

Policy Update

November 2007

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1. POLITICAL & AGENCY ROUND-UP

1.1 CCPR attends party conferences

CCPR was represented at each of the major party conferences this year. The conferences provide an opportunity to speak with a broad number of parliamentarians and also to build alliances with other like-minded organisations.

At this year's labour conference CCPR chair Brigid Simmonds was able to speak to both Gerry Sutcliffe the new Minister for Sport, and also Andy Burnham the Chief Secretary to HM Treasury. Other useful contacts were made with LOCOG, the Olympic Delivery Authority, and the NHS Confederation.

1.2 Comprehensive Spending Review

Chancellor Alistair Darling prefaced his spending announcements with a clear indication that funds are limited: "This Spending Review is tighter for many departments. Building on the £20 billion already achieved, departments will save a further £30 billion by 2010."

Of particular interest to CCPR members is the settlement for DCMS: "The budget for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will increase to £2.2 billion in three years' time. This guarantees an inflation increase for the arts, free access to museums and galleries, extra for sport so that every child and young person can take part in five hours of sport a week. And it will deliver the Cultural Olympiad in the run up to London 2012." It is not yet clear how much of the Department's settlement will in fact be dedicated to increasing youth participation in sport.

Members within the Outdoor Pursuits and Water Recreation Divisions, and in those sports affected by recent floods, will be interested to note the Chancellor's statement that: "I am today increasing the budget for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to £4 billion in three years' time to help us tackle climate change and protect the countryside. I confirm that includes provision of £800 million a year by 2010 for flood defences."

Finally, readers will be interested to note that "investment in health in England will rise from £90 billion this year to a total of £110 billion in 2010."

1.3 Public Service Agreements 2008-2011

Public Service Agreements (PSAs) are the measures by which the Treasury judges the performance of government departments. The spending outlined above is intended to achieve the outcomes defined in the Public Service Agreements. The following new measures will be of interest to CCPR members:

PSA 12: This target seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of young people and retains the objective of reducing childhood obesity that was introduced during the last spending review. The Departments for Health, Children Schools and Families, and Culture, Media and Sport share responsibility for achieving this. CCPR will continue to seek recognition of the contribution of sport and recreation organisations to achieving this target.

PSA 21: a broader target relating to 'cohesive, powered and active communities' includes a measure relating to the percentage of people who participate in culture or in sport. The Department for Communities and Local Government will lead work to meet this target, not DCMS.

PSA 22: 'to deliver a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport'. This new target links pre-existing targets to increase children's participation in sport directly with the Olympic Games. Disappointingly it fails to include provision for increasing adult provision.

To access the full list of Public Service Agreements for 2008-2001 visit: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/psa/pbr_csr07_psaindex.cfm

1.4 Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee calls for 2012 evidence

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee is inviting written submissions from interested parties on the following issues:

- Progress in preparing venues, both within the Olympic Park and elsewhere;
- Developments in securing funding for all aspects of the Games;
- Legacy use of venues;
- Impact of the Games upon grassroots participation in sport, both before and after the Games;
- Standards of performance by UK participants at the Olympic Games; and
- Paralympic Games in 2008 and 2012.

Next steps: CCPR will submit evidence and will outline the need for appropriate planning and investment to achieve an increase in sporting participation as a result of the Games. Should members also wish to respond written submissions should be sent to Kenneth Fox, Clerk of the Committee, at foxk@parliament.uk by Friday 9 November.

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

2.1 Independent Safeguarding Authority

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), which will play a key role in the implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, has now been established. The Act creates a legal requirement for organisations employing workers or deploying volunteers in 'regulated activity' to check that they are registered with the ISA. CCPR understands that this is very likely to include sports coaches and leaders who work with young people on a regular basis, plus those accompanying young people on tours and weekend events.

Scope: UK

Next steps: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has indicated that it will consult further on the exact coverage of the Act, and CCPR will notify members of any formal consultation as soon as possible.

3. COUNTRYSIDE & WATER

3.1 Commons Act 2006 fully implemented in England

Common land is valuable for agriculture, recreation, nature conservation, landscape and often for its historical and archaeological significance. There is a public right of access to nearly all common land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Commons Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 19 July 2006, replacing legislation dating back to Edward I. The Act introduced the following two new consenting regimes, replacing two existing regimes. Both new regimes (and associated new application procedures) came into force on 1 October 2007:

Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006

Under section 38, consent is generally needed from the appropriate national authority for any restricted works on registered common land. Restricted works are those which prevent or impede access to or over the land, which might include erecting fencing, constructing buildings, digging ditches or resurfacing of land with tarmac and similar materials.

Section 16 of the Commons Act 2006

Under section 16, owners of registered common land or town or village greens can apply to have the land released from registration. If the 'release land' is more than 200 square metres in area, they must make an application at the same time to register 'replacement land' as common land or green in its place. If the release land is smaller than 200 square metres, a proposal to register replacement land may (but need not) be included.

For further information, visit: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/issues/common/index.htm>

Scope: England and Wales. The Act will be implemented in Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government.

3.2 Consultation on Common Land in Wales

The Commons Act 2006 is being implemented in a phased process by the devolved administrations and the Welsh Assembly Government is now consulting on proposals for the exchange of, and works on, common land in Wales.

The consultation ends on 11 January 2008 and further details can be accessed here: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/plancurrcons/CommonlandConsult/?lang=en>

4. FISCAL & FINANCE

4.1 Community Amateur Sports Clubs

There are now 4,488 clubs registered as CASCs, claiming an estimated total cash benefit of at least £22.1m up to 30 September 2007 (according to Deloitte).

Almost 100 MPs attended CCPR's parliamentary reception on 23 October highlighting CCPR's 'Subs for Clubs' campaign, which calls on the Government to increase the benefits of the CASC scheme by allowing clubs registered for the scheme to claim GiftAid on junior subscriptions. Among attendees were John Barnes MBE, Sports Minister Gerry Sutcliffe, shadow Sports Ministers, Hugh Robertson and Don Foster, Tessa Jowell, the Minister for the Olympics and former Sports Minister, Richard Caborn.

The event came just one week after www.cascinfo.co.uk, a dedicated website set up by CCPR to provide information about the CASC scheme, celebrated its first birthday. In its first year of operation the site has received over 30,000 visits and 100,000 page views. Furthermore, nearly 10,000 documents have been downloaded from the website.

Scope: UK

How can you help: If you would like to distribute CASC leaflets in your publications and mailouts, please contact Christine Barnes at DCMS (Christine.Barnes@Culture.gsi.gov.uk) to arrange a delivery. The leaflets were produced in conjunction with CCPR and are free. So far, over 30,000 leaflets have been distributed in six months.

4.2 Finance & Governance Forum

The FGF held its latest meeting on 17 October in the spectacular Pitch Side West room at Wembley Stadium. Over 50 attendees received informative and interesting presentations on a range of topics, including the finances of LOCOG, Deloitte's NGB salary survey, tax on foreign tours and managing volunteers in an employment context. For more information on the FGF, please contact bat@ccpr.org.uk.

5. PLANNING & FACILITIES

5.1 Planning Gain Supplement replaced by planning charges

The Government has rescinded its plans to introduce a Planning Gain Supplement - a levy proposed to catch the enhancement of land values when planning permission is granted. Nonetheless, in place of PGS the Government intends to introduce a new statutory measure, to be called the Planning Charge, "to enable Councils to catch greater levels of planning gain to support new infrastructure and housing".

The essential difference between this and PGS appears to be that PGS would have been a tax, whilst Planning Charge will be a fee. The Planning Charge will also be in addition to what is provided for under Section 106 Planning Agreements, whereas PGS may ultimately have replaced Section 106. How a Planning Charge will be raised will be set out in due course, but the Government says the main features will be:

- Subject to low de minimis thresholds, residential and commercial development alike will be liable to pay;
- Local authorities will be able to use the Charge to supplement a negotiated agreement, which will still be necessary to secure affordable housing, for example;
- The Charges should be based on a costed assessment of the infrastructure requirements arising specifically out of the development contemplated by the development plan for the area but taking account of land values;
- For major projects full account must be taken of regional not just local infrastructure needs.

Scope: England

What this means for sport and recreation: CCPR had voiced its concerns about the impact of PGS on sport and recreation, and is satisfied it will not be implemented. Sport and recreation has also traditionally benefited from Section 106 Agreements and CCPR is pleased that these will continue.

What next: CCPR will be seeking clarity on how the Charge will be calculated, and whether there will be exemptions for sport and recreation organisations seeking to enhance their facilities. This had not been envisaged under PGS.

6. RESEARCH ROUND-UP

6.1 Review of interventions to promote physical activity in children and adolescents

A systematic review of interventions to promote physical activity in children and adolescents by Esther van Sluijs and colleagues was published this month in the British Medical Journal. The review identified 24 studies of high methodological quality, 13 of which looked at interventions with children. Interventions that were found to be effective led to increases ranging from 2.6 minutes of physical education related physical activity to 283 minutes per week of overall physical activity. For adolescents, multicomponent interventions and interventions that included both school and family or community involvement have the potential to make important differences to levels of physical activity and, according to the research, should be promoted.

To read more visit: <http://www.bmj.com/content/vol335/issue7622/index.dtl#RESEARCH> (access the article under 'Research').

6.2 Tackling Obesity: Future Choices

The Foresight report, Tackling Obesity: Future Choices, based on scientific evidence, commissioned research and expert advice, takes a strategic view of the issue of obesity. By 2050, Foresight modelling indicates that 60 per cent of adult men, 50 per cent of adult women and about 25 per cent of all children under 16 could be obese. The financial impact to society attributable to obesity, at current prices, is estimated to become an additional £45.5 billion per year by 2050 with a seven fold increase in NHS costs alone. The report demonstrates that, 'although personal responsibility plays a crucial part in weight gain, human biology is being overwhelmed by the effects of today's 'obesogenic' environment, with its abundance of energy dense food, motorised transport and sedentary lifestyles'. The report concludes from the evidence that policies aimed solely at individuals will be inadequate and that simply increasing the number or type of small scale interventions will not be sufficient to reverse this trend. Significant effective action to prevent obesity at a population level is required, it argues.

To access the full report, visit: http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Obesity/Obesity_final/Index.html

6.3 The School Sport Survey 2006/07

The fourth survey of schools in the School Sport Partnership Programme, conducted by independent researchers, TNS, was published this month. It involved data collected from 21,742 schools (a 99 per cent response rate). The survey found that overall 86 per cent of pupils in schools within the School Sport Partnership Programme participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and out of hours school sport in a typical week, exceeding the 2008 Government target of 85 per cent. On average, partnership schools have links to seven different clubs. Across Years 2 – 11, an average of 29 per cent of pupils had participated in one or more sports, dance or multi-skill clubs with links to the school during the academic year.

To access the full report, visit: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11991>

6.4 Sport England market segmentation

Sport England has developed 19 sporting segments to aid understanding of the nation's attitudes and motivations – why people play sport and why they do not. The segments provide the knowledge to influence people to take part. Each segment can be explored at differing geographic levels, so it is possible to find out what people's sporting habits are in a particular street, community, local authority or region. This research builds on the results of Sport England's Active People Survey, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's Taking Part survey and the Mosaic tool from Experian. It will inform Sport England's Strategy and Business Plan 2008-2011 and help Sport England invest money into areas that will have the greatest impact.

For more information, visit: http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/research/se_market_segmentation.htm

6.5 Taking Part – The Child Survey

This report is the first publication about engagement in culture, leisure and sport based on the Taking Part child survey. The aim of the report is to set out the key headline findings in order to establish baseline levels of engagement amongst 11 to 15 year olds. The data show that 95 per cent of children had participated in an active sport during the last four weeks. Of those, 93 per cent had participated in an active sport out of school lessons (this equates to 89 per cent of all children). Almost three-quarters of all children had participated in an active sport outside school lessons in the last week (74 per cent). Of those, 23 per cent had participated for at least an hour on one day, and 20 per cent had participated for at least an hour on two days. Around a quarter had participated for at least an hour on five or more days (25 per cent). As a proportion of the total sample, 17 per cent had participated for at least an hour on one day, and 15 per cent had participated for at least an hour on two days. Almost a fifth had participated for at least an hour on five or more days (18 per cent).

To access the full report, visit: http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/tpcs_headlinefindingschildsurvey.htm

6.6 Youth Active - Activity & Volunteering Diaries

Youth Active exists to increase sport and recreation within the voluntary youth sector, and has created activity and volunteering diaries in order to establish a baseline of current activity levels.

The Youth Active activity diary tracks participation by age, gender, sport and location, whilst the Youth Active volunteer diary tracks levels of volunteering by age, gender and location. The diary tools can also be integrated directly into governing body websites, thus enabling sport specific data collection. To access the diaries please visit www.youthactive.org (follow links to the Activity Diary and Volunteering from the menu bar on the left hand side of the site).

7. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

This section lists issues and consultations that have featured in previous policy updates. To view these please visit www.ccpr.org.uk/ourcampaigning.

DEFRA – marine diversity

This consultation seeks views on measures to protect marine biodiversity interests in Lyme Bay from the impact of fishing with dredges and other towed gear. Please respond directly to DEFRA, <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/lymebay-biodiversity/index.htm>

The deadline for responses is 7 December.

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/ourcampaigning.

Staying Safe – Department for Children, Schools and Families

CCPR's response to this consultation highlighted the role sport and recreation can play in helping children to stay safe, by providing positive activities, and a managed environment for learning about risk.

Consultation on Gift Aid – HM Treasury, HM Revenue & Customs and the Cabinet Office

CCPR's response utilised the results of the survey conducted via www.cascinfo.co.uk. Its response highlighted the case and support for additional financial support for those CASCs with junior members.

If you do not wish to receive this service or would like to register other colleagues to receive this email, please inform info@ccpr.org.uk.