The UK government has ramped up its interest in hosting the 2022 Commonwealth Games, urging potential host cities to come forward with economy-boosting bids.

Culture secretary Karen Bradley has thrown her weight behind a British bid, and said hosting the Games was an opportunity to present an “outward-looking nation that is confident on the world stage” following Brexit.

Cities wanting to host the Games will have to present economic benefits the event could deliver through “international trade, investment and tourism opportunities”.

Liverpool and Birmingham – who were competing to host the 2026 Games – have already thrown their hats into the ring after the 2022 edition was taken away from Durban in March when the South African city conceded that it couldn’t afford to stage the event. According to the government, multi-city proposals will be considered, as well as single city bids, before it decides whether to submit a formal UK bid later this year. Sports minister Tracey Crouch has written to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) to confirm the UK’s interest as potential hosts.

She echoed Bradley’s sentiments on the economy, adding that any bid should “deliver lasting legacy at good value for taxpayers”.

“The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games showed the appetite and enthusiasm that the British people have for supporting major sporting events,” said Crouch.

“We want to hear from cities interested in repeating the triumphs of London, Glasgow and Manchester before it in 2002.”

Government statistic revealed that London 2012 delivered £9.9bn in economic impact, will Scotland’s economy grew by £52m following Glasgow 2014.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=e5W2P
Duty of Care report published

National governing bodies of sport should be required to have at least one named person dedicated to the duty of care of athletes or risk having their public funding cut, according to a wide-ranging report published by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson.

With the title of duty of care guardian, the individual should sit on the board of the governing body and “engage with participants across the talent pathway and in community sport”.

A public statement from the duty of care guardian should be included within each governing body’s annual report. The position should be mandatory, says the report.

The recommendation was one of many within the Duty of Care in Sport report, which has taken a year to produce.

Other recommendation include: the establishment of a Sports Ombudsman, to hold governing bodies to account over duty of care issues; measurement of duty of care performance indicators via an independent benchmark survey; an induction process for all participants entering elite-level sport; exit surveys for retiring athletes; and a government-funded British Athletes Commission.

Grey-Thompson has also suggested the creation of a Duty of Care Charter – to be established by government – which would “explicitly set out” how participants, coaches and support staff can expect to be treated and where they can go if they need support and guidance.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=t0G4A

Pilling oversees Yorkshire race

Chris Pilling, the former chief executive of the First Direct, has been tasked with overseeing the preparations ahead of Yorkshire hosting the 2019 UCI World Road Championships.

Pilling will be chair of Yorkshire 2019 as one of five independent directors, joined by Paul Williamson, Denise Jagger, Malgorzata Grzyb and Dee Paterson.

As well as his stint at First Direct, Pilling was also CEO at the Yorkshire Building Society and a senior executive with HSBC, British Airways and Asda. He has been described as a “keen cyclist” and is a resident of Harrogate in the north of the county.

Yorkshire hosted the Tour de France Grand Depart in 2014 host world-class events so I’m fully confident we will stage a fantastic nine-day World Championships in 2019 that will do the county and the UK proud.”

UK Sport’s chief operating officer Simon Morton said Pilling had the “leadership and experience required” to oversee the event organisation.

Two further additions are expected to be made to the board in the near future. Details: http://lei.sr?a=h4K7t
EPL clubs face accessibility probe

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has earmarked a September date for a formal investigation of Premier League (EPL) clubs that haven’t sufficiently improved the disabled access at their home stadiums.

All 20 clubs in the English top flight are expected to adhere to Accessible Stadia Guide requirements relating to proportion of wheelchair spaces and access for people with other disabilities by the start of the 2017/18 seasons.

However, the EHRC’s latest report – The State of Play: How Accessible is Your Club? – confirmed suspicions that a number of Premier League clubs weren’t currently compliant, with several unlikely to be by the deadline.

According to the document, Arsenal and Liverpool failed to provide the minimum number of wheelchair spaces, Bournemouth and Swansea were without larger, fully equipped toilets, while West Ham lacked a published access statement for disabled fans.

Scudamore chairs Business Council

Premier League chief Richard Scudamore will co-chair a government-devised group geared towards strengthening the business savvy of the UK sport sector.

First revealed by the government when it published its Sporting Future strategy in December 2015, the Sports Business Council will focus on supporting the sector’s access to finance and skill development.

Economic development within sport was highlighted as one of the five key pillars in the strategy, and the council will concentrate on exploiting its “expertise in hosting major events” and “developing international brands” like the Premier League to drive exports abroad.

The government department for exports, the Department for International Trade (DIT), has a target to hit £1tn worth of exports by 2020.

Membership of the council is currently being finalised with meetings due to take place quarterly. Industry representatives will lead on specific pieces of work relevant to their expertise between meetings.

Tracey Crouch, the minister for sport, will co-chair the group alongside Scudamore.

“Sport makes a major contribution to the economy with major events, sports equipment and media rights generating billions in spend and the sector employing around a million people in the UK,” she said. But there is more we can do to support the sector and spread jobs, prosperity and opportunity around the whole country.”

Scudamore said the council would “help shape policies that will cement further and enhance the UK’s reputation for sporting excellence.”

LTA expands children’s participation programme

A grassroots tennis initiative that offers young children a free six-week course and tennis racket has been expanded to accommodate 20,000 youngsters.

The Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) Tennis for Kids programme was enjoyed by 13,000 children aged 5-8 in 2016.

An extra 7,000 kids will be able to take part due to demand for the scheme which was launched to capitalise on Great Britain's Davis Cup win in 2015. The victory was the start of a golden 12 months for British tennis. Andy Murray won Wimbledon, gold at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and was subsequently named as World No. 1.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=f8B3U

Dame Katherine Grainger appointed UK Sport chair

London 2012 gold medallist Dame Katherine Grainger has been appointed as the new chair of UK Sport.

Britain's most decorated female Olympic athlete – who also won silver medals at the 2016, 2008, 2004 and 2000 Games – will replace outgoing chair Rod Carr in July.

Carr is due to step down in April after completing one four-year term.

UK Sport board member Lis Astall takes the over as interim chair in the meantime.

The appointment was made by culture secretary Karen Bradley.

Sports minister Tracey Crouch said that Grainger was an “inspiring” choice, and thanked Carr for his “superb work at the helm” since 2013.

“As one of our greatest ever Olympians, she has an outstanding understanding of high performance sport, and through her educational and charity work has a proven commitment to inclusion,” Crouch added.

Grainger – who will be paid £40,000 per year for the role – said she was “honoured” to be appointed.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=w8coA
Health & Fitness

Club Company investing £1.7m in fitness facilities

Golf and health club operator The Club Company is pumping £1.7m into refurbishing its fitness facilities at Woodbury Park, near Exeter in Devon.

Work has begun to completely refurbish and extend the gym, with Technogym equipment being installed throughout, as well as an improved functional training area. There will also be a new spin studio, with Technogym bikes.

The existing dance studio and wet changing rooms will be refurbished, and the dry changing rooms will be revamped. An adult-only wet spa area will be created with an infinity hydro pool, Rohol sauna and steam room.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=A5m0q

Gym Group part of £150m scheme

The Gym Group has agreed a deal to open a fitness facility at a £150m development in Liverpool known as 'Project Jennifer'.

The fitness group will occupy a 10,000sq ft (929sq m) unit at the District Centre.

Offering a 24/7 service, members can expect more than 170 pieces of equipment including cardiovascular and resistance machines, along with a programme of free exercise classes. The gym will be equipped with showers, changing rooms, vending machines and parking.

The Gym Group, which operates 91 sites in the UK, will join retailers Sainsbury’s, B&M and Home Bargains who have already committed to the scheme. The development by St. Modwen in partnership with Liverpool City Council is set to be completed this summer.

Jonathan Spaven, Gym Group property director, said: “The development of the District Centre is helping to revitalise North Liverpool and this site, which has excellent transport links and high footfall retail and leisure facilities in the immediate locality, provides the perfect location for us. As a business, we have invested significantly in our property portfolio and this latest addition helps deliver our ambitious growth plans for 2017.”

Paul Batho, St. Modwen projects director, said: “The Gym Group’s signing boosts the scheme's offering by providing Great Homer Street with an affordable and accessible fitness facility.

The development is known as Project Jennifer after the niece of the auxiliary bishop of Liverpool, Tom Williams. Bishop Williams was a founding member of a group in the area who were calling for change in the 1990s and he suggested the name.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=m3w2D

Bannatyne Group pumps £500k into Carlisle club

The Bannatyne Group has invested £500,000 into improving equipment and facilities at its Carlisle health club.

Interactive cardiovascular and resistance equipment and an expanded free weights section have been installed on the gym floor. Other new equipment includes Watt Bikes, Water Rowers, Technogym spin bikes, Skillmill and Les Mills smart bars for Body Pump classes and functional training.

The group has also invested in a new functional area, which includes a Technogym Omnia 8. The rig covers all aspects of training, including strength, endurance, stability, flexibility, coordination and speed. The refurbishment is part of the group’s ongoing investment in all its health clubs.

Daniel Gray, general manager at Bannatyne Health Club Carlisle, said: “Functional training is the way the industry is progressing. The new equipment provides fantastic fat burning workouts and will improve strength, endurance and boost metabolism.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=gtN6k

GLL signs Mental Health Charter

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) has signed the Sport and Recreation Alliance’s Mental Health Charter to help improve accessibility to its facilities for all sections of the community.

The charitable social enterprise, which operates more than 300 leisure centres, gyms, libraries and children’s centres under its customer brand, Better, is revising staff training modules, to increase mental health awareness.

The charter is a collaboration between mental health charity MIND and the Alliance.

The document outlines six actions that the sports and physical activity sector can take to help make mental health commonly understood and to help those in need, including the promotion of physical activity to achieve good mental wellbeing.

Peter Bundey, GLL deputy managing director, said: “We are proud to work alongside MIND and the Sport and Recreation Alliance to support the Mental Health Charter. Reviewing our offer in line with the charter means embedding mental health awareness into staff training, to ensure that we continue to offer inclusive, accessible services.

“With one in four people in the UK living with a mental health condition and the benefits of taking part in physical activity and sport clear for mind and body, it is crucial to provide services to all the community – and by doing so, tackle stigma, promote respect and boost participation.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=b2V8F

Gray said functional training was key to the move

Bannatyne Group pumps £500k into Carlisle club

GLL signs Mental Health Charter
**HEALTH & FITNESS**

**Council revamps Cheshire facility**

Social enterprise Brio Leisure has agreed plans to pump £2.2m into Neston Recreation Centre in Cheshire, with Sport England providing more than 20 per cent of the funding.

The design of the facility includes a new frontage and reception, as well as new changing rooms, a gym and dedicated areas for fitness classes.

It is the first major investment to the building, which opened in March 1974 as a joint-use centre for the community and Neston High School.

Investment have been approved by Brio Leisure and Cheshire West and Chester Council, which owns the building. Sport England is providing £500,000 towards the project. A planning application will be submitted shortly with the aim to start work in the summer. Completion is planned for spring 2018.

Anthony Annakin-Smith, Brio Leisure chair, said: “The new facilities will considerably enhance the enjoyment of Neston Rec for our many users and make it a much more attractive place to visit for them and for newcomers. The investment underpins Brio’s commitment to supporting fitness for the whole community.”

Charles Johnston, Sport England’s property director, added: “Thankfully as a nation we are becoming more active and thanks to National Lottery funding we can help Neston Recreation Centre improve their facilities so even more people can enjoy being active.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=n5E3n

**Pulse transforms office into fitness suite**

The Pulse Group has revamped a 1,150sq m (12,380sq ft) office block to create a health and fitness facility called Our Gym, in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

The leisure solution provider was selected by Dacorum Sports Trust (DST) to lead the £800,000 project, which took 12 weeks.

Pulse Design and Build – the dedicated construction arm of the group – transformed the old office building into a modern low-cost gym, while Pulse Fitness kitted out the facility with equipment.

The two-storey fitness suite has dance and cycling studios, and a gym that boasts 100-plus cardiovascular machines fitted with digital televisions, radio and iPod connectivity.

A functional training space has been created, along with a free-weight section.

The building was reconfigured to accommodate a reception area with offices, modern changing rooms and toilets, as well as a first aid room.

Chris Johnson, Pulse managing director, said: “We are delighted to complete this project with DST and look forward to supporting them in their vision for Our Gym. We are confident that the community will benefit greatly from the introduction of a modern, state-of-the-art facility.”

Nigel McArthur, DST group operations manager, said: “Pulse were the perfect company to create a modern fitness facility, and by working with the team on this brand new gym we hope to offer more exciting fitness opportunities in the local area.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=4Z0y6
Taking place at ExCeL London on 10–11 May, Elevate will explore the ways in which physical activity, health and performance connect. We look at what’s in store at the show.

The UK’s largest cross-sector event focused on tackling inactivity, Elevate brings together experts from a wide range of backgrounds to focus on this increasingly important and complex societal challenge.

This year’s attendees will have the opportunity to hear from over 200 speakers from the physical activity sector, academia, healthcare, government, commercial industry, local authorities and human performance. Speakers will share perspectives, ideas and the latest innovations to get people more active.

In addition to the free presentations and workshops running throughout the two days, attendees can also visit the expanded exhibition space which will include nine feature areas, three attractions, a dedicated stage and over 150 stands – all with a focus on physical activity, health and performance.

Explaining the need for a conference like Elevate, Dr Justin Varney of Public Health England – a speaker at this year’s event – says: “If it were as simple as a single barrier, or even just a couple of barriers, we might have tackled physical inactivity years ago. However, much like obesity, inactivity is a complex problem requiring action across the whole system to change the environments in which we live, as well as the cultural norms relating to physical activity.”

The business of activity
Alongside the existing three seminars streams – Future Performance, Inclusivity: Creating an Active Nation, and Physical Activity for Health and Wellbeing – this year’s event sees the launch of a new seminar stream: The Business of Physical Activity. The wide range of seminars in this stream will consider how marketing, finance, policy, digital and facilities management are transforming the physical activity business to meet the needs of consumer.

Opening this stream will be a discussion entitled ‘The changing shape of the industry’, which will consider how the fitness sector is evolving and segmenting. With contributions from companies such as Tough Mudder, David Lloyd Leisure, Heartcore, activbod and Fitbug, it will look at the new competition, what this means for traditional operators, and how the sector can evolve and adapt.

Meanwhile Nick Perchard, head of communities at the Premier League, will join a session looking at the relationships between big brands and physical activity promotion. Perchard says: “As an industry, sport has so much to offer, but can do more to engage with health professionals in particular. To do that, we need to learn to communicate using their language.

“At the Premier League, we really focus on making sure activity is enjoyable first and foremost. There’s a tendency to forget that if it’s not fun, young people in particular will choose to do other things.”

Activity for health
Physical activity for improved health is another key element of the event and Dr Benjamin Ellis, senior clinical policy advisor at Arthritis Research UK, says that anyone interested in learning about the benefits of physical activity for the millions of people suffering with arthritis should really attend his session.

“I’ll be discussing how we can collectively

Inactivity is a complex problem that requires action across the whole system, to change environments and cultural norms relating to physical activity

- Justin Varney, PHE

Speakers will include (l-r) Dr Benjamin Ellis of Arthritis Research UK, Dr Joe Piggin of Loughborough University, and Sarah Broad of Greater Manchester Leisure and Cultural Trusts. Above right: Max Quittenton, Elevate director
support people with arthritis to become physically active, so they can enjoy the benefits of reduced pain and disability. Working with the Department of Health, Public Health England and NHS England, Arthritis Research UK has developed a tiered framework for what should be provided to deliver this support.

“Well like to discuss how physical activity and fitness communities can support making this widely available,” he explains.

Asked how we can best promote physical activity in the UK, Dr Joe Piggan – programme director at Loughborough University and another of the Elevate event’s speakers – says: “For me, an important aspect to develop is opportunities for older adults.

“Sport and physical activities often focus on young people. Of course, young people are important, but this emphasis on youth can leave older adults marginalised from marketing, facilities, services and funding.”

Meanwhile, with her personal experience of working across Greater Manchester Leisure and Cultural Trust with its workforce of over 4,000 people, Sarah Broad will join a panel exploring how to create more productive, sustainable and responsive workforces.

Broad says: “Nurturing our workforce is the most important asset we have in tackling inactivity.”

**Explore the floor**

With more exhibition space available at this year’s new venue, Elevate 2017 will feature several new attractions.

- The Stage will host a programme of demonstrations that focus on group exercise, active ageing, inclusivity and functional training.
- The Tech Lab will include presentations on a wide range of fitness, sports and health promotion technology.
- The Evidence Base will return for 2017 to consider the latest research to support the health benefits of physical activity.

Max Quittenton, director of Elevate, says: “As physical activity continues its bold ascent up all manner of social, political and commercial agendas, we’re delighted to announce that Elevate will grow by 65 per cent in 2017. "Remaining completely free to attend and now moving to ExCel; Elevate 2017 will host more brilliant exhibitors and expert speakers, who’ll be presenting a huge variety of carefully selected content, alongside the very latest innovations designed to get people moving more.”

**SUPPORTERS**

With backing from many key organisations in the physical activity sector, this year’s lead supporters for Elevate include Public Health England, ukactive, London Sport, The Institute of Sport, Exercise & Health (ISEH) and The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA).
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Performance Path will focus on the solutions which have helped athletes and sports people achieve their goals.

TECHNOLOGY WALK
Technology Walk presents the latest developments in fitness technology including wearable devices, data management and other software.

CENTRAL HUB
Lead supporters of Elevate will host the central meeting place during Elevate, this area is designed to encourage cross-sector pollination.

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Technology Walk presents the latest developments in fitness technology including wearable devices, data management and other software.

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HOTELS

Victorian mansion reborn as hotel

A gothic Victorian country mansion near Manchester has been restored and renovated as the second property for boutique hotel company Oddfellows.

Over an 18-month period, Tim Groom Architects and interior designers Spacelvader transformed Buntwood Hall – previously used at different times as an equestrian stud farm, a town hall, an office for a film company and a fashion designer's studio – into Oddfellows On The Park; a Victorian-style hotel with a contemporary twist.

As part of the £7m refurbishment, 22 individually designed bedrooms have been created, many of them in the original Victorian dimensions of the hall. These include a bridal suite set over three floors within the building’s original tower. Each room has a panoramic view of the surrounding 100 acre Bruntwood Park – which is open to the public and hosts leisure pursuits such as BMX and archery.

The property was transformed over an 18-month period

Exeter hotel restored after fire

Manchester-based architects Buttress have been chosen to return Exeter’s Royal Clarence hotel to its former glory after it was destroyed by a fire in October 2016.

The studio have been working with structural engineers Thomasons since the fire devastated the Grade II 16th century building to assess the extent of the damage and make the remaining elements safe. Following that piece of work, Buttress will commence with a full restoration process, which will include a revamp of the interior design.

Surviving features of the historical and architectural importance will be incorporated into the rebuild.

"Over the past few months, our efforts have been focused on stabilising the building, taking great care to save as much as possible of what remains,” said David Shatwell, director of Buttress.

"Now most of the debris has been cleared, we are pleased to be in a position where we can move forward with the next stage of work.”

There is also a bar and a restaurant, called The Galloping Major, located in what was once the ballroom, and a salon de beauté called Pigsty – the wing’s working name before its use was decided.

The latter is complete with mud room, where guests can slap detoxifying mud on each other, or enjoy a facial or massage.

Buntwood Hall was originally built in 1861.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=B4u8Q

Brexit effect hits average UK hotel room rates

The British hotel industry should "brace itself" for more pain following Brexit, with hotel room rates declining substantially since last year’s vote.

According to statistics published by Global Hotel Solutions (HRS UK), average room rates in the UK declined by 12 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015.

Even London experienced a 9 per cent dip despite its popularity as a destination, although its room rate remained comparatively strong at an average of £150 per night. The capital was the UK’s most expensive destination to stay in and was the second dearest city in Europe.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=k7l9x

Sunderland’s Roker Hotel has appointed three new managers following an extensive £1m refurbishment.

Ivan Holroyd will look after the 96-strong workforce as general manager, Lorella Movileanu has been appointed to manage the hotel’s on-site Italian Farmhouse restaurant and Hayley Thomson will be responsible for the Let There Be Crumbs tearoom.

Holroyd joins from the Borrowdale Hotel at Keswick

Three managers hired by revamped North East hotel

Mark Hird, managing director of the hotel’s owner Tavistock Hospitality, said all three had “a wealth of experience in their fields”.

The Roker Hotel recently underwent a three-year refurbishment programme, devised to increase the venue’s appeal to families and corporate and leisure visitors.

As part of the improvements the hotel unveiled 43 new look en-suite bedrooms.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=t5W5Z

Stephanie Hocking, chief executive of Andrew Brownsword Hotels – the owner of the building – said the company was working with Buttress to ”secure the future of the hotel”.

She added: “As such a significant historic building, we are pleased to be entering the rebuild phase and look forward to delivering a hotel the city can once again be proud of.”

Andrew Brownsword purchased the 53-room hotel in 2003 for £4.5m.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=e3r4y

Details: http://lei.sr?a=47f9x

Holroyd joins from Borrowdale Hotel at Keswick
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SPA & WELLNESS

Landmark London spa relaunched

The Spa and Health Club at the The Landmark London hotel has relaunched after undergoing an extensive, six-week redevelopment programme.

Treatment rooms, spa reception and changing areas have all been redesigned and reconfigured as part of a strategy to improve the spa’s customer journey.

Specialist consultancy SMC Design was brought in to plan the re-design, which includes the use of materials – such as dark copper and porcelain stone tiles – deemed to have a “synergy with the architecture” of the spa’s historic surroundings.

The 300-bedroom Landmark London is housed in the Hotel Great Central building in Westminster. Dating to 1899, the building was designed by Sir Robert William Edis and was one of the original grand hotels of the late Victorian era.

Adolf Schauer, hotel manager at The Landmark London said: “Our aim when reopening the Spa and Health Club is to ensure that each and every guest experiences a luxurious journey in keeping with the hotel’s relaxing environment.”

The spa, located at The Landmark London, now houses four treatment rooms, a fitness suite, one of London’s few chlorine-free indoor swimming pools, steamrooms and a sanarium.

Owned by Thailand-based Lancaster Landmark Hotel Company, the spa recently signed a partnership deal with luxury skincare house Germaine de Capuccini.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=I5Y6s

New director for Durham’s £16m spa

One of northern England’s leading luxury spas, The Spa at Ramside, has appointed Joanne Green as its new director.

Green joins Ramside from the Aqua Sana spa at Center Parcs’ Whinfell Forest resort and will be responsible for all operations at the spa, which is housed in the Ramside Hall Hotel near Durham.

Green, a 15-year spa industry veteran, has been tasked to “help drive the business to the next level”.

“It is an amazing spa which has already achieved so much and I’m really looking forward to being part of its future growth,” she said.

Green added: “Coming from somewhere like Centre Parcs I understand all about having the right procedures in place and keeping customers happy. And now the years of experience I gained there is something that I can bring to the Spa at Ramside.”

The Spa at Ramside first launched in September 2015 at a cost of £16m. One of the largest hotel spas in the region, it boasts 14 treatment rooms, five swimming pools and a large thermal suite with a herbal sauna, Himalayan salt and aroma steamrooms, a tepidarium and a sunken amphitheatre sauna.

Flagship treatments for the spa are supplied by ESPA, Mii Cosmetics, Morgan Taylor and Salt of the Earth.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=E2j8h

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Green has been tasked to ‘help drive the business to the next level’
Funding boost for places of worship

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is altering its funding structure for places of worship following a call to make financial access for such projects more flexible.

From September 2017, the HLF’s Grants for Places of Worship programme will be retired and replaced by the body’s existing Our Heritage and Heritage Grants schemes, which offer funds of up to £100,000 and £5m respectively.

The move will create a faster single-stage application approach for projects worth up to £100,000, replacing a two stage process under the Grants for Places of Worship scheme. It will also open up religious applications, allowing for a wider range of activities and capital works than under the current programme. For the larger £5m scheme, more money will be available for individual places of worship, as previously the Places of Worship fund capped applications at £250,000.

“Time and resource-stretched congregations have been telling us that they want to access our funding more easily, so we are bringing in a more flexible and lighter-touch way of distributing much-needed funding support from the National Lottery,” said the HLF.

“Places of worship are among the oldest and most cherished buildings in the UK and we are fully committed to supporting them. This year we will spend a guaranteed £20m minimum on places of worship and it is likely to be far more than this. If places of worship continue to apply for National Lottery funding at similar levels, we fully expect to spend equivalent amounts in subsequent years, in proportion to our total grants budget.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=r357c

Thorpe Park’s Fright Night plans

Thorpe Park is gearing up to make a “game-changing” investment to boost its iconic Fright Night events, according to its new divisional director.

Talking exclusively to Leisure Opportunities, Dominic Jones revealed that the Merlin theme park had been “working on a deal” to take Fright Night to a new level and “bring Halloween back” to Thorpe Park in 2017.

Although he declined to unveil further details of the investment, new IP editions are expected to be included to the Fright Night season, which occurs during the month of October.

Jones said the plan was part of a wider investment strategy for Thorpe Park, which recently relaunched Derren Brown’s Ghost Train as “Rise of the Demon”, with a darker, more intense new plot.

“It’s a new era for Thorpe Park,” said Jones. “Part of my role is to see what we can do to take us into that new era, whether that means investing in food and beverage, infrastructure or anything else. We’ve got a great five year plan and lots of exciting things going on. The plan is about continuous improvement.”

The Ghost Train underwent a transformation ahead of reopening on 23 March. The ride was purposely built to be continually tweaked, with new journeys being added on a regular basis.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=f2g8v

London’s Mail Rail opening to the public in July 2017

London’s soon-to-be-open Postal Museum has confirmed that it will open its doors to the public later this year, with the £26m attraction set to launch in July.

Created to chronicle five centuries of social and communication history across Britain, the Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios-designed Postal Museum has been financed through the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Royal Mail and the Post Office, in addition to support from a number of individual private donors and organisations.

Haley Sharpe Design (HSD) is handling exhibition design for the museum, which is spread across five interactive zones.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Q6S0e

Concorde unwrapping at Aerospace Bristol

Aerospace Bristol has reached a landmark point in its development, taking the wraps off of its star attraction – the last Concorde supersonic passenger jet to ever take flight.

The crown jewel of the £19m attraction, Concorde 216 had been wrapped in protective film by film specialists Packexe, while works took place around the aircraft and the end wall of the purpose-built hangar was constructed.

Under development by the Bristol Aero Collection Trust, Aerospace Bristol has a rough opening date of August this year and will tell the story of the British aviation industry.

Housed on the former Filton Airfield, the Purcell development is comprised of two refurbished World War One aircraft hangars, which are currently being transformed into a heritage museum with learning suites, archives and workshops. Purcell also designed the new hangar to house Concorde.

The plans were approved by South Gloucestershire Council in 2014.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=15GoW

The plane had been wrapped in protective film

The plans are expected to include new IP additions, such as Saw
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UK visitor numbers surge as Brexit boom continues

While Britain’s decision to leave the European Union has created a general landscape of uncertainty, the nation’s tourism industry continues to break records.

According to official statistics from VisitBritain, the UK welcomed 5.2m visitors in January and February – up 6 per cent on the same period last year.

Overseas visitors also spent a record £2.7bn in January and February, up 11 per cent on 2016’s figures.

The increase has been attributed to the weakening of the pound since last year’s vote, with overseas tourists finding it considerably cheaper to visit.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=A6S5Q

Welsh domestic tourism numbers decline in 2016

The importance of an investment programme planned for the Welsh tourism sector has been laid bare after recent figures revealed a dip in domestic visitors over 2016.

According to the Great Britain Tourism Survey, fewer British holidaymakers chose to visit Wales last year, with the Welsh government estimating a 1.5 per cent drop year-on-year to 10m people.

Attempting to tackle the decline, Welsh tourism officials launched the new ‘EPIC’ campaign in July last year in a new effort to promote the country as the home of great adventures. The campaign included television and cinema advertising airing great adventures. The campaign included television and cinema advertising airing.

Tourism accounts of 4 per cent of Ireland’s GNP and employs around 220,000 people.

Scotland sees golf tourism growth

Golf tourism in Scotland has grown by 30 per cent over the last decade, netting the nation £286m per year.

Since 2008, the economic impact attributed to visitors taking part in the sport has mushroomed by £66m, with almost half (47 per cent) of overnight visitors travelling from overseas. Overseas golfing visitors spend £338 per night on average, four times more than average overseas visitors, who spend £78.90 per night.

Golf tourism now supports 4,700 jobs across the country’s biggest golfing regions.


Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland, said the sport was one of the nation’s “unique selling points”, and provides a “significant media profile”.

“These findings outline the importance of golf tourism and events play in supporting Scotland’s visitor economy and the Scottish economy as a whole,” he added.

Tourism Ireland aims for 5m Brits

Tourism Ireland has partnered with budget airline Ryanair to launch a large-scale campaign to entice Brits to the nation’s Wild Atlantic Way.

The campaign will promote flights between Cork – widely recognised as an important gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way – and London Stansted and Liverpool John Lennon airports.

It is expected the 5.5m people across Britain will be reached with the campaign, which will include adverts on Liverpool’s Radio City station and online ads on popular websites targeting people living around the two airports. The campaign will run until mid-May.

Julie Wakely, Tourism Ireland’s deputy head of Great Britain, said that the campaign would be one component of an “extensive programme of promotions throughout 2017 to highlight Ireland to British travellers.” Of the Ryanair partnership, she added: “As an island, the importance of convenient, direct, non-stop flights cannot be overstated – they are absolutely critical to achieving growth in inbound tourism.”

Tourism accounts of 4 per cent of Ireland’s GNP and employs around 220,000 people.

In 2016, 10.5m overseas tourists visited Ireland and delivered revenue of £4.6bn.

However, Wakely said Tourism Ireland would “continue to monitor developments around Brexit closely”.

“Competitiveness and value for money are more important than ever this year, given currency fluctuations and the decline in the value of sterling,” she added.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=l7P3I

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=l7P3I
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**Opening date set for Tate St Ives**

Work is nearing completion on Jamie Fobert Architects’ cliffside extension of Cornwall’s Tate St Ives, with an official opening date now set for 14 October this year.

Despite being a four-year construction project, the plans go back 12 years to 2005 when the London-based Jamie Fobert was first appointed to double the size of the museum.

Jamie Fobert lost the project in 2011 when the site was changed, but then reclaimed it after winning a second competition in 2012 for the modified site. BAM Construction is carrying out the redevelopment works.

Adding 600sq m (6,460sq ft) of new gallery space provides ample room to accommodate its 250,000 annual visitors – a figure more than three times the numbers the building was originally designed for. The expansion also means Tate St Ives will be able to stay open year-round for the first time, without the need to temporarily close while new exhibitions are installed.

The new gallery, sunk into the cliff alongside the original building, will offer artists and curators a column-free space lit by six large skylights. A public garden on the roof will be connected to the cliff above and the beach below.

Originally budgeted at £12m, the now £20m project has been made possible through funding from a number of public sources including Cornwall Council, Arts Council England (ACE), the Coastal Communities Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund.

Details: http://lei.stra=z4p7e

**Leamington stadium plans approved**

Southern Premier League football club Leamington FC has been given the go-ahead to build a 5,000-capacity stadium with a surrounding primary school, community hall and medical centre.

The plans to purchase and build on land close to the town's Europa Way were “overwhelmingly” approved by local authority Warwick District Council.

Leamington FC plans to install a 3G artificial pitch within the stadium, and build conference facilities, a gym, a cafe and community facilities on the site of the development. The stadium will be funded by revenue generated from the construction of a separate development, which is expected to include a hotel, pub, local shops and housing.

If the proposal is ratified by the club’s shareholders in May, Warwick District Council will purchase its existing Harbury Lane ground to avoid the land falling into the occupancy of gypsies and travellers.

Jim Scott, chair of Leamington FC, said the stadium would help “fulfil the club’s aspirations” of being promoted to higher divisions.

“It will also allow us to develop and expand our presence in the community through our programme of football and related activities,” he added. “This will give more people the opportunity to get involved, be it as a player, spectator or user of the facilities.”

Details: http://lei.stra=j7h8a

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**RSHP to craft major British Library expansion**

Architecture studio Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (RSHP) have been commissioned to design a major extension to the British Library in London.

The design team will build 100,000sq ft (9,100sq m) of new spaces on a 2.8 acre site to the north of the library’s Grade 1 Listed building at St Pancras.

Their design will include facilities for learning, exhibitions and public use, in addition to a new northern entrance and a headquarters for the Alan Turing Institute, the national centre for data science research. The British Library project – described as “a major new centre for commerce, knowledge and research” – is being developed with Stanhope, who recently completed work on Herzog and de Meuron’s extension of the Tate Modern art museum.

RSHP have worked on numerous high-profile cultural projects, including the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

Details: http://lei.stra=grD3y

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**Visitor centre celebrating work of Henry Moore opens**

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, the foundation of iconic British sculptor Henry Moore has opened a new visitor centre and archive dedicated to his work.

The Henry Moore Foundation was founded in 1977 to encourage public appreciation of the artist’s work and to support emerging talent. In the last four decades it has awarded over 2,000 grant awards totalling £31m.

To mark its birthday, the organisation has upgraded its sculpture garden attraction in the Hertfordshire hamlet of Perry Green.

A new building, designed by Hugh Broughton Architects, provides an interpretation space for education and events and also features meeting rooms, a shop, a cafe and working spaces for the foundation’s staff.

Details: http://lei.stra=zz1Jx
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Westgate Park Gloucester

Gloucester City Council is seeking expressions of interest from individuals, companies or organisations who would like the chance to create, deliver and run a new leisure related facilities in Westgate Park Gloucester.

Westgate Park has been subject to under investment over the past few years and is now in need of new uses to bring vitality and vibrancy into what is currently a little used facility.

The City Council owns the freehold on the majority of the Park and at 9 hectares is hopeful that a partner or partners will come forward with the imagination and the means to transform the Park (whole or in part) into a vibrant and successful leisure asset that will benefit Gloucester residents and visitors. The park is situated close to the City Centre, has a riverside frontage, a now redundant boating lake and access off the busy A417, it does however, have some constraints that bring forward their own challenges.

To help investors the City Council has drawn up an ‘Opportunity Document’ that sets out our aspirations and constraints that exist on the site.

This can be found on www.gloucester.gov.uk look under ‘Investing’ on the landing page.

If you require further information or have any questions please contact Meyrick Brentnall on environment@gloucester.gov.uk expressions should be submitted by the 12th May 2017.
Active IQ backs HFE qualification

Awarding body Active IQ has given its backing to two clinically-focused qualifications offered by Health and Fitness Education (HFE).

The two organisations have teamed up to make sure the latter’s Level 4 qualifications related to lower back pain and obesity and diabetes remain relevant.

Lee Cain, managing director of Health and Fitness Education, said that people with these skills are of “increasing demand”.

“Students require some high level clinical input and interaction and we didn’t feel that in-house we could completely fulfill this specialist area,” Cain said.

“We looked at a few options and chose Active IQ as its suite of learning resources, access to medical experts and scalability for these smaller yet more specialist courses were exactly what we needed,”

Cain said his organisation would use Active IQ to ensure training manuals, course content and assessments remained contemporary. Active IQ is an Ofqual-recognised awarding organisation, which has 550 approved centres across the UK specialising in active leisure, learning and wellbeing.

“By working with Active IQ, we can relinquish all the legwork and time needed to keep on top of the latest research and findings,”

Dr Dane Vishnubala was hired as Active IQ’s chief medical officer to ensure its course content spoke to the health issues of the nation, such as obesity.

He said: “As a GP, I’m hugely appreciative of the work personal trainers and gym owners are doing, exploring new ways to work with clients and members to counteract their health issues.

“The more that can be done in gyms and clubs, the better for the NHS.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=h9k1j

Spa to expand training operations

Urban Oasis, a new urban spa with a focus on healing, has revealed plans to expand its training division after opening a site within the Hilton Manchester Deansgate Hotel in Manchester.

The Deansgate project represents the organisations second location. The first – within a Debenhams department store in Manchester – houses a therapy training centre and yoga studio.

Founder Martha Mary Brophy said that she planned to expand the company’s training division, and has created a sub-brand – Grow at Urban Oasis – for the training centre and personal development space within Debenhams.

“Our mission is to bring healing to the high street,” founder Martha Mary Brophy told Leisure Opportunities. “The focus is on creating environments conducive to deepening customers’ healing treatments.

“The Urban Oasis brand is different because the focus is completely on healing as opposed to pampering, and the day spa are located in busy urban areas to offer the oasis that so many customers desire.”

The new Hilton location has three treatment rooms, including a double room with a Buddha mural are located in busy urban areas to offer the oasis that so many customers desire.”

The new Hilton location has three treatment rooms, including a double room, and uses Sothys skincare in its treatments, along with its own branded Urban Oasis line.

Brophy said she wanted the spa to add to the hotel’s “experience”. The hotel offers luxury rooms, meeting spaces, a restaurant, and Cloud 23 – a place for afternoon tea.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=B3m3X
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Or book a space at our recruitment weekend being held on 6 & 7 May at Bracknell Leisure Centre by e-mailing: coral.reef@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
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<td>Gym Supervisor</td>
<td>énergie group</td>
<td>Kettering, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Assistants</td>
<td>Parkwood Leisure</td>
<td>Barnstaple, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duty Manager</td>
<td>Bluecoat</td>
<td>Horsham, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre Assistants</td>
<td>Vibrant Partnerships</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Project Manager</td>
<td>360 Play</td>
<td>Milton Keynes, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant General Manager</td>
<td>The Gym Group</td>
<td>Watford, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Teachers</td>
<td>Everyone Active</td>
<td>Various locations, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Guard</td>
<td>University of London</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Guard</td>
<td>University of London</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yoga Centre Manager  
Company: triyoga  
Location: London, UK

Fitness Duty Supervisor  
Company: The Hurlingham Club  
Location: Fulham, London, UK

Gym Instructor  
Company: The Hurlingham Club  
Location: Fulham, London, UK

Team Leaders  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Aylesbury, UK

Corporate Fitness Manager  
Company: Kirklees Active Leisure  
Location: Huddersfield, UK

Night Shift Worker  
Company: énergie group  
Location: Fit4Less Cheddle Huile, UK

Graduate Sports Assistant  
Company: Bloxham School  
Location: Banbury, UK

Part time Catering Assistant  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Wembley, London, UK

Part time Fitness Instructor  
Company: YMCA Maidstone  
Location: Maidstone, UK

Client Services Manager  
Company: MK Health Hub  
Location: Solihull, UK

Sales Manager  
Company: énergie group  
Location: Sheldon, UK

Recreation Director  
Company: Thames Valley Summer Sch  
Location: South-east, UK

Supervisor  
Company: Coral Reef (Bracknell Forest)  
Location: Bracknell, UK

Membership Sales Advisor  
Company: Legacy Leisure  
Location: Trowbridge, UK

Sports Assistant  
Company: Enable Leisure & Culture  
Location: London, UK

Activities Coordinator  
Company: Coral Reef  
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Membership Sales Consultant  
Company: énergie group  

Customer Service Advisor  
Company: énergie group  
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Personal Trainers  
Company: The Gym Group  
Location: London Vauxhall, UK

Sports Development and Physical Activity Manager  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Hampshire, UK

Gymnastic Coaches  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Sunderland, UK

Franchise Opportunities  
Company: Premier Sport  
Location: Nelson, UK

Head of Operations  
Company: University Of Warwick  
Location: Coventry

Spa Receptionist  
Company: Coral Reef (Bracknell Forest)  
Location: Bracknell, UK

Personal Trainer  
Company: The Hurlingham Club  
Location: Fulham, London, UK

Receptionist  
Company: Coral Reef (Bracknell Forest)  
Location: Bracknell, UK

Freelance Tutor  
Company: The Training Room  
Location: Various locations, UK

Head Dance Teacher  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Gymnastics Coach  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Group Exercise Instructors  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: London, UK

Fitness & Wellbeing Manager  
Company: Bluecoat Health Club  
Location: Horsham, UK

Receptionist  
Company: Coral Reef (Bracknell Forest)  
Location: Bracknell, UK

Recreation Assistant  
Company: Coral Reef (Bracknell Forest)  
Location: Bracknell, UK

Swimming Teachers  
Company: Everyone Active  
Location: Various locations, UK

Swimming Instructors  
Company: Swimming Nature  
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainers  
Company: Matt Roberts Personal Training Company  
Location: London, UK, UK

General Manager  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: Various

Impact Sales Consultant  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: National role, UK

Personal Trainer  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: Various locations, UK

Membership Consultant  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: Various locations, UK

Personal Trainer  
Company: Xercise4Less  
Location: Various locations, UK

Trainee Personal Trainer  
Company: The Gym Academy  
Location: Nationwide, UK

Beauty Therapist  
Company: Harrogate Borough Council  
Location: Harrogate, UK

Therapists  
Company: FACEGYM  
Location: London, UK

Spa Operations Manager  
Company: Stapleford Park  
Location: Leicestershire, UK

Beauty Therapists  
Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel  
Location: Frinton-on-Sea, UK

Beauty Therapists  
Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel  
Location: Frinton-on-Sea, UK

Head of Rides Engineering and Estates  
Company: Oakwood Theme Park  
Location: Pembroke, UK

LZ Visitor Services  
Company: Zoological Society of London  
Location: London, UK

Head of B2B Marketing  
Company: Farah Experiences  
Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Head of Sales Operations  
Company: Farah Experiences  
Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

HSE Director, Farah Experiences  
Company: Farah Experiences  
Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Operations Manager  
Company: The Eye Brand  
Location: Orlando, United States

General Manager  
Company: Continuum Attractions  
Location: Oxford

Direct Marketing Manager  
Company: Farah Experiences  
Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

CRM and Cross-Park Support Manager  
Company: Farah Experiences  
Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

CRM Digital Manager  
Company: Farah Experiences  
Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Audio Visual Technician  
Company: Madame Tussauds  
Location: Orlando, United States

Marketing Analyst  
Company: Merlin Entertainments Grp  
Location: New York NY, United States

Guest Experience Host  
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre  
Location: Chicago IL, United States

Guest Experience Host  
Company: Sea Life  
Location: Minnesota, United States

Retail Manager  
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre  
Location: Boston, United States

Catering Assistant  
Company: GLL  
Location: London East, UK

Cafe Assistant  
Company: GLL  
Location: Cambridge, UK
UK Sport has dismissed claims it has failed in its duty of care to athletes following high profile allegations of bullying within sports that it funds.

During a Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee hearing into doping in sport, Julian Knight MP argued that the elite sport quango had “allowed the pursuit of medals to take priority over the mental health of athletes”.

The elected member for Solihull also said that UK Sport was guilty of a “dereliction its duty” by “not being aware of issues” while they were ongoing, referring to allegations made by athletes within the world-class programmes of British Cycling and British Canoeing.

Liz Nicholl, the organisation’s CEO, categorically stated that UK Sport had not failed in its duty of care and that “it is the responsibility of the sport to know what is going on”. She admitted that “some scenarios have raised questions about the culture in some sports”, but cavetd that the issues “must be put into perspective”.

“We are funding 1,200 athletes and it’s a small number of athletes [making allegations],” she said. Nicholl added that UK Sport would wait until the conclusion of two ongoing reviews before deciding whether to take action.

A year-long review examining the culture of British Cycling is drawing to its conclusion following allegations of bullying raised by several female athletes. A similar investigation into the environment within British Canoeing has also been launched recently after a female athlete alleged that a coach offered her automatic team selection in exchange for sex.

Details: http://lei sr? t=aP5H7G

‘Uncertainty’ prompts Foster restructure

“Continued from front cover
This, coupled with some uncertainty in the construction market, has led us to make some adjustments to our practice, which regrettably includes some redundancies enabling us to balance numbers with our current and foreseeable workload.”

According to the Guardian, the firm’s turnover rose from £188m in 2015 to £225m in 2016, but its full-year pre-tax profits dropped from £51.1m to £33.4m.

The newspaper added that uncertainty surrounding the effects of the UK’s decision to leave the European Union is one explanation for the redundancies.

Architects David Chipperfield, Rem Koolhaas, Richard Rogers, David Adjaye, Ron Arad and designer Thomas Heatherwick are among the British and European figures who have claimed the Brexit vote will have a negative impact on the architecture and construction industries in the UK. Foster + Partners employ more than 1,250 people in London, and also have staff based in New York, Shanghai and Dubai, among other international cities. Most of its revenues are generated overseas.

Details: http://lei sr? t=aM1a7O