



## May 2010

### 1. COALITION GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND RECREATION

The election outcome may have surprised all but the most tuned-in political pundits, and it may be some time before the implications for sport and recreation become fully clear. However, we hope that the sections below will help readers understand the likely direction of the new Government, and how sport and recreation can best interact with it.

#### 1.1 Who's who

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is one of the few departments with an entirely Conservative leadership team. The Department has assumed full responsibility for the Olympics, which had previously been shared with the Cabinet Office.

Jeremy Hunt MP is Secretary of State in the Department, but it is clear that Hugh Robertson MP will take a proactive role as Minister for Sport. Mr Robertson has already set out the following three key priorities:

- to help win [the World Cup bid](#)
- to help deliver a successful [2012 Olympics](#)
- to use the 2012 Olympics to drive a [sporting legacy](#)

John Penrose MP takes responsibility for licensing and gambling, in place of Tobias Ellwood who had previously shadowed this role.

Within the Department of Health Andrew Lansley MP becomes Secretary of State, with Anne Milton MP as Minister for Public Health. Disappointingly neither portfolio listing refers to physical activity.

Other target departments for CCPR include Communities and Local Government, where Eric Pickles MP becomes Secretary of State. Which ministers will be responsible for local government and planning, both important issues for sport and recreation, are not yet clear. Michael Gove MP takes the helm at the renamed Department for Education, with Nick Gibb MP becoming Minister for Schools.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is particularly important to CCPR's outdoor pursuits and water recreation divisions. The Defra team is led by Secretary of State Caroline Spelman MP, with Richard Benyon MP holding the portfolio for the natural environment, national parks and marine management. James Paice MP is Minister for Agriculture, and his responsibilities include forestry.

The new Government has retained a minister responsible for voluntary sector issues - Nick Hurd MP - and CCPR hopes that Mr. Hurd will be a champion for the many volunteers within sport and recreation.

#### 1.2 What they plan to do

The coalition has produced a programme for Government based on three central themes: 'a stronger society, a smaller state and power and responsibility in the hands of every citizen'.

For CCPR the key questions are which of the above themes takes precedence and why? Is a smaller state and greater civil action simply short-hand for spending cuts, or is it a real commitment to support the voluntary effort that drives sport forward? The following extracts from the coalition's programme for Government may shed some light on this:

#### **Business**

'We will cut red-tape by introducing a "one-in, one-out" rule whereby no new regulation is brought in without other regulation being cut by a greater amount.'

This measure will be welcomed by CCPR provided it extends to voluntary groups as well as businesses.

### **Communities and Local Government**

'We will promote the radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups'.

This may be a mixed blessing for sport and recreation, with more opportunity locally, but less national consistency.

'We will create a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities'.

This will be important to those concerned at the loss of playing fields.

'We will introduce new powers to help local communities save local facilities and services threatened with closure'.

These new powers may well be needed in a tightened funding environment.

### **Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport**

'We will urgently form plans to deliver a genuine and lasting legacy'.

This commitment is essential to CCPR, which is closely engaged in current work in this area.

'We will reform the lottery so that more money goes into sport, the arts and heritage.' Jeremy Hunt MP has also publicly stated his intention to increase sport's share of lottery funding to 20%.

The Government has acted swiftly on this, [consulting](#) immediately on a statutory instrument to bring this into effect. CCPR welcomes this change which brings increased lottery funding to sport at a time when it is greatly needed to deliver a legacy of increased participation.

### **Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

'We will take forward the Marine and Coastal Access Act and ensure that its conservation measures are implemented effectively.'

This is key for CCPR's outdoor pursuit and water recreation members, and CCPR will monitor progress against this commitment.

### **Families and Children**

'We will review the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and scale it back to common sense levels'.

This will undoubtedly be welcomed by many CCPR members concerned about burdens on volunteers.

### **Social Action**

'We will take a range of measures to encourage volunteering and involvement in social action'.

Whilst in broad terms this is encouraging, there is little detail of how existing volunteers will be supported – for instance through reduced cost or bureaucracy.

### **What's missing?**

The programme for Government includes sections on both the NHS and public health. However, despite the social and economic cost of physical inactivity and associated conditions such as heart disease, no mention is made in these sections of the need to increase levels of physical activity. The transport section of the plan does, however, mention support for the promotion of cycling and walking.

## **2. GOVERNMENT SPENDING CUTS**

Chancellor George Osborne has set out details of £6bn worth of Government spending cuts. Key Departmental savings of interest to CCPR members are as follows:

- Cabinet Office (which has responsibility for voluntary sector) £79m
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport £88m (this includes £27m from the Olympic Delivery Authority)
- Department for Communities and Local Government (central) £780m, (local government) £405m
- Department for Education £670m
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs £162m
- Business, Innovation and Skills (which funds apprenticeships) £836m
- Department for Transport (which funds a range of cycling and walking initiatives) £683m
- Department for Work and Pensions (which supports 'active aging' projects) £535m

In addition to the above cuts to departments, the devolved administrations will be required to make £704m of savings, which may be deferred until next year. Regional Development Agencies will remain but will be required to accept spending cuts for lower priority projects.

The cuts to local government funding are for individual grants – not the 'formula grant', which is the main central government contribution to local authorities. The ability of local authorities to make savings will be helped by removing the ringfencing around their grants. However, the ringfences for schools and Sure Start will not be removed this year.

There would also be an extra £500m allocated for measures aimed at growth. Most of this money had been allocated to BIS, in order to fund 150,000 adult apprenticeship starts, some of which could be in the area of coaching. Conversely there would be cuts in the Train to Gain scheme.

## **3. FACILITIES INQUIRY**

The independent Facilities Inquiry panel, chaired by sports broadcaster John Inverdale, launched its [report](#) and recommendations to a wide range of stakeholders on 18 May 2010. The panel's seven key recommendations were welcomed by all present, and as a result CCPR will seek meetings with ministers and other key decision-makers in order to progress these.

The recommendations from the Facilities Inquiry are:

**1) Local authorities must not be afraid to rationalise facilities where they are no longer fit for purpose or located in the wrong place.**

Evidence shows that closing two poor facilities in order to create one good one can lead to increased sporting participation.

**2) Schools must be obliged to open the premises for out of hours sporting usage.**

Evidence shows that the availability of school sports facilities varies according to the attitude of the individual school. Yet opening up all school facilities could enable many more people to participate.

**3) Greater research is required to understand the current location, condition and usage of facilities.** Only then can investment be directed to where it will have the most impact.

**4) All new facilities, whether on school or community sites must include social space for players, spectators and others.** This contributes both to the quality of experience, and crucially may generate income to sustain the venue.

**5) Voluntary and community groups must be more fully involved in facility provision.** This would reduce costs and generate greater community ownership of the facility. Examples are as follows:

- A school providing access and giving responsibility to a badminton club one evening, and a

basketball club the next; the security of venue would incentivise responsible stewardship

- A sports centre and local clubs creating formal user agreements, thus providing secure income for the centre and guaranteeing facility time for sport as opposed to other non-sporting uses;
- A local authority transferring a pavilion or changing rooms to local sports clubs, thus reducing costs for the local authority and providing an asset for the club from which to create a firm base and identity

6) **Freely available outdoor space must appear more accessible.** Whilst there is now increased access to open space, people do not understand how to get there, nor where to go upon arrival. Improved transport links to natural areas, and improved information on paths and routes would encourage greater usage among non-participants.

7) **Access to and maintenance of waterways must be improved.** At present access to the UK's waterways is highly restricted, and maintenance is dramatically underfunded. Opening up high quality water and waterside recreation would hugely increase the facility stock.

## 4. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

**Officials have confirmed that the consultations below, initiated by the previous Government remain 'live'.**

### **4.1 The use of CRB checks alongside ISA**

The matter of whether national governing bodies should still require fresh CRB disclosures for those people already registered with the ISA is absolutely crucial. CCPR would welcome views from all members to inform its response to this [consultation](#). These should be sent to [Joy Tottman](#).

### **4.2 Coastal Access Proposals**

This consultation sets out proposals for regulations regarding representations and objections to Natural England's coastal access proposals. [The consultation is open until 14 June](#). Please send any queries or examples to [Martin Key](#).

### **4.3 Revision of planning obligations**

This consultation sets out proposals to scale back 'section 106 agreements' to ensure that both planning obligations and CIL are effectively used for the purposes for which each was intended. [The consultation is open until 21 June](#). Please send any queries or examples to [Martin Key](#).

### **4.4 Planning for a natural and healthy environment**

DCLG is consulting on proposed planning policy on: biodiversity; geological conservation; landscape and soil protection; heritage coastline; open space; sport; recreation; green infrastructure; and floodlighting of sports and recreational facilities. The documentation can be found [here](#) and [Martin Key](#) would welcome your views.

### **4.5 London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) consultation**

TfL is consulting on a Variation Order to change the start date of the London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) phase covering larger vans (including motor-caravans and motorised horseboxes) and minibuses to January 2012. The Mayor's new Transport Strategy, published on 10 May 2010, includes Proposal 95, which defers the extension of the LEZ to LGVs and minibuses. In light of the economic downturn, this proposal will allow operators more time to comply with the required emissions standard. It was originally intended to extend the LEZ to LGVs and minibuses from October 2010. The documentation can be found [here](#) and [Martin Key](#) would welcome your views.