‘Radical’ change to health policy

PETE HAYMAN

Health secretary Andrew Lansley has announced plans for a ‘radical’ new public health service to encourage people in England to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Public Health England will see the government hand over more power to local authorities, with ring-fenced funding from within the overall NHS budget to be made available.

The Department of Health estimates that around £4bn will be spent on the delivery of the new service, which will also incorporate industry, charities and other departments.

In his White Paper, Lansley said the approach would incorporate projects such as the new £135m Olympic legacy participation programme and the protection of green spaces. Government plans include ensuring communities are designed for ‘active ageing’, as well as giving every child the opportunity to benefit from the ‘best start in life’.

Lansley said: “People’s health and wellbeing will be at the heart of everything local councils do. Directors of public health will be able to champion local cooperation so that health issues are considered as a priority.”

The Gym Group secures £20m expansion funding

PETE HAYMAN

Low-cost health club operator The Gym Group has revealed that it has secured a £20m funding package towards its plans for expansion.

Primary investor Bridges Ventures and a ‘revolving credit facility’ from HSBC will help finance the group’s move to grow its UK portfolio from 14 sites.

The Gym Group is looking to acquire up to 20 additional sites during 2011 and aims to expand its estate to 50 clubs over the next two years.

February start for £45m Tate project

PETE HAYMAN

Tate has announced that work on a £45m project to transform its original London gallery – Tate Britain – is to start in February 2011.

Designed to help conserve the Sidney Smith-designed building, the scheme will also entail a major upgrade of the the Grade II*-listed attraction’s galleries.

Caruso St John Architects’ plans include the reconstruction of nine galleries in the southern part of the building and the revamp of its main entrance on Millbank. The River Room – formerly a watercolour gallery divided into three offices – will return to public use as a single room, while new learning spaces and a café are also to be created. The scheme is scheduled for completion in 2013.

Drivers Jonas Deloitte is project manager, with Alan Baxter Associates; Maxfordham Partners; and Turner and Townsend also involved.

New sustainable resort for EuroDisney

MARTIN NASH

Euro Disney and Groupe Pierre & Vacances Center Parcs have unveiled Les Villages Nature de Val d’Europe (Villages Nature), their new sustainable vacation destination concept.

Central to the concept – which envisages 90 per cent of the resort retained as green space – is ‘harmony between man and nature’, reflected in both the accommodation and the activities offered. The first 175 hectare (432.4 acres) phase is set to open in 2015 and will include the construction of 1,730 apartments and cottages.

Artists impression of the proposed Members Lounge
£13.6m Afan Lido plans revealed

PETE HAYMAN

Plans for a new £13.6m multi-purpose leisure facility to replace the fire-damaged Afan Lido venue in Port Talbot have been unveiled by the local authority.

Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) confirmed that the leisure part of the proposed complex is to be run in partnership with Celtic Community Leisure.

Facilities at the Holder Mathias Architects-designed centre will include a 25m swimming pool; a learner pool; a sports hall; a fitness suite; and a dance studio, along with a ground floor café.

A community hub – separated from the leisure part by a glass walkway atrium – will feature a library; an ICT training room; a youth facility; meeting rooms; and a crèche. The scheme is to be funded using capital contributions from NPTC; efficiency savings; and an insurance payment from the Afan Lido fire, along with a potential European grant.

NPTC aims to start work in late 2011 or early 2012 and confirmed that work is continuing to ensure the safe demolition of Afan Lido, which was destroyed by fire last December.

Council reveals Skelmersdale sports pitch proposals

TOM WALKER

West Lancashire Borough Council (WLBC) has announced its plans to bring a sports ground in Skelmersdale back into use.

WLBC has agreed to lease the Blaguegate All-Weather Playing Pitches site to Lathom-based J Mallinson, which will see the facilities reopen the pitches, which will benefit from the installation of new all-weather surfaces. The pitches are due to open in spring 2011.

£26m Salford stadium contracts signed

PETE HAYMAN

Salford City Reds rugby league team has secured a deal that will enable it to use a new £26m community stadium at Barton-upon-Irwell as its home ground.

The Super League club has reached agreement with a joint venture between Salford City Council and developer Peel to play at the venue, which is scheduled to open in 2012.

Meanwhile, construction work on the AFL Architects-designed venue is to start in December after The Buckingham Group also exchanged contracts with the joint venture.

Preparatory work is now complete, with the proposed stadium to boast an initial capacity of 12,000 before being increased to 20,000 in future years. Community sports pitches will also be provided at the venue.

Drivas Jonas Deloitte has been appointed project manager for the development.
University scheme approved

PETE HAYMAN

Oxford University’s plans for a major overhaul of its Iffley Road sports complex have been given the green light by Oxford City Council.

FaulknerBrowns Architects are behind the design of the multi-million pound project, which is set to include the demolition of the existing grandstand.

A lower grandstand will be built to accommodate an indoor cricket school, a projectiles range, spectator seating and changing rooms.

Meanwhile, a one double-sized and one single-sized sports hall linked by a timber and glass structure housing the main entrance and atrium foyer and a two-storey gym are also planned.

Jon Roycroft, the university’s director of sport, said: “These much needed facilities will be used by University and college sports teams, the wider university and importantly the local community.

“Our athletes are jostling for space, so this will enable them to train more regularly during their academic studies, as well as expanding access to a wide range of indoor sports.”

The centre is primarily for students but will also be open to the public

Clubs vow to pursue new stadium plans

PETE HAYMAN

Bristol City Football Club (BCFC) and Nottingham Forest Football Club (NFFC) have vowed to continue with plans for new stadiums.

Despite England’s failure to secure the right to host the 2018 World Cup, both clubs said work would continue with efforts to create new facilities.

Bristol City FC’s business development director Guy Price said: “We will remain tenacious and completely committed in our efforts to deliver the stadium.”

BCFC’s plans for a 30,000-seat venue have been hit by efforts to have the proposed Ashton Vale site designated as a town green, while NFFC is eyeing up a move to Gamston.

Nottingham City Council leader Jon Collins added: “Nottingham Forest remains ambitious for a new home and the council will continue to work with it on any plans it might have.”

The proposed Bristol City venue has been designed by Populous

Two ‘appropriate’ sites for Yeovil Sports Zone

PETE HAYMAN

Brimsmore and Bunford have been identified as the two ‘most appropriate’ locations for the proposed Yeovil Sports Zone development.

Both sites have been put forward in a South Somerset District Council report, which follows a public consultation organised by Alliance Planning this summer.

Alliance Planning, along with Royal Haskoning and Greenslade Taylor Hunt, has also undertaken a search and assessment process to identify potential sites.

SPORT

Council launches Oxford pool consultation

PETE HAYMAN

Outline plans for a new £8.5m swimming pool at Blackbird Leys, Oxford, have been put to residents as part of a new council-led public consultation.

Facilities mooted as part of the FaulknerBrowns Architects-designed complex include an eight-lane, 25m swimming pool with moveable floor a ‘Fun water’ with jets and sprays, changing facilities and a café could also form part of the scheme, which also involves consultancy Mace, Curtins Consulting, Hoare Lea and Sense.

The football club has been forced to relocate

Mansfield Town repossessed

PETE HAYMAN

Mansfield Town Football Club (MTFC) has expressed disappointment at a decision to terminate the club’s lease on its Field Mill stadium. The Blue Square Bet Premier club has moved to reassure fans that is working to resolve the situation and will make alternative arrangements for future home games. It follows the announcement last month that MTFC would not pay rent directly to ground owner Stags Limited until investigations into financial transactions were completed.

Tiger11 withdraws Leeds sports centre plan

PETE HAYMAN

Community organisation Tiger11 has withdrawn its proposals to take over the running of South Leeds Sports Centre due to a lack of funding.

The group had hoped to transfer responsibility for the venue from Leeds City Council and operate it as an independent community enterprise. However, Tiger11 has confirmed it has been unable to secure the required funding within the timescales necessary to progress the project and has now abandoned the plans.

© CYBERTREK 2010
Leisure trust Kirklees Active Leisure (KAL), which operates community leisure services in West Yorkshire on behalf of local authorities, is planning to open two budget gyms in the Huddersfield and Dewsbury areas.

The non-profit KAL currently manages eleven sports centres and swimming pools and is looking to become the first budget gym operator in the region.

Plans are to be developed further over the coming months, with the Huddersfield site aiming for a late summer 2011 opening. Each new gym will provide a minimum of 120 exercise stations (mixing cv and resistance), with equipment to be provided by Technogym.

KAL chair, David Heddon, said: “Budget gyms and health clubs are a way of expanding and reaching those who want to focus on using fitness equipment and attending classes at a reasonable price.

“We are now looking to expand upon our existing portfolio of centres and will run this new membership alongside our other quality products and services.”

Star Trac transfers assets to new company

LUKE TUCHSCHERER

US-based Star Trac, the fitness equipment supplier, has filed an assignment for the benefit of creditors, effective immediately.

This means the all assets of Unisen, Star Trac’s parent company, have been transferred to a new corporate entity, Core Industries. The firm said that the purpose of this process is to “develop a comprehensive strategic plan to properly monetise the assets for the benefit of creditors and to improve Star Trac’s balance sheet to create a healthy company.”

Rossendale leisure contractor appointed

PETE HAYMAN

Construction company Kier Northern has been appointed by Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) to deliver two new leisure schemes with a combined worth of £5.6m.

A new swimming pool for Haslingden Sports Centre and new fitness facilities for Marl Pits in Rawtenstall are to be created as part of the project. Kier Northern, which was responsible for the construction of Heywood Sports Village, was selected by the council from four bidding companies.

Plans for the new leisure facilities are to be considered by councillors on 13 December, with work scheduled to commence ‘within weeks’ if approved.

RBC portfolio holder for leisure Jason Gledhill said: “This is one of the key milestones in the leisure project.”

Mouchel is also working on the scheme.
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Gym4all to open Bradford club

PETE HAYMAN

Budget health club operator Gym4all is poised to open a new 15,000sq ft (1,394sq m) facility at the Leisure Exchange development in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Property agent Christie + Co was appointed by Gala Coral Group to secure the letting of the unit to Gym4all, which was represented in the deal by Savills.

The new Bradford club will become Gym4all’s fourth club, having also secured other sites in Basildon, Essex; Croydon, South London; and Nottingham.

Scheduled to open this month, the health club will feature more than 170 cv stations, resistance equipment and free weights.

Jon Patrick, head of leisure at Christie + Co, said: “The budget gym sector remains firmly in growth mode and we have handled a number of instructions on behalf of leisure clients looking to reposition space within their portfolios.

“This latest transaction to Gym4all in Bradford continues the trend.”

Open seven days a week between 6am and 11pm, the Bradford Gym4all will offer initial joining fees priced at £9.99.

Latest adiZone opens at St Albans park

PETE HAYMAN

St Albans City and District Council has opened a new 625sq m (6,727sq ft) outdoor multi-sport facility at Verulamium Park.

The installation of the adiZone, which is designed and developed by Adidas, has been funded by the council and the government’s Co-location Fund.

Inspired by a range of Olympic and Paralympic sports, the facility offers provision for basketball, football and tennis, as well as a climbing wall and a freestyle area.

Active at 60 scheme to launch in January

TOM WALKER

The government has earmarked £1m for a scheme that aims to empower older people to keep physically active.

Community groups in 30 areas across the UK can now bid for money through the Active at 60 initiative, designed to help older people who are at risk of loneliness and social isolation to ‘make the most of their later lives’.

The coalition government is providing £1m to fund the project, which will launch in January 2011.

Minister for pensions, Steve Webb said: “We hope Active at 60 will make a real difference to the quality of life of those approaching retirement or who have just retired, by improving their wellbeing and preventing the risk of social isolation as they grow older.”

Each local community organisation within the selected areas will be expected to recruit at least one Active at 60 community agent who will volunteer their time to help motivate, encourage and organise people within their own communities to become more active, physically, socially and mentally.
Waldorf Astoria to open in 2011

TOM WALKER

The opening date for the 137-bedroom London Syon Park, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel in London, UK, has been set for early 2011.

The luxury hotel will include a day spa called Kallima – named after the lepidopteran that transforms from a leaf like insect to a spectacular butterfly.

The spa will have 11 treatment rooms, including a double VIP suite; a hydro-therapy suite; Vichy shower; a rest and relaxation space; a nail spa; indoor swimming pool; spa pool; sauna and steamroom; and a health club with a team of personal trainers.

There are also plans for an exclusive agreement with celebrity cosmetic surgeon Alex Karidis to offer guests discreet consultations within the spa.

SpaFinder Europe launches Glambition

LIZ TERRY

SpaFinder Europe, the spa marketing company which is part of the global SpaFinder organisation, has launched a new website called Glambition to develop marketing for day spas, salons, makeover studios and health and fitness clubs. The new website complements www.spafinder.co.uk and ties in with the company’s gifting programme whereby consumer gift cards are sold via retailers such as WHSmith and redeemed at SpaFinder and Glambition facilities.

Luxury spa for Ramsgate pool centre

TOM WALKER

Thanet District Council in Kent has unveiled new plans for a £3.5m swimming pool and spa at the Ramsgate Sports Centre.

Alliance Leisure is the council’s preferred company to realise a scheme which will see the launch of a new day spa. Facilities at the spa will include four treatment rooms, a hydro pool, a steam room, a sauna, a salt grotto, power showers and a foot spa.

There will also be a new building – to be built next door to the existing sports centre – housing a six lane, 25m deck level swimming pool, along with a separate training pool. Other planned improvements to the centre include the introduction of new wet changing facilities and a new entrance and reception area as well as a café area.

Elemental Herbology secures deals

TOM WALKER

UK-based supplier Elemental Herbology has secured deals with two recent, high-profile spa launches – the first EDITION hotel in Waikiki, US and the Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok, Thailand.

Founded by spa consultant Kristy Goodger, Elemental Herbology is now available in 20 countries worldwide.

Deals already secured for 2011 include the Rosewood San Miguel de Allende resort spa in Mexico, where the company will provide treatments alongside PRIORI.

Global Spa Summit confirms 2011 location

PETE HAYMAN

The Global Spa Summit (GSS) has confirmed that its fifth annual conference is to take place in Bali, Indonesia, between 15-18 May 2011.

Laguna Resort and Spa in Nusa Dua will be the main venue for the spa and wellness sector event, while two days of sessions will take place at the Bali International Convention Center.

The theme of next year’s GSS event has also been confirmed as ‘Engage the Change: The Money. The Customer. The Future’.

Luxury spa enters receivership

TOM WALKER

The independently-owned Temple Spa in Moate, County Westmeath, Ireland, has gone into receivership.

Located across 90 acres, the spa’s operations have been taken over by the receiver, Simon Coyle of advisory firm Mazars.

Speaking to Leisure Opportunities, founder and director Declan Fagan blamed the weak Irish economy for the spa’s financial troubles. Fagan first opened the business in 1987 and had invested heavily in the spa element during the past three years.
Go Ape signs primary authority agreement

TOM WALKER

Treetop adventure company Go Ape has signed a primary authority agreement (PAA) as part of a strategy to reduce red tape. The PAA scheme was set up by the government to assist companies operating under two or more local councils.

It aims to provide ‘reliable and consistent advice’ from a single source when dealing with environmental health, trading standards, and licensing services. The agreement means that one council will oversee health and safety across all 26 Go Ape sites.

New Scottish attractions portal to launch

TOM WALKER

Ticket Scotland.net is set to launch a new consumer-facing attractions portal for visitors in January 2011.

Working closely with suppliers, Ticket Scotland.net will provide a website focusing exclusively on the attractions, activities and tours markets.

Visitors will be able to explore Scotland’s history, culture and adventure and book their visits directly using the portal.

Museums shake-up approved by councillors

PETE HAYMAN

Hampshire County Council (HCC) has approved plans to overhaul its museums services as part of efforts to reduce public spending while maintaining collections.

Three attractions – Bursledon Windmill, Eastleigh; Rockbourne Roman Villa; and Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, Alton – will be run under alternative delivery models. HCC said the reforms would be guided by five principles, including widening participation; maintaining strategic collections; and generating income.

Ashmolean expansion plans approved

PETE HAYMAN

Work is to start on a £5m redevelopment of the Ashmolean Museum’s Egyptian galleries after the plans were approved by Oxford City Council.

Rick Mather Architects are behind the designs, which will see existing ground floor galleries transformed. Beard Construction will deliver the work. The project – backed by Lord Sainsbury’s Linbury Trust – will also include the creation of a fifth gallery in a space currently occupied by the museum’s shop.

The galleries will be closed from 1 January 2011 to allow work to be carried out, with new facilities to open in winter 2011.

Dr Christopher Brown, director of Ashmolean Museum, said: “This new project will transform the Egyptian collections – one of the most popular parts of the Ashmolean. “Rick Mather’s design for the galleries will allow us to display material that, for reasons of conservation, has not been seen for up to half a century.”

Robert Burns museum opens

PETE HAYMAN

The new £21m Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (RBBM) has been unveiled by the National Trust of Scotland (NTS) in Alloway, Ayrshire.

A 500sq m (5,382sq ft) exhibition space includes four areas – Identity, Inspiration, Fame and Creative Work – to explore the bard’s life.

The museum, which replaces the former Burns National Heritage Park, brings together a number of sites in Alloway with a connection to Burns. NTS has worked to ensure the Scots language is given a prominent role at the attraction, while eco-friendly measures have also been used in its construction.

Exhibition designer Events Communication (lead designer) and Border Construction are among the firms to have worked on the development of RBBM, which received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government.

Arnaud Schwartz of architects Simpson and Brown and London-based Spiral Productions have also been involved with the scheme.

HLF announces £45m budget increase

PETE HAYMAN

An additional £45m will be made available by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for new grants in 2011-12, it has been confirmed.

The funding agency has confirmed that its overall budget for the next financial year will be £250m, with a full business plan to be confirmed in spring 2011.

An increase in the share of National Lottery funding available for heritage, approved by the House of Lords on 23 November, has helped increase the HLF budget.
**RSC unveils new Stratford home**

**PETE HAYMAN**

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) has reopened its new theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon following a £112.8m development programme.

At the centre of the new-look Royal Shakespeare Theatre (RST) is a 1,040-seat main auditorium and a thrust stage, which has halved the distance of the furthest seat from the stage to 15m (49ft).

The four-year development also included the creation of a Rooftop Restaurant to offer views overlooking the River Avon; a Riverside Café and Terrace; and a new Colonnade to link the RST with the Swan Theatre.

To coincide with the relaunch of the RSC’s base theatre, the company has also announced details of its 50th anniversary seasons to be held from April 2011. The scheme was designed by Bennetts Associates, with consultants Charcoalblue; engineers Buro Happold; Mace; and Divers Jonas also involved.

RSC executive director Vikki Heywood said: “We have reopened our new home on time and on budget - a result of an extraordinarily collaborative project.”

**New £19m cultural facility for Manchester**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Two creative organisations in Manchester – Cornerhouse and Library Theatre Company – are to move to a new £19m purpose-built facility in the city centre.

Described as a catalyst for the regeneration of the 20-acre (8.1-hectare) First Street site, the venue will feature up to five cinemas and a 500-seat theatre.

Studio/education space, 600sq m (6,458sq ft) of contemporary gallery provision and an outdoor performance area also form part of the proposals.

The new venue will enable both the Cornerhouse and Library Theatre Company to work in collaboration and will help create a cross-artform production centre.

**SMG Europe to operate York arts venue**

**PETE HAYMAN**

York’s Barbican Auditorium is to receive a new lease of life after the local authority revealed that SMG Europe will operate the venue.

A 30-year agreement between City of York Council and the entertainment operator is designed to help safeguard the long-term future of the iconic venue.

The 1,500-seat Barbican Auditorium is now poised to undergo a £2m refurbishment, which will provide improved public and back-of-house areas and a restaurant.

**Royal Ballet poised for O2 Arena dates**

**PETE HAYMAN**

The Royal Ballet has confirmed that it will be staging productions of Kenneth MacMillan’s Romeo and Juliet at London’s O2 Arena next summer.

Three dates – 17, 18 and 19 June 2011 – have been scheduled; the first time the Royal Opera House-based company has performed in a UK arena. Performances will feature a filmed introduction to each act on live-relay screens. The cast will include dancers such as Carlos Acosta, Tamara Rojo and Edward Watson.

**Bangor arts venue scheme secures funding**

**PETE HAYMAN**

Bangor University’s plans for the development of a major new arts and innovation complex have received a £27.5m boost. The Welsh Assembly Government and European Regional Development Fund will help fund the £35m Pontio project, which will provide a “major focus” for Welsh culture.

Scheduled to open its doors in early 2013, the proposed North Wales development has been designed by consultants Atkins, Arup and Grimshaw Architects.

**Walton Playhouse to undergo renovation**

**PETE HAYMAN**

An arts venue in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, is in line for a refurbishment after the local authority backed the proposals.

Elmbridge Borough Council has agreed in principle to carry out work on the venue to increase its life span by 10-15 years.

The council’s cabinet requested that a further report, including detailed price specifications, be submitted for consideration in January. Initial proposals include a new roof, an improved bar area and upgraded dressing rooms.
Visit London’s future is a great concern

UFI IBRAHIM
is chief executive officer of the British Hospitality Association

This month, I wrote to London mayor, Boris Johnson, and business secretary, Vince Cable, expressing the British Hospitality Association’s extreme concern at the proposal to withdraw financial support from VisitLondon from next April as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The letter was also signed by Ciaran Fahy, chairman of BHA London and managing director of the Cavendish Hotel.

The direct result of the withdrawal of LDA’s £12m annual funding is that VisitLondon now faces closure - just at the time when the critical time of building momentum for the 2012 Olympic Games is upon us. The letter points out that Visit London is the marketing organisation for the capital which delivers not only leisure visitors in large numbers but also produces significant conference and related business. We are therefore very concerned that funding to promote London is in danger of ceasing altogether in March next year, with the Olympics fast approaching. Without a tourist board, London will lose out badly as a world tourism destination in the coming years.

London, which is the gateway for three-quarters of all visits to the UK, generates more than £6bn in tourism revenue, while BHAs own research shows that the hospitality industry alone employs more than 400,000 people in the capital. Visit London’s work is estimated to generate an additional £300m in tourism revenue at a total cost of £12m of public funding and £6m in private investment. To put all that revenue in jeopardy just doesn’t make sense.

The uncertain future of VisitLondon is reflected in doubts about the survival of tourist agencies throughout England, many of which are funded by RDAs, which are to be scrapped. We believe that the new Local Enterprise Partnerships are a key to promoting tourism in local areas and regions, and we must continue to hammer home the need for support for tourism in areas where it is the main economic driver. There is the danger that tourism goes by default – we must not let that happen.

Scottish golf plans approved

PETE HAYMAN

Outline planning permission has been granted for the development of a new £55m golf, hotel and residential development near Broughty Ferry, Dundee.

Local entrepreneur Mike Forbes’ proposals for The Angus have been given the green light by planning officials at Angus Council.

An international competition-standard, 18-hole championship golf course designed by Darren Clarke is at the heart of the scheme, along with a five-star hotel and spa.

A golf youth academy headed by one of Tiger Woods’ coaches – Rudy Duran – is also earmarked as part of the development, along with residential units.

Forbes said: “We have worked tirelessly with officials to ensure that we met all of the vital considerations which were raised following the initial launch of our proposals. Now, we will work just as hard to attract a leading international operator to take The Angus forward, with our focus on specialists in the United States, China and South Africa.”

The development will be adjacent to the existing Forbes of Kingennie Country Resort.

City Inn in rebranding move

TOM WALKER

The City Inn hotel chain is rebranding as Mint Hotel ahead of new openings in London, UK in December and Amsterdam, The Netherlands in the spring of 2011. The move follows research which suggested that the name “did not do justice” to the “overall experience” of the brand. Aimed largely at business travellers, the City Inn brand was launched in 1995 with a property in Bristol. The company also has hotels in Glasgow, Birmingham, Westminster, Manchester and Leeds.

Roux at The Landau opens in London

PETE HAYMAN

Albert Roux and Michel Roux Jr have unveiled a new restaurant at The Langham, London - the first time the father and son pair have worked together in 19 years.

Roux at The Landau - the David Collins-designed signature restaurant - follows the opening of Roux at Parliament Square in May. Chris King has been appointed chef de cuisine at the new restaurant, having completed an apprenticeship and worked at La Gavroche - another Roux property.

Meanwhile, restaurant manager Franco Becci and head sommelier Zach Saghir complete the front-of-house team at Roux at The Landau. King’s team will also create food for the private dining room, Postillion.

Roux Jr said: “Chris King is a rising star, and his menus reflect the Roux trademark style of classically-constructed French dishes, blended with today’s tastes for lighter choices.” Details: www.london.langhamhotels.co.uk

An artist’s impression of the proposed 11th hole at The Angus
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**PARKS**

**Work starts on Cornwall park restoration**

PETE HAYMAN

Cornwall Council has started work on a major refurbishment of Gyllyngdune Gardens and part of Princess Pavilion in Falmouth. Plans drawn up over a number of years are designed to attract more people to the gardens, which date back to the late 19th century and overlook Falmouth Bay.

Exeter-based Midas Construction has been appointed to carry out the improvements, which have been part-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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**TOURISM**

**Boost for daylight saving bill**

TOM WALKER

Plans to move UK clocks forward during the winter months to ensure lighter evenings have received a boost after the private member’s bill passed the second reading at the House of Commons.

The campaign to introduce ‘double summertime’ has been supported by the Lighter Later group, which has argued that moving clocks forward would help boost the country’s tourism industry, as well as making roads safer.

Organisations taking part in the Lighter Later campaign include the Sport and Recreation Alliance (formerly CCPR); British Beer and Pub Association; the British Association of Leisure Parks and Attractions (BALPPA); Tourism Alliance; and Road Safety GB, as well as companies such as Travelodge.

The proposed change would lead to lighter evenings and help tourism

**Hanafin outlines tourism investment plans**

PETE HAYMAN

Irish tourism, culture and sport minister Mary Hanafin has announced that more than €360m (£305m) is to be invested across the three sectors over the next four years.

It comes after the publication of the Irish government’s National Recovery Plan, which also see Hanafin’s department contribute €76m (£64m) of savings by 2014.

The funding will be targeted at the upgrade of major tourist attractions, and the improvement of infrastructure of eco-tourism.

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**Cycle hire scheme opens to ‘casual users’**

PETE HAYMAN

Transport for London (TfL) has revealed that mayor Boris Johnson’s cycle hire scheme is now available to “casual users” for the first time.

Launched in July, the Barclays Cycle Hire project is operated by Serco on behalf of TfL but had only been accessible to members until now.

Visitors will now be able to take advantage of the scheme without registering by using credit or debit cards at the 352 docking stations located across the capital.

Since its launch, TfL has reported that more than 108,000 members have signed up, with in excess of 1.9 million journeys made. Around 20,000 journeys are made with the bikes each weekday.

In September, it was revealed that plans to open up access to “casual users” within a month of launch had to be deferred to allow Serco more time to address teething problems.
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**Work to start on Bangor regeneration scheme**

PETE HAYMAN

Gwynedd Council has announced that work on the next phase of a £3.5m regeneration of Bangor, North Wales, is to start in early 2011. The project is being funded as part of the Welsh Assembly Government’s £38m North Wales Regeneration Scheme, which is being delivered in partnership with the local authority.

Work is set to include improvements to the High Street and the Tan y Fynwent areas and is designed to help encourage more people to visit the city.

**Lego children’s centre opens in Hillingdon**

PETE HAYMAN

More than one million Lego bricks have been used to construct a new children’s centre in Hillingdon, West London, which opened on 19 November.

Legoland Windsor modellers and WHAT_architecture worked with Hillingdon Council to build the Cowley St Laurence facility.

Children using the venue will be encouraged to use natural resources to play, while services will also include parenting support and financial advice.

**Lancashire holiday village plans submitted**

PETE HAYMAN

Plans for a new environmentally-friendly holiday park development at the Park Close Quarry site near Salterforth, Lancashire, have been submitted to the local authority.

Bingley-based developer Halton Homes is behind the proposals, which are to be considered by Pendle Borough Council and include 55 lodges.

The proposals, by Blue Bird Design, include a health spa, a retail outlet, a café and managers’ accommodation.

**Gateshead town centre scheme gets green light**

PETE HAYMAN

Gateshead Council has approved plans put forward by Spenhill – the regeneration subsidiary of Tesco – for the mixed-use Trinity Square development. Designed by 3Dreid, the scheme is poised to deliver a new town square, a student village, 45 retail units and offices, as well as the potential for a hotel.

The development is still subject to a legal agreement, although Gateshead Council anticipates that construction work will be able to get underway by spring 2011.

**Pickles approves Wirral Waters**

PETE HAYMAN

Communities secretary Eric Pickles has approved developer Peel Holdings’ plans for the £4.5bn transformation of Wallasey and Birkenhead Docks. Wirral Waters is one of the largest planning applications in the UK and was backed by Wirral Council in August, before being referred to the government.

However, Pickles’ decision to opt against calling in the scheme for further review means that a public inquiry will not now be required to determine its fate.

Encompassing 18 million sq ft (1.7 million sq m) of land alongside the River Mersey, the plans include a range of restaurants, cafés, bars, a hotel and cultural attractions.

Glenn Howells Architects; BroadwayMalyan; Skidmore, Owings and Merrill; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris; and HKR are among the firms to be involved with the design phase. Wirral Council leader Jeff Green said: “I am delighted the government has demonstrated its trust in allowing local people to make the decision. This is a £4.5bn project which will create many thousands of jobs over 10-15 years.”

**Sanguine secures £10m Birmingham deal**

PETE HAYMAN

Sanguine Hospitality has secured a £10m deal to develop a new four-star hotel, restaurant and a luxury health club and spa at The Cube building in Birmingham.

Michelin-starred chef Marco Pierre White will join forces with the group to open a skyline eatery on the 25th floor, which will offer panoramic views of the city.

The 23rd and 24th floors will become a 52-bedroom Hotel Indigo, while The Club and Spa will occupy the bottom two floors of The Cube.

A wet area comprising a hydrotherapy pool, five thermal treatment rooms; a gym; and a ten-room spa will be among the facilities at The Club and Spa.

Sanguine’s in-house construction firm, Denizen Contracts, will start work on 4 January to deliver the phased fit-out of the scheme. The development is is due for completion in August 2011.
THE LEVENTHORPE SCHOOL

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SELECT TENDER LIST

COMMUNITY & SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The Governors of The Leventhorpe School invite expressions of interest (EOI) from suitably experienced companies or organisations. This is for consideration for a shortlist to respond to an invitation to negotiate (ITN) for a management contract. The contract would be for the management of the sports facilities currently under construction at the School. The Leventhorpe School is a Foundation School located in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.

The facilities being constructed include a sports and recreation building with a sports hall, fitness gym, dance studio, classroom and indoor and outdoor changing facilities, together with a floodlit artificial turf pitch and floodlit tennis courts.

Companies or organisations must be able to demonstrate knowledge and experience of managing indoor and outdoor community sports facilities. It is anticipated that a contract would be in place for the completion of the facilities scheduled for the summer of 2011.

All those wishing to express interest are required to register such interest and complete the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) by 1200 hours on January 11th 2011. An opportunity to visit the School will be provided prior to the EOI submission date. Those companies passing the pre-qualification evaluation process will then receive an invitation to make a tender submission.

To register interest and to receive the PQQ and additional information please email – gc@lrinternational.co.uk.

The PQQ should be completed and returned in a plain sealed envelope clearly marked “Leventhorpe School & Community Sports Facilities” to: L&R International, 1 Azure Suite, Churchill Court, The Street, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 3DA

Ipswich Borough Council (the “Council”) is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced parties wishing to work up detailed proposals to repair, refurbish and operate this redundant outdoor swimming pool.

The facility was built in 1938 and is a Grade II listed building. The site is owned by the Council and includes a car park.

Planning conditions are likely to limit further re-development potential to ancillary recreational and leisure activities.

The Council will provide up to a maximum of £1 million of capital funding that will be available from 2013/14. The capital contribution from the Council will be conditional upon:

1. Confirmation of sufficient third party capital funding to allow the re-development to be completed.
2. No further capital, revenue or other form of financial guarantee or underwriting being required from the Council.
3. The pool being open to the public for swimming.

To register your interest and receive an information pack please contact: Simon Unthank, Ipswich Borough Council
t: 01473 432212 e: simon.unthank@ipswich.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is noon on 26 January 2011.

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Female turnover costing £2.8bn

TOM WALKER

Around 310,000 female workers are leaving the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industry each year, costing businesses £2.8bn in replacement recruitment and initial training. The claim is made in a report unveiled by sector skills council People 1st.

Figures from the Women 1st - the case for change: Women working in hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism report show that the percentage of women working in the sector has continually declined over the past six years – from 61 per cent in 2004-5 to 56 per cent in 2010.

Furthermore, on average, 25 per cent of the male workforce is employed in management or senior positions, compared to just 18 per cent of females. The report has suggested that there are five key barriers preventing the advancement of women to senior roles; the difficulty of combining work with caring responsibilities, a dominant macho culture, preconceptions and gender bias, a lack of networking and a lack of visible women in senior positions. Details: www.people1st.co.uk

Premier Training are aiming to train up 4,000 new personal trainers

TOM WALKER

Premier Training International will launch its new diploma in personal training in January. Premier say that the new course could result in up to 4,500 new PTs entering the industry. The course will see the current full time programme reduced by four weeks to allow graduates to qualify in six weeks. The part time programme will also be reduced from eight months to four and a half.

Head of training at Premier Training International, James Wild, said: “Last year we educated and graduated more than 1,400 qualified personal trainers into the industry and this year we look set to increase this number. We have very high levels of demand for our qualifications – with some courses over subscribed. The new shorter format will allow us to give more people the opportunity to study with Premier.”

Mayor’s skills scheme reaches milestone

PETE HAYMAN

More than 1,000 people have signed up to become community sports coaches and officials as part of a £3m initiative launched by London mayor Boris Johnson in June. PlaySport London: Skills Programme is designed to equip and train Londoners to ensure a grass-roots legacy from the 2012 Games.

The fund was established in order to help address a shortfall of more than 40,000 sports coaches. Figures also show that only 50 per cent of existing coaches are fully qualified.

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**Sports Training & Volunteer Coordinator**

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Fixed Term Contract until 31/3/2012 - will involve evening and weekend work.

The role of this post will be to lead a programme of Accredited Sports Leadership, Coach Education training and Volunteer opportunities for young people aged 14-25 in Islington, Haringey and Hackney. This will involve supporting young people from training into volunteering as well as helping to support the development of new and existing local sports organisations. There will be a particular focus upon increasing participation amongst groups who are under-represented in current sporting provision including BME groups, People on Low incomes, and young women.

**You will need:**
- A passion for sport  
- A commitment to improving opportunities for young people.  
- A background in youth, sports or community development is essential as is a commitment to developing opportunities for local people and groups.  
- A track record of project delivery and partnership working.  
- Experience of working in a diverse inner-city setting.

**Closing date:** December 22nd 2010  
Interviews week beginning: January 3rd 2011

To find out more about this post and to receive an application pack please call: 020 7686-8812 or email: access2sports@aquaterra.org

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**General Manager**

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Further details on this post are available by contacting Donna Radics, HR Manager, on 01438 242080.

If you would like to apply, please forward your CV, together with covering letter explaining why you feel you are the best person for the job (as per the person specification) and details of current salary and salary expectations, to Donna Radics, HR Manager, Stevenage Leisure Limited, Arts & Leisure Centre, Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1LZ.  
Email: recruitment@stevenage-leisure.co.uk

Closing date for applications is Friday, 17 December 2010.  
Interviews will be held 5 and 6 January 2011.

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**Sports Training**  
**Salary:** £23,000 - £24,800  
**Company:** Access to Sports Project  
**Location:** London, United Kingdom  
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**General Manager**  
**Salary:** Circa £40k per annum  
**Company:** Stevenage Leisure Limited  
**Location:** Stevenage, United Kingdom  
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**Company:** Gosling Sports Park  
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**Company:** Dudley MBC  
**Location:** Dudley, United Kingdom  
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**Senior Park Ranger**  
**Company:** Dudley MBC  
**Location:** Dudley, United Kingdom  
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**General Managers**  
**Company:** Fusion  
**Location:** London, United Kingdom  
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**Company:** Red Bull New York  
**Location:** United States  
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**Company:** Hilton Coylumbridge  
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**Company:** The Training Room  
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**Location:** Nationwide, United Kingdom  
**Closing date:** 01 Mar 2011  
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**Company:** YMCA Fitness Industry Training  
**Location:** Nationwide, United Kingdom  
**Closing date:** 31 Oct 2011  
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**Become a Personal Trainer**  
**Company:** YMCA Fitness Industry Training  
**Location:** Nationwide, United Kingdom  
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**Company:** YMCA Fitness Industry Training  
**Location:** Nationwide, United Kingdom  
**Closing date:** 31 Oct 2011  
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**Assistant Spa Manager**  
**Company:** Celtic Manor Resort  
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Alex Jones, Spa Manager, Titanic Spa, Low Westwood Lane, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5UN or apply via email to alex.jones@titanicspa.com

TRANQUIL – BEAUTIFUL – ETHICAL
Green light for Tithebarn project

PETE HAYMAN

A cinema, cafés and bars are to be created as part of a multi-million pound regeneration scheme in Preston, after the plans were approved by the government.

The mixed-use Tithebarn project has been given the go-ahead by communities secretary Eric Pickles after the proposals were called in.

Preston City Council (PCC), which is working alongside developer Lend Lease to deliver the regeneration scheme, welcomed the government’s decision.

PCC leader Ken Hudson said: “Now that we have planning permission, we can continue to work closely with our partners to decide what the next stages are.

Food sales help drive pub groups’ trading

PETE HAYMAN

Food sales helped both Greene King and Marston’s to report an increase in revenues and pre-tax profits.

Marston’s revealed in its figures for the year ending 2 October that food now accounts for 40 per cent of its sales – up five per cent on the previous 12 months. Meanwhile, Greene King, which owns the Hungry Horse and Loch Fyne brands, saw pre-tax profits for the 24 weeks to 17 October grow by more than 17 per cent to £73.1m.

NLC finalises Baths Hall deal

PETE HAYMAN

North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) has finalised a deal with SMG Europe that will see the entertainment company operate Scunthorpe’s Baths Hall and Plowright Theatre.

SMG will manage Plowright Theatre from 1 April 2011, while the £14m Baths Hall venue is due for completion in autumn 2011. Existing employees at the theatre will be retained by the local authority, but will come under the management of SMG. Meanwhile, it is anticipated that the new venue will create 70 jobs.

NLC leader Mark Kirk said: “SMG has ambitious plans for the Baths Hall and the Plowright Theatre and I for one can’t wait to see the doors open.”

SMG Europe theatres director Nick Reed added: “The scale and flexibility of the Baths Hall will now combine with the established charm of the Plowright Theatre to provide the town with a suite of entertainment facilities un-matched in most cities.”

Other venues currently operated by SMG include Belfast’s Odyssey Arena. It has also been appointed to run the new Leeds Arena.