

Policy Update

September 2008

1. FUNDING & FINANCE

- 1.1 £130 million of grassroots grants available

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

- 2.1 Drainage costs soar

3. COMMUNITIES

- 3.1 Audit Commission consults on Comprehensive Area Assessment
- 3.2 Community Infrastructure Levy
- 3.3 Participatory budgeting
- 3.4 Community assets

4. RESEARCH

- 4.1 Survey of third sector organisations

5. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 DCMS plans increase in society lottery jackpots
- 5.2 Music Licensing Fees – consultation on exemption

6. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 Sport England consultation on lottery funding
- 6.2 DCMS proposes to simplify minor variations to club premises certificates
- 6.3 NICE consultation on promoting physical activity to children



1. FUNDING & FINANCE

1.1 £130 million of grassroots grants available

The £130 million grassroots grants scheme offers awards of between £250 and £5,000 to local community groups with annual incomes below £20,000. The programme, funded by the Office of The Third Sector in the Cabinet Office and administered by the Community Development Foundation, aims to make a real and immediate difference to the work of local voluntary and community groups. For further information visit

http://www.cdf.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_305300

Scope

England

What this means for sport and recreation

According to the Community Development Foundation website, grants are available to help: 'local clubs get hold of new kit, coach new volunteers or give the village hall a fresh lick of paint'. This could therefore be an important source of small scale funding for clubs.

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

2.1 Drainage costs soar

Sports clubs up and down the country are experiencing significant increases in drainage costs due to changes in water company charging structures. The 'site area charging' system, which is supported by regulator OFWAT and the Water Consumer Council, calculates drainage costs according to site area. Where water companies have adopted this model, clubs with buildings and land which drain into the drainage system face a sharp rise in costs.

What this means for sport and recreation

CCPR believes that the increases faced by clubs could seriously damage their financial viability.

What Next

CCPR intends to raise its concerns with OFWAT and the Water Consumer Council. However if it is to do so, it needs robust evidence of the impact of this change. CCPR is therefore asking governing bodies of asset owning sports to assist with data collection, by asking their clubs the following questions:

- has your water company moved to site area charging? yes/no/don't know
- if yes, what were your water charges before the change?
- what is the charge now?

3. COMMUNITIES

3.1 Audit Commission consults on Comprehensive Area Assessment

The Audit Commission continues its drive to integrate the assessment of councils and fire and rescue services. The Comprehensive Area Assessment will involve a joint assessment by seven different inspectorates responsible for monitoring performance across areas such as health, education and crime, and aims to assess the overall quality of life within any given area. The consultation on these proposals is open until 20 October 2008 and the documentation can be found at: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/caa/consultation.asp>

Scope
UK

What this means for sport and recreation

Sport and recreation will not be inspected as a single service area under these proposals, but its contribution to cross-cutting outcomes should nonetheless be noted.

3.2 Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the provisions for which are currently going through Parliament as part of the Planning Bill, enables (but does not require) local authorities in England and Wales to levy a charge on most types of new development in their area.

CIL charges will be based on simple formulae which relate the size of the charge to the size and character of the development paying it. The proceeds of the levy will be spent on local and sub-regional infrastructure to support the development of the area. For further information please visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/communityinfrastructurelevy>

Scope
England and Wales

What this means for sport and recreation

CCPR had previously called for the provision of sport and recreation facilities to be eligible expenditure under the Community Infrastructure Levy and the current guidance suggests that this will be the case.

However, as the proposals currently stand sports clubs who undertake new development to their facilities will also be subject to the levy. This is likely to prove a barrier to clubs developing their facilities, despite the enhancement that such development would have to local community infrastructure. CCPR is therefore seeking an exemption from the levy for sport clubs.

What next

CCPR will continue to make the case for the exclusion of sport and recreation developments from the CIL.

3.3 Participatory budgeting

The Department for Communities and Local Government has announced twelve 'participatory budgeting' or 'community kitties' pilot areas, actively engaging with local people in how public money is spent. The pilot areas will work with the help and guidance of the Participatory Budgeting Unit, letting their communities choose between local organisations' pitches for council cash. Different local groups can make proposals for a portion of public budgets and local people can consider which ones they feel will best meet the area's priorities and needs. The intention is for all local authorities to use this system by 2012. For further information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/968816>

Scope

England

What this means for sport and recreation

No specific mention is made of sport and recreation within the documentation, which lists examples such as recycling, health, local environmental issues and children's services. However, the focus is on local need, and if residents deem sport and recreation provision to be a priority, then a sport focussed proposal may well be successful.

3.4 Community assets

The Development Trusts Association has been given £1.3m by Communities and Local Government to administer a new asset transfer unit, which will advise community organisations on how to take over assets from local authorities. The unit is planned to be operational by January 2009. For further information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/968816> and <http://www.dta.org.uk/>

Scope

England

What this means for sport and recreation

A wide range of local authority owned-facilities are eligible for asset transfer, from village halls through to swimming pools. Clearly the financial viability of the asset would be a key consideration for clubs considering this. The emphasis is on local relationships, and so national governing bodies of sport will need to be creative to incorporate asset transfer as a means of fulfilling their own facility strategy.

4. RESEARCH

4.1 Survey of third sector organisations

The Office of the Third Sector within the Cabinet Office has launched a national survey of third sector organisations. The survey is intended to be the biggest ever of its kind with over 100,000 charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises being selected to take part. The aim of the poll is to identify which local authorities provide effective support to the voluntary sector within their locality. For further information visit <http://www.nstso.com/>

What this means for sport and recreation

With an estimated 151,000 sports clubs in the UK, sport and recreation is a significant part of the voluntary sector. Historically, however, this link has not always been fully recognised either by sports organisations or the broader voluntary sector.

What next

The survey is being conducted by invitation by IPSOS Mori. CCPR would urge all clubs receiving the survey to complete it, to ensure that they gain recognition for the contribution they make to their communities.

5. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

5.1 DCMS plans increase in society lottery jackpots

Society lotteries are typically national and local charities, sporting and social clubs that run lottery draws in order to raise funds. This proposal will see the maximum jackpot for individual society lottery draws increased from £200,000 to £400,000 and the maximum amount raised from each draw increased from £2m to £4m. Most sports clubs operating society lotteries will be classified as 'small' society lotteries, and will be unaffected by the changes. This consultation runs until 9 October 2008 and the documents are available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/5288.aspx

5.2 Music Licensing Fees – consultation on exemption

Copyright law currently requires any sports club which uses audio-visual equipment to purchase a licence from the Performing Right Society but not Phonographic Performance Ltd. This consultation proposes either to extend the PPL exemption to PRS for all clubs with a turnover of less than £20,000, or to rescind the PPL exemptions. CCPR will respond to the consultation calling for a full exemption for sports clubs. The consultation closes on 9 October and the documents are available at:

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/press/press-release/press-release-2008/press-release-20080701.htm>

6. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Sport England consultation on lottery funding

CCPR's response to this consultation urged Sport England to take a series of important factors, identified by NGBs and grassroots projects, into account when forming the new system for distributing their National Lottery funding for community sport. CCPR believes that any new funding arrangements should include:

- Ready availability of specialist advice to help applicants through the process.
- A system of accountability that is proportionate to the size of the award.
- A link between Sport England funding and relevant quality and educational schemes.
- A recognition of the importance of local knowledge.
- A commitment to reward applications focused on key priorities around increasing participation, community engagement and improvement, support for volunteers and lifelong learning.

6.2 DCMS proposes to simplify minor variations to club premises certificates

CCPR's response to this consultation supported DCMS' proposal to simplify the application process for licence variations which will not alter the club's licensable hours or otherwise impact on licensed activity.

6.3 NICE consultation on promoting physical activity to children

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the body responsible for advising the medical profession on appropriate health interventions. NICE issued a short consultation during August for a wide range of audiences on how physical activity can best be promoted to young people. CCPR's response welcomed the guidance but outlined that NICE needs to gain greater influence over stakeholders outside of the medical sector if its guidance on physical activity is truly to make an impact.

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