay would result in a penalty charge of £500 (reduced to £250 if paid within 14 days). Vehicles registered before January 2002 are unlikely to meet the emissions criteria without modification.

Scope

England

Next Steps

CCPR will host a meeting to discuss this issue with Transport for London on 22 January. Should you wish to attend please email Judith Wood (jwood@ccpr.org.uk). Please note that attendance will be limited to the first 16 respondents.

CCPR will also respond formally to the consultation. The relevant documents are available at www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon and the deadline for responses is 2 February 2007. CCPR would welcome members' views to inform its response.

2.5 Gambling Act 2005

The Gambling Act 2005 will come into full effect during 2007. Stadia and sports club bars with betting facilities or gaming machines will need to take steps to maintain their licences under the new legislation. Guidance on how to do this is available at http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2006/gambling_trans_arrange.htm, with the key information for sports clubs being found on pages 46 and 47. Clubs whose registrations expire after September 2007 will need to reapply for their permits two months before their current registration is due to expire.

Scope

UK

How you can help

Please disseminate the guidance to your member clubs so that they are fully aware of the steps they should take to maintain their licences.

2.6 Sports betting

CCPR and representatives of the sports sector attended a meeting with the Gambling Commission, hosted by The FA, to discuss protecting the integrity of sport from risks arising from betting. The Gambling Commission is expected to publish an Issues Paper, specific to the sporting sector, in February 2007. For more information, please contact Ben Andersen-Tuffnell (bat@ccpr.org.uk).

Scope

UK

CCPR Objective

To campaign for a review of the relationship between sport and betting.

Next Steps

CCPR will work with members to respond to the Gambling Commission sports betting issues paper.

3. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER

3.1 Coastal access

The consultation by Natural England on coastal access is now expected to start in spring 2007. CCPR will continue to work with members and Natural England colleagues on the issue.

Scope

England

CCPR Objective

To secure a flexible framework for developing access to the coast that in time can be adapted to open up coastal access to other forms of recreation.

Next Steps

CCPR will hold a specific coastal access meeting with members from the Outdoor Pursuits and Water Recreation divisions to inform CCPR's response.

4. FISCAL

4.1 Community Amateur Sports Clubs

www.cascinfo.co.uk, a website dedicated to the promotion of the community amateur sports clubs (CASC) scheme, has received over 5000 hits since its launch on 16 October. The website is designed to provide NGBs and clubs with up-to-date, accessible information about the CASC scheme. For more information about the site please contact Ben Andersen-Tuffnell (bat@ccpr.org.uk).

Figures provided by Deloitte show there are now 4,097 clubs registered as CASCs with an estimated total cash benefit of at least £16.2 million in rate relief, corporation tax savings and Gift Aid repayments. However, an estimated £60m per year is being lost by clubs eligible to join the scheme but which have not yet done so.

The sports of lawn tennis, rugby union, bowls, football and cricket continue to lead the way with 71% of the total registrations.

Scope

UK

CCPR Objective

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

How you can help

Help promote the site and the CASC scheme by linking to www.cascinfo.co.uk from your own website and by passing this information on to other organisations which could benefit from registration.

5. HEALTH

5.1 Launch of Obesity Prevention Strategy

On Friday 15 December a cross-governmental team launched the Government's 'Obesity Prevention Strategy' to an audience of 150 organisations with an interest in physical activity and nutrition. CCPR has worked hard to ensure that the strategy fully reflects how sport and recreation both enable children to develop the physical literacy necessary to enjoying lifelong physical activity, and indeed provides opportunities for this activity. Whilst the physical activity aspects of the strategy are now stronger, more explicit reference to sport and recreation would be welcome. The levels of funding available to deliver the strategy unclear.

Scope

England

CCPR objective

To secure an appropriate role for sport and recreation within the strategy.

5.2 The MEND Programme

The MEND Programme is a national child overweight and obesity prevention and treatment programme. MEND has recently been awarded substantial funding from Sainsburys and the Big Lottery Fund to roll-out programmes throughout the UK.

A large part of the work involves increasing children's and parents' physical activity levels both during the 9-week MEND Programme and also after the programme. In order to promote sustained improvements in physical activity, all the local implementation partners are recommended to guide the families into mainstream sports and clubs after the programme has finished.

MEND are keen to engage with sports federations and clubs directly. In particular they are keen to provide contact details and information about sports clubs on their sites and in their materials to signpost participants into clubs and to encourage continued physical activity.

Scope

UK

Next Steps

For further information on the MEND programme please contact Ulla Stauch, Development Director at ulla.stauch@mendprogramme.org or visit www.mendprogramme.org.

5.2 BHF guidelines on physical activity and older people

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is producing a set of guidelines on the promotion of physical activity with older people. The guidelines will be used to advise best practice in relation to physical activities amongst older people and advise practitioners how to translate new evidence and advice into practice.

The guidelines are currently in draft format and the BHF is keen to consult with individuals and organisations which provide physical activity opportunities for older people and to obtain their feedback. It is expected that the guidelines will be published in early 2007.

Scope

UK

Next Steps

The draft Guidelines and a consultation pro-forma are attached and further information can be found at <http://www.bhfactive.org.uk/older-adults/currentprojects.html>

6. VOLUNTEERING

6.1 Commission for the Future of Volunteering Review – making sport heard!

In response to the Russell Commission report of 2005 the Government is now investing significantly in youth volunteering. To capitalise on this energy, the England Volunteering Development Council has established the 'Commission for the Future of Volunteering' to develop a long-term vision for volunteering based on consultation and input from all interested parties.

Sport has been challenged by Baroness Julia Neuberger DBE, Chair of the Commission on the Future of Volunteering to respond, to make sure that the voices of the largest involver of volunteers in the country are heard - 14% of the adult population are sports volunteers and sport represents 26% of formal volunteering overall. The Commission has established three themes and is seeking comments/evidence on each of these prior to publishing its final report in October 2007.

CCPR Objective

To ensure that the Commission's vision for volunteering is informed by sport and recreation input.

Next Steps

CCPR will be responding to the consultation and would encourage members to do so also.

How you can help

Visit <http://www.volcomm.org.uk/getinvolved/> for details of how to respond, and submit your responses by 31 January 2007.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Planning obligations

Readers may be aware that the Government is undertaking a major overhaul of planning legislation. The primary aims of this are to simplify the planning system, increase affordable housing and ensure that new developments can be successfully integrated into their wider locality. To achieve this the Government is consulting on proposals to scale back existing planning obligations whilst introducing a new Planning Gain Supplement.

Scope

Planning Gain Supplement will be implemented UK-wide whilst planning obligations legislation is devolved.

What does this mean for you?

The proposals mean that developers will only have an obligation to provide the physical infrastructure (access roads etc) necessary for the development itself. This means that local authorities will no longer be able to negotiate directly with developers for sport and recreation provision for the broader community (you may know of these as Section 106 agreements). However, developers will be charged a 'Planning Gain Supplement' (essentially a tax on the value of their land after receipt of planning permission). The local authority will then be able to invest the revenue from this charge to meet local community needs – which may include sport and recreation.

Next Steps

The planning obligations consultation is available at www.ccpr.org.uk (click on policy on the left hand menu), and closes on 28 February 2007. CCPR will respond to the consultation and urges members to do so also. To offer your input or to receive a copy of CCPR's draft response email Andrew Hanson (ahanson@ccpr.org.uk).