The UK leisure market is now worth £117bn in annual revenue and is growing nearly twice as quickly as the retail sector, according to a new report from Deloitte.

The Passion for leisure: A view on the UK leisure consumer document finds that the leisure industry has made healthy progress in the wake of the global recession, with annual growth of five per cent since 2010.

The report flags increased appetite for habitual leisure activities such as going to the gym and eating out.

Continued on back cover

Brexit won’t blow us off course: Treharne

The economic fallout from Britain’s historic vote to leave the European Union isn’t causing any sleepless nights for The Gym Group, according to the company’s CEO.

John Treharne believes the gym chain he founded in 2008 is well-placed to weather any resultant financial storms, pointing to the company’s rapid rise during the last global recession as evidence of its durability.

“Fundamentally, there’s no reason why Brexit should impact on our business – we don’t trade with Europe and we don’t trade in euros. Yes we buy some products from Europe, but that’s not really a problem,” Treharne told Leisure Opportunities.

“People ask ‘what happens if the economic climate deteriorates?’ There’s no guarantee that it will happen, but if it did, low cost businesses have demonstrated their ability to trade strongly, both in strong and weak economic climates. It certainly doesn’t keep us awake at night.”

Treharne said his gyms do employ a fair share of workers from the European Union, but believes the UK’s wide pool of young physical activity sector talent means any changes to employment regulations would not impact on the gym chain.

It remains unclear how Brexit will affect the physical activity sector in the long term, however market uncertainty has already caused Pure Gym to place its own IPO ambitions on ice in the short term.

Having warned against the perils of Brexit ahead of the 23 June referendum, ukactive executive director Steven Ward concluded last month’s Flame Awards with a rallying call for the sector to excel in the face of adversity. Ward praised the industry’s sustained growth during the last recession, adding that the sector’s talent and commitment to improving the nation’s health would see it meet and defeat the latest set of challenges. Details: http://lei.sr?a=7E5m4_O

UK leisure sector now worth £117bn per annum

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The report flags increased appetite for habitual leisure activities such as going to the gym and eating out. Continued on back cover

Argos named NFD 2016 lead partner

Argos has been announced as the lead partner for National Fitness Day (NFD) 2016, with the retail giant set to significantly spread the reach of the “most active day of the year.”

NFD organiser ukactive has announced Wednesday 7 September for this year’s event, coinciding with the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games which will be attended by cross-party peer and ukactive Chair, Baroness Tanni-Grey Thompson.

Last year’s NFD took Twitter by storm as thousands of people took part in more than 2,000 events organised across the country. ukactive hopes this year’s collaboration can give the initiative a much broader reach and set more people on the path towards a healthier lifestyle. Argos is expected to announce a raft of NFD exercise initiatives to engage both the public and the retailer’s 30,000 staff. Details: http://lei.sr?a=P8p6T_O

Last year saw 2,000 venues take part in the event

Details: http://lei.sr?a=7E5m4_O

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£10m boost for rugby league

The government has pledged to plough £10m into rugby league infrastructure in the north of England as part of a bid to host the 2021 World Cup.

Officially revealing the proposal for England to host the showpiece, the Rugby Football League (RFL) and culture secretary John Whittingdale also made public the government’s commitment of £15m in extra finance to support the bid.

Making a bid for the tournament was unveiled as one of the government’s sporting priorities during chancellor George Osborne’s Autumn Statement last year. The investment in infrastructure forms part of the Conservative government’s ambitions to create a Northern Powerhouse.

If the bid is successful, twelve stadiums will be selected from a shortlist which includes purpose-built rugby league grounds as well as football stadiums such as Old Trafford, Etihad Stadium, St James’ Park and Wembley.

The RFL is targeting a record one million spectators to attend the 31 games – an average attendance of just over 32,000 for each match. In addition, the bid includes plans to host a Festival of Rugby League, including women’s and wheelchair competitions.

“The government’s support for the RFL’s bid will help put on a larger tournament than the 2013 World Cup that not only brings economic benefits to host towns and cities in rugby league’s heartland, but promotes the sport to a wider audience both nationally and around the world,” said Whittingdale.

Details: http://lei.srla=U7N5f_O

DCMS offers Brexit reassurances

Government funding for Sport England and UK Sport is not expected to be cut as a result of the UK voting to leave the European Union – although the landscape could change if chancellor George Osborne decides to call an emergency Budget.

Earlier this month, culture secretary John Whittingdale met with chairs and chief executives of the arms-length bodies of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) – including Sport England and UK Sport – to reassure them that there won’t be any “immediate changes”.

Leisure Opportunities understands that the DCMS is working on the basis that the funding settlement agreed with both quangos will remain intact despite the vote, which is expected to have consequences for the UK economy and public finances.

Last November, the chancellor increased UK Sport’s exchequer funding by 29 per cent to £1.48bn for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic cycle, while Sport England managed to negotiate a £1.4bn pot over this parliament, which is in line with what it received between 2010 and 2015.

Prior to the referendum, Osborne claimed that he would have to cut public spending in the event of a Brexit vote, although how – or if – that will affect sport is unclear.

Details: http://lei.srla=w27q_O
Sport England in board shake-up

Swimming World Champion Karen Pickering, Sported chief executive Chris Grant and Leicestershire County Cricket Club CEO Wasim Khan are among the six new appointments to Sport England’s board.

Culture secretary John Whittingdale has also appointed Everton Football Club executive Denise Barrett-Baxendale, Health Education England chief executive Ian Cumming and Pentland Brands CEO Andy Long.

All six have been added to the quango’s board on three-year terms. They join Debbie Jevans, Charles Reed, Ian Drake, Kate Bosomworth and David Goldstone who are existing board members, as well as chair Nick Bitel.

Pickering won 35 major championships and 38 national tiles despite breaking her back in a car accident in 1996. She also competed at four consecutive Olympic Games.

Grant became Sported chief executive in 2014 and has facilitated a number of elite coach development programmes for UK Sport. He had an early career in parliament and higher education. Khan was the first British Pakistani to become a professional cricket player in England and developed the £50m Chance to Shine programme which has delivered cricket to 2.5m state school children.

Both Grant and Khan increase the BAME representation on Sport England’s board, something the government has asked it to target. Details: http://lei.sr?a=b3Q6Y_O

IAAF proposes substantial reforms

The International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) has proposed a number of substantial reforms – including transferring power away from the president – as it attempts to rebuild its reputation following a bruising 12 months.

Reform of the IAAF – A New Era has been unveiled by the governing body, and details 15 key reforms including reducing the powers of the president – a position currently occupied by Sebastian Coe – and moving authority to the IAAF Congress, IAAF Council and executive board.

A maximum term of office of three terms of four years has been proposed for presidents, council and executive board members, while the position of treasurer will “cease to exist”.

To make the operation more transparent, the IAAF has suggested the implementation of an Integrity Code of Conduct, an independent Athletics Integrity Unit and extensive external audits for finance and governance operations.

The composition of the executive board is likely to become more skills-based, with governance and business skills taken into account. Only two members of the board will be appointed, not elected, while more athlete and female “voices will be heard”.

“The reforms contained in the Governance Structure proposal are at the heart of our ambition to be the best,” said Coe in the report’s preface. “They address not just the well-publicised and uncomfortable challenges we have had to confront in the last year but the need in the future to be a sport that is responsible, responsive, accessible and transparent.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=4iy8w_O

Thornton Tomasetti to serve Wimbledon project

Engineering design experts Thornton Tomasetti have been selected to work on the ambitious £70m project to renovate Wimbledon’s No. 1 Court.

The studio will work alongside KSS Architects to provide structural and facade design engineering services for the new development, which will include a retractable roof. Improved public facilities, 15 new hospitality suites and an increased capacity to 12,000 seats will also be in the project.

Thornton Tomasetti has designed the moving roof, which will feature “long span triangular trusses” and which is supported by another static roof. Details: http://lei.sr?a=vy95Y_O

Aberdeen FC readies new stadium application

Scottish Premiership club Aberdeen FC has moved to secure planning permission to build its proposed new stadium and surrounding development.

The club has submitted its Proposal of Application Notice – which also includes a new community and sports campus, as well as a football academy – to Aberdeen City Council, Kingswell Council, Westhill and Ellrick Council and Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber Community Council.

A 12-week consultation process will now commence, followed by a final planning application later this year. In May Aberdeen revealed a new preferred site for the development, plumping for the Kingsford part of the city over the heavily mooted Loirston.

Duncan Fraser, CEO of Aberdeen FC, said the proposal included a “much-needed” modern training facility and a “21st century stadium” which is being designed by Holmes Miller.

“These facilities will support the ambitions of the club and our fans, and deliver wider economic and social benefits to the city,” he added. Details: http://lei.sr?a=D9s9Y_O

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GPs told: Make physical activity a clinical priority

The Royal College of GPs (RCGP) has announced physical activity and lifestyle as one of its clinical priorities for the next three years, becoming the latest influential body to elevate the importance of tackling sedentary behaviour.

There has been a significant shift in public health thinking in recent years, with tackling physical inactivity increasingly becoming a priority. Now, the RCGP – which gives primary care professionals evidence-based information – has identified promoting physical activity as a clinical priority for GPs and their teams, who deal with 90 per cent of NHS patient contacts. Details: http://lei.sr?a=W7X8T_O

Anthony Joshua to front hard-hitting activity push

Champion heavyweight boxer Anthony Joshua has been announced as the latest high-profile athlete to front a forthcoming campaign to encourage the nation to become more active.

Joshua, who recently stopped Dominic Breazeale to extend his perfect record to 17 knockouts in 17 wins, will be the face of forthcoming Lucozade Sport campaigns to promote physical activity. The signing of the Olympic gold medallist comes just weeks after Spurs striker Harry Kane was also named as an ambassador.

Joshua revealed he was eager to support the campaign as inspiring a more active nation is a mission close to his heart.

“Everything I have achieved originates from a strong foundation of fitness and I pride myself on working hard in and out of the ring,” said Joshua. “There’s so much more to it than boxing training and I’m excited to share with others how to get the most out of their bodies.”

A more developed campaign with added ways to encourage activity will be unveiled shortly. Details: http://lei.sr?a=M9V3V_O

Pure Gym places IPO on hold

Pure Gym is to put its planned IPO on ice amid the ongoing market turbulence caused by Britain’s vote to leave the European Union.

The UK’s largest private gym chain had been gearing up for a summer listing, which would potentially have seen the company valued at more than £500m. However, Leisure Opportunities understands that the IPO has now been put on the backburner until the markets settle down in the wake of the Brexit vote.

As reported in January, Pure Gym has been considering following its budget rival The Gym Group onto the stock market for some time. Having taken control of the gym chain three years ago, US private equity firm CCMP Capital Advisors has hired the investment bank Rothschild to review options for cashing out on its investment, with investment banks Jefferies, JP Morgan, and Credit Suisse reported to have been handling plans for the IPO.

Leisure Opportunities can also reveal that Pure Gym was considering a bid for fellow operator easyGym – which was reportedly put up for sale earlier this year – as it sought to continue its ambitious growth strategy.

Despite initial interest, it is understood that Pure Gym ultimately opted against a bid, with the geographical overlap of the two operators’ sites likely to have proved an issue with the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) – a body Pure Gym is highly familiar with from its failed merger with The Gym Group and subsequent takeover of LA fitness.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q6v5Z_O

DW Sports nears Fitness First deal

The potential takeover of Fitness First UK by Dave Whelan’s DW Sports would mark the start of a mid-market fight-back against the rise of the budget clubs, according to a well-placed source.

The two companies are in talks over a £70m+ buyout to create a 140-strong gym chain to rival the might of Pure Gym, which has become the UK’s largest private operator with more than 150 clubs. Companies such as Pure Gym and The Gym Group have driven health and fitness sector growth in recent years, as once mighty mid-market brands such as LA fitness and Fitness First have struggled to compete.

With DW Sports boasting a strong selection of northern locations and Fitness First having a significant presence in affluent areas of the south – particularly London – a successful merger would see the UK’s second largest health club chain boast an enviable spread of sites. It is understood that these geographical differences between DW and Fitness First would also reduce the likelihood of intense scrutiny from the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), which previously proved the downfall of a proposed merger between Pure Gym and The Gym Group.

Fitness First has a strong presence in London

Leisure Opportunities understands that former LA fitness MD Martin Long is advising DW Sports on the deal. Long is familiar with the process, having recently helped integrate LA fitness into the Pure Gym portfolio.

The deal is hoped to be completed by the end of July, with plans to add almost 60 Fitness First clubs to DW Sports’ estate of around 80 sites. Should a deal be reached, the enlarged group is expected to consider an IPO around 2018, although it is understood the company would be operated as a dual-brand entity, with Fitness First UK MD Martin Seibold set to be retained.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=B9N2x_O

The chain helmed by Humphrey Cobbold is holding fire

Despite initial interest, it is understood that Pure Gym ultimately opted against a bid, with the geographical overlap of the two operators’ sites likely to have proved an issue with the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) – a body Pure Gym is highly familiar with from its failed merger with The Gym Group and subsequent takeover of LA fitness.
health sport activity

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Virtual fitness: Big with females and millennials

Virtual fitness is proving to be a particular hit with the female and millennial markets.

That’s according to new research from virtual fitness provider Wexer Virtual, with the company’s Global Consumer Survey shedding new light on the demographics and usage patterns of virtual fitness users in health clubs.

The report revealed a big gender disparity, with women making up 71 per cent of all virtual fitness users. Meanwhile, the concept is proving particularly popular among the ‘on-demand’ younger market, with millennials accounting for almost a third of users, and that share is continuing to grow.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=s3Y9d_O

‘Lazy summer holidays’ harm kids’ fitness levels

Lazy summer holidays are leading to a significant drop-off in schoolchildren’s fitness levels and hampering efforts to reverse the UK’s physical inactivity epidemic, new research suggests.

The study from the ukactive Research Institute found British schoolchildren are losing 80 per cent of fitness gained during term time due to sedentary school holidays. More than 400 children taking part in the ‘My Personal Best Challenge’ developed by Premier Sport were found to have experienced significant drop-offs in their fitness levels post-summer break, and that share is continuing to grow.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=J3cy7y_O

Bannatyne Group scraps IPO plan

The Bannatyne Group has ditched plans for a partial IPO and is now reassessing its options for raising capital to fuel growth.

The business had been lining up a £300m float on London’s Alternative Investment Market (AIM), however it is understood that market officials expressed concerns over the personal history of company owner Duncan Bannatyne. In November, a judge ruled Bannatyne had provided false evidence in a divorce case.

Reports had suggested that Bannatyne would stand down from the board to enable the float to go ahead, however Leisure Opportunities understands that the gym chain decided against this course of action.

A Bannatyne spokesperson said: “The Board of Bannatyne Group Limited has decided that it will not list on AIM at this time. The company has many options available to enable it to continue its growth operating as a private company.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=1997x_O

Virgin rules out ‘hyper-exclusive’ gyms

Despite plans to increase the number of premium clubs in its portfolio, Virgin Active has ruled following the likes of Fitness First into the ‘hyper-exclusive’ end of the health club market.

Having announced it will create more premium Collection health clubs after recently selling 35 sites to Nuffield Health, Virgin Active says this does not extend to creating gyms for the super elite.

Virgin Active chief Paul Woolf told Leisure Opportunities that the group wants to maintain its premium reputation, but isn’t interested in chasing the super-rich market with “one-off, mega top-end clubs.”

“We’re interested in providing value, albeit at the premium end of the spectrum. And as part of that value, we offer the ability to train in lots of different places at the same time,” said Woolf.

“Our strategy involves providing a broader experience and being the number-one player at the broader top-end, so it’s an accessible, but luxurious experience, without being hyper-exclusive.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=17U6U_O

The chain owned by Duncan Bannatyne is no longer planning to float

The company had hoped to raise fresh capital of around £85m through the IPO, to continue with its expansion and refurbishment programme, as well as to pursue growth opportunities.

The Group is currently working through a £16m investment programme to refurbish its 66-strong estate, while it also wants to carry forward growth momentum from a spate of recent acquisitions.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=1997x_O

The chain owned by Duncan Bannatyne is no longer planning to float

The chain owned by Duncan Bannatyne is no longer planning to float
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Glasgow’s Westerwood Hotel to expand spa

QHotels is investing £500,000 in the development and extension of the spa and leisure facilities of The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort in Glasgow.

The development will include the addition of three new treatment rooms, including a double. The relaxation area will also be expanded, transforming the current capacity of five relaxation beds to around 30, and a rasul will be added along with increased locker space.

A pop-up restaurant will also be available exclusively for spa guests to enjoy lunch and refreshments, with the aim of creating an uninterrupted and fluid spa journey. **Details:** http://lei.sr?a=c6G4U_O

Sarah Wellfair to head up spa at Stanley House

Sarah Wellfair has joined the Spa at Stanley House in Lancashire, UK, as its new manager. Wellfair was most recently manager at the House of Elemis in Mayfair, and has more than seven years’ experience managing spas across the globe.

“Sarah’s unflustered dedication to ensuring guests have a seamless experience means she is well-placed to head up our spa,” said Philip Wharton, GM at Stanley House Hotel and Spa. “This will ensure Stanley House retains its place as one of the UK’s top spa destinations. She’s a well-knowledge and experience relating to beauty treatments, spa therapies, health and wellbeing, the company said.

Designed by spa consultant Neil Howard, Stanley House’s multi-million pound spa opened in 2012 and has five treatment rooms, a double treatment room with rasul, salt and aroma steamrooms, plus a Finnish sauna. **Details:** http://lei.sr?a=r0641_O

ESPA enters mindfulness market

Spa supplier and operator ESPA has launched a series of mindfulness and sleep therapies at its flagship spa, ESPA Life at Corinthia London, with the intention of rolling some of the treatments out across its global portfolio at a later date.

The six therapies are based on yoga breathing and visualisation techniques and include a massage and facial lasting 90 minutes which are priced at £190.

ESPA founder Sue Harmsworth said at the launch party last month: “One of the reasons we’ve introduced these treatments is because we see people coming into our city spa who are so stressed and their body is holding so much tension that they’re not getting the benefits they should from their treatment. They’ll ask for a deep tissue massage, but you need to relax the muscles first before you can give an effective treatment.

The two-hour, tailor-made Mindful Sleep session – offered to day spa customers or residential guests in their bedrooms – includes a soothing scalp massage, hot stone therapy, mindful breathing techniques and a personalised yoga nidra session. Yoga nidra (or yogic sleep) is a form of guided visualisation that comes from ancient yoga and meditation practices. It’s been compared to hypnotherapy because it promotes deep relaxation and a sleep-like state. The residential spa Mindful Sleep session is the most expensive out of all the treatments, and starts at £600 based on single occupancy. **Details:** http://lei.sr?a=3n86f_O

Treetop sauna to star at Center Parcs

Center Parcs has revealed plans to reinvent its Sherwood Forest location’s Aqua Sana’s ‘World of Spa’ concept as ‘Forest Spa,’ a new collection of spa experiences inspired by nature.

The company is spending approximately £3m on the project, which is due to be completed in early 2017. Work is now underway on the project, and the spa will remain partially open for day spa guests and short breaks guests while the changes are implemented.

The new spa concept marks a significant move forward for its Aqua Sana Spa brand, which emerged from a modest spa offering 14 years ago and brings experiences inspired by spas from Turkey to Japan. The brand will now bring the essence of nature into the thermal and cooling experiences at Sherwood Forest, with more than 10 experience rooms, relaxation areas and a treetop sauna.

“Forest Spa, a new collection of spa experiences inspired by nature. "Aqua Sana has been such a huge success over the years and we like to continue evolving so we continue to offer high quality, inspiring experiences,” said Sue Goddard, group leisure manager at Center Parcs. “The natural setting has always been a very special aspect for Aqua Sana and we feel now is the time to really celebrate this element by bringing it into the experiences at our Sherwood Forest spa.” **Details:** http://lei.sr?a=r5G9j_O
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Creating an authentic hotel experience through design and programming is key, said Ashley Scott, principal director of global design and infrastructure services firm AECOM, in an exclusive interview with Leisure Opportunities.

Scott said the resort industry is demanding authenticity across the board – a development in hospitality design that’s driving change.

“People want to go to a place they feel is authentic of the region,” he explained.

“I think there was a period in the 80s and 90s where hotels became quite placeless. You could be at a hotel in Dubai and not know you’re in Dubai, because it looked exactly the same as the one in Cyprus or Malta. So I think what we’re trying to introduce more and more is a feeling of the local place, so that visitors get to experience that place though the architecture, the landscape, the use of indigenous species. ”

In the Park Hyatt Mallorca (recently designed by Scott), for instance, using olive, fig and almond trees along with local plants was key in the garden design, and helped create an authentic experience with a local feel.

“We work with interior designers to make sure there is a good blend in their design that translates into exterior architecture and landscape to give a sense of continuity,” he said. “You don’t want the interiors to be completely alien to the location. Coordinating with architects and designers on a project is important.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=C2N2s_O

Ashley Scott is the principal director of AECOM

The 900-room hotel is a conversion of The Cumberland Hotel

The 900-room hotel is a conversion of The Cumberland Hotel

Hard Rock plans return to London

Hard Rock International, in collaboration with glh Hotels, has unveiled plans for the Hard Rock Hotel London, to be located at Marble Arch on Hyde Park at the crossroads of Oxford Street and Park Lane.

The 900-room hotel is a conversion of the existing Cumberland Hotel, and is scheduled for completion in 2018. It will include the brand’s Rock Spa, which features a concept based around signature nature-infused spa treatments, Rhythm and Motion, that utilise amplified vibrations, pressures and patterns.

Rhythm and Motion features bass vibrations that ripple through the massage table, while treble beats come from above, and therapists synchronise movements with a curated playlist.

Treatments at Rock Spas include Synchronicity, a pulsating massage paired with music hits; Smooth Operator, a two-part treatment that features dry brushing and a detoxifying wrap; Face the Music, a sound vibration facial; and Wrap Remix, which includes dry brushing, massage and facial mask.

Located near the original Hard Rock Cafe, the music-inspired hotel will also include a vast lobby with live music, an on-site Hard Rock Cafe and a Rock Shop. It will feature curated memorabilia displays as well as a memorabilia vault within, housing some of the brand’s 80,000 historical pieces.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=6A7e5_O
**ATTRACTIONS**

### History of videogames coming to London museum

London's Science Museum is to debut a new exhibition which will be dedicated to 40 years of videogaming history.

Opening 22 July and running until 7 August, Power UP will take a look at 160 different gaming platforms, stretching back to the Magnavox Odyssey and ZX Spectrum, all the way up to the likes of the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One.

The hands-on event will include games throughout the decades loaded up and ready to play, including titles such as Pong, Pacman, games from the Lego franchise and Halo, with the room split up into zones such as Atari, SEGA, Playstation and Nintendo.

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=9t9ux_O](http://lei.sr?a=9t9ux_O)

### £80m Jurassica moves forward

Following the sudden death of its founder earlier in the year, plans are once again moving forward to create an £80m dinosaur attraction to be sited inside a former quarry in Dorset.

Dubbed Jurassica, the project suffered a major blow when CEO Michael Hanlon died from a heart attack in February, aged just 51.

The project’s board however, which has the backing of the likes of Sir Tim Smit and Sir David Attenborough, made a unanimous decision to press forward with Jurassica, promising to bring to life Hanlon’s “thrilling vision” for the prehistoric attraction on the Jurassic Coast.

A new business advisory group was formed this week, tasked with briefing the project on business developments in the county and helping boost communication to businesses within the region to help secure planning permission in 2017 and realise the project.

If the plans go ahead, the attraction is estimated to bring in 960,000 visitors annually. The subterranean geological park could be ready by 2020, creating more than 150 permanent positions.

As part of development, the 40m (132ft) deep Yeolands quarry would gain a 340ft (103.6m) glass roof designed by Renzo Piano. The attraction will also house robotic swimming plesiosaurs, fossils and interactive displays. Engineering and design firm Arup have been linked to the project, along with business management consultancy Oliver Wyman and exhibit designers David Lazenby and Azeurus Design.

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=A8t3N_O](http://lei.sr?a=A8t3N_O)

### Scottish National Trust plans major restructure

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has announced plans for a restructure of its services designed to improve performances of its assets and to cut costs within the organisation.

NTS, which represents 350,000 members, has started formal consultations which it says could save the organisation up to £4m per year.

The heritage and conservation charity will create 68 new positions with the organisation, with a further 42 posts being transferred from the Trust’s headquarters in Edinburgh to its properties across Scotland.

While new positions will be created, there will be an overall reduction in staff numbers, with 142 posts considered to be ‘at risk’. Only core services operating at national level will remain in Edinburgh.

NTS has future investment plans but must also address a conservation backlog of £4.7m. It also plans to spend £17m over the next three years on a number of significant properties across Scotland, including Culzean Castle.

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=T8ps5W_O](http://lei.sr?a=T8ps5W_O)

### Plans for Humber Bridge attraction

The Humber Bridge just outside of Hull, could become a tourist attraction after plans were unveiled to create a visitor centre with a platform offering unrivalled views of the surrounding area.

A planning application for ‘the LIFT’ – which would take visitors to the top of the bridge’s north tower – has been submitted by consultancy Barton Willmore to local authority East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Included in the application is a £80m geological park could be ready by 2020, creating more than 150 permanent positions.

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Details: [http://lei.sr?a=A8t3N_O](http://lei.sr?a=A8t3N_O)

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A coalition of tourism, business and charity organisations has called on the government to take swift measures to reverse an alarming slump in the proportion of Indian tourists visiting the UK.

The move follows a new report published by the Royal Commonwealth Society in partnership with leading aviation tourism and industry groups including the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), which recommends that India is added to the UK’s latest £87 two-year visa scheme.

In October 2015, Prime Minister David Cameron announced a pilot scheme for a two-year UK-China visitor visa costing £87. At present, the same length visa costs Indian visitors £330 and the new report recommends that Indian nationals are given the same deal as their Chinese counterparts.

Advocates say the reform would help reverse the UK’s falling market share of global Indian tourists, which has halved over the last decade. The cost to the UK economy is £500m per year and rising, as the number of Indian outbound tourists grows by 10 per cent each year.

-sector urges India visa incentive

Merlin Entertainments CEO and British Hospitality Association (BHA) chair Nick Varney has said that the UK’s decision to leave the European Union could actually bring an influx of visitors based on the weakened value of the struggling pound.

Varney, whose company Merlin operates 32 visitor attractions across the UK including Alton Towers, Thorpe Park and Warwick Castle, addressed BHA members at the annual Hospitality & Tourism Summit, telling them that they should “seize the opportunity” despite a volatile financial market.

“I think it is a good thing that the pound is devalued relative to the euro,” said Varney. “If we had voted to remain, putting all other issues to one side, we would have been left with a very uncompetitive currency from the view of exporters and the tourism industry in general. What I think we have to do is lock that competitive advantage in so we get to sort of pick up with renewed vigour the whole argument for cutting tourism VAT on accommodation and on attractions.”

Varney added that tourism and the wider leisure industry would be able to grow under an independent Britain, with the initially weaker pound encouraging visitor and export numbers to flourish.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=p4N7T_O

TOURISM

sector urges India visa incentive

Varney: Weak pound aids tourism

Conservative MP Nigel Huddleston said: “I believe the changes advocated in this report would help re-establish the UK as the leading destination for Indian visitors by making a clear statement that we are open for business.”

Despite the deep economic and cultural ties between the UK and India, industry experts believe the UK is not doing enough to capitalise on the potential of the Indian market. Indian business visitors are particularly valuable guests and spent £201m in the UK during 2015 – three times the average spend.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=e3P9q_O
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PROPERTY DIRECTORY
**ZHA in running for new stadium**

Glenn Howells Architects (GHA) and Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA) have reached the final in the competition to design a new stadium for Forest Green Rovers Football Club.

Almost 50 entries from around the world were submitted to the competition, and the winning pair have been selected from a shortlist of nine candidates.

The brief called for a fan-focused and sustainable 5,000 capacity stadium in line with the club’s strong environmental principles. It will be the centrepiece of the £100m eco Park development – a 100 acre sports and green technology business park proposal beside junction 13 of the M5 in Gloucestershire.

“The diversity and quality of the designs were outstanding and it was a very difficult process narrowing it down from nine to two,” said Forest Green Rovers chair Dale Vince, who is also the founder of clean energy group Ecotricity. “In the two finalists, we have one from a globally renowned practice and the other designed by an architect that created the award-winning Gloucester services right on our doorstep.”

ZHA’s previous sporting facilities include the 2012 London Aquatic Centre.

ZHA studio director Jim Heverin said: “The selection allows us to continue working with the club’s team to deliver a stadium and landscape design using timber construction that embodies the virtues of beauty and sustainability in this unique Stroud countryside location.”

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=m9A6n_O](http://lei.sr?a=m9A6n_O)*

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**London Olympicopolis moves ahead**

The Smithsonian Institute is teaming up with the V&A Museum to create a collaborative permanent exhibition space at London’s Olympicopolis site.

The plans, which date back to January 2015, originally called for a standalone Smithsonian to act as an anchor for the site upon its opening in 2020/2021.

The amended plans now come at significantly less cost to the Smithsonian, with the V&A partnership giving the institution a permanent presence in London.

“Two major cultural institutions in two different countries are coming together in a physical, ongoing, space to collaborate,” said Smithsonian secretary, David J. Skorton.

“Looking at the potential financial responsibility the Smithsonian would undertake, I thought the way we decided to do it, in collaboration with another institution, was more responsible. We have accomplished the goal.”

Smithsonian will present exhibitions within the V&A’s 190,000sq ft (17,650sq m) facility, which will be built opposite the Zaha Hadid-designed London Aquatic Centre.

Olympicopolis has been designed by an architectural team led by British practice Allies and Morrison and including RIBA Royal Gold Medal winners O’Donnell and Tuomey and Spanish firm Arquitectura.

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=V7b4a_O](http://lei.sr?a=V7b4a_O)*

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**Coconuts can ‘inspire’ stronger buildings**

The hard shells of coconuts could hold the key to designing buildings able to withstand earthquakes and other natural disasters, researchers from the University of Freiburg have claimed.

Coconut palms can grow as high as 30m, and when the ripe fruits fall to the ground their walls must protect them from splitting open. To protect the internal seed, coconuts have a structure of three layers which allow them to withstand heavy impacts.

The university’s Plant Biomechanics Group believes this specialised structure could be applied in architecture, and has been working with civil engineers and material scientists to develop this idea as part of a programme called Biological Design and Integrative Structures.

Architects are increasingly looking at the natural world for building inspiration.

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=N3S3x_O](http://lei.sr?a=N3S3x_O)*

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**Luton Town files stadium planning application**

League Two football club Luton Town has filed a planning application as its ambitious bid to build a new stadium complex gathers pace.

The application includes plans for a 17,500-capacity stadium in the Power Court part of the town, and a mixed-use development – which is expected to fund the stadium – to be built in Newlands Park. The football club recently carried out an exhibition and a public consultation, with 90 per cent of the 4,000 visitors in favour of the scheme.

In April, Luton Town chief executive Gary Sweet said the plans would “help enormously to invigorate our town and region”, adding: “Not only will this help create a more attractive place to live, work and play but the economic impact will be significant for both our town and club.”

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=U9f3m_O](http://lei.sr?a=U9f3m_O)*
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Two Leisure Opportunities (STPP)

■ Church House Gardens,
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Expressions of interest are invited, for complementary Leisure or Catering projects, in this 17 hectare park in the heart of Bromley Town Centre.
Current attractions include gardens, a woodland area, play and sports facilities, and a lake with performance and seating areas. There are tennis courts, a skateboard area and goals/nets for football and basketball. Outline proposals, for new activities, are invited.

■ High Elms Country Park,
Shire Lane, Bromley BR6 7JH
Expressions of interest are invited, for complementary Leisure projects, in this popular park of around 100 hectares in the Green Belt to the south of the London Borough of Bromley.
Landscape features include extensive woodland, chalk wildlife meadows, lawns, formal gardens, and ponds. There is an education centre and a café. Outline proposals, for new activities, are invited.

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**TRAINING**

**Lifetime Training subject to MBO**

Lifetime Training is to be bought by its management in a deal backed by private equity firm Silverfleet Capital.

The leisure training giant – whose clients include Fitness First, David Lloyd Leisure and Hilton – will be taken over by the existing management team, which will invest alongside Silverfleet.

The deal, details of which have not been released, sees the exit of private equity investor Sovereign Capital, which backed the last management buyout of Lifetime in 2011.

Having been founded in 1995 by Heather Frankham, Lifetime Training has enjoyed stellar growth in recent years and has doubled its number of staff since 2012. The most recent accounts for Lifetime Training Group Ltd show for the financial year to 31 July 2015, the firm reported a pre-tax profit of £8.8m on turnover of £43.4m.

Silverfleet Capital’s investment is expected to help Lifetime Training to accelerate its growth plans and could lead to selected bolt-on acquisitions to expand its service offering to new and existing clients.

The company sees the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017 – which targets the creation of three million apprenticeships by 2020 – as an opportunity for significant growth.

As part of its new chapter, Lifetime Training has appointed the former CEO of Survitec Simon Withey as non-executive chair, who will work closely with existing CEO Alex Khan.

*Details: http://lei.sr?a=q7j2m_O*

**Brexit implications for training**

Britain’s impending withdrawal from the European Union will present a broad range of challenges for leisure training and qualifications, says a leading education figure.

Active IQ managing director Jenny Patrickson believes Brexit will have far-reaching implications for further education and says that the active leisure sector must ensure it retains strong ties with European partners despite the outcome of last week’s vote.

Bodies like EuropeActive will be vital in ensuring that the recognition and transferability of qualifications across borders will continue, says Patrickson. She added that maintaining the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) – a translation device which makes national qualifications more readable across Europe – will be key to continuing the promotion of physical activity and its associated health benefits for individuals from all nations, regardless of borders. Amid warnings that Brexit could hit the UK’s education sector by making it harder for international students to obtain visas, Patrickson said training providers and colleges may also find it harder to access central European funding.

She said: "Many institutions rely on funding from the European Social Fund and will certainly be keen to understand potential implications for funding moving forwards."

*Details: http://lei.sr?a=m6y8t_O*
**TRAINING & EDUCATION DIRECTORY**

For more details on the following courses visit **www.leisureopportunities.co.uk**

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<th>Company: Bucks New University</th>
<th>Location: High Wycombe, UK</th>
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<tr>
<td>FDSc Sport, Exercise &amp; Health</td>
<td>BSc (Hons) Sports Therapy</td>
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<td>BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science</td>
<td>MSc Health Rehabilitation and Exercise</td>
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<td>BA (Hons) Sports Development and Coaching</td>
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<td>FDA Sports Officiating</td>
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<td>Become a Personal Trainer</td>
<td>Qualify with Premier Training and work for PURE GYM!</td>
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<td>Become a Gym Instructor</td>
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<td>High-Performance Training Sports Online CE Course</td>
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Personal Trainers
Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK

Spa Manager
Company: The Balmoral - Rocco Forte
Location: Edinburgh, UK

Fitness Motivator / Personal Trainer
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

Fitness Club Manager
Company: Ashford Leisure Trust
Location: Ashford, UK

Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie Group
Location: Andover, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bedworth, UK

Fitness Duty Manager (PT)
Company: Leeds Trinity University
Location: Leeds, UK

Nutrition Leaders
Company: Lambeth Council
Location: London, UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK

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Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, UK

Partner Manager
Company: Move GB
Location: Bath/London/South West, UK

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Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Commercial Pool Manager
Company: Mount Kelly Swim Centre
Location: Devon, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

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Company: GLL
Location: Various locations, UK

Exercise Referral Instructor
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Barking, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

Yoga Instructors
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Yateley, Hampshire, UK

Pilates Instructor
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Yateley, Hampshire , UK

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Company: Everyone Active
Location: Yateley, Hampshire , UK

Aqua Fit Instructor
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bedworth, UK

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Company: Everyone Active
Location: Yateley, Hampshire, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

Sports Centre Receptionist P/T
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Sutton Bonnington, UK

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

Swim Lesson Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Orang, Essex, UK

Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London, UK

Technical Manager
Company: The STA
Location: Walsall, UK

Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London, UK

Sports Assistant (9 posts)
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Lifeguards
Company: Filton Town Council
Location: Filton, Bristol, UK

Part-time Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Banbury, UK

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Location: Kettering, UK

Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Vauxhall, UK

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Location: London, UK

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Location: London, UK

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Site Safety Co Ordinator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford Upon Avon, UK

Marketing Assistant
Company: Freedom Leisure Ltd
Location: Guildford, UK

Tutor
Company: Becky Adlington Training
Location: Manchester, UK

Crèche Assistants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Gloucestershire, UK

Swim Instructor
Company: Rugby School
Location: Rugby, UK

Duty Manager/Games Coach
Company: Motcombe Park Sports Club
Location: Dorset, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Impulse Leisure
Location: Thurrock, Essex, UK

Customer Advisor x 2
Company: Aneurin Leisure
Location: Ebbw Vale, Wales, UK

Sports Centre Duty Officer
Company: Latymer Upper School
Location: London

Recreation Assistant
Company: Royal Automobile Club
Location: Woodcote Park, Epsom, UK

Dual Fitness Instructor and Sales Promoter / Advisor
Company: énergie group
Location: Greater London, UK

Locker Room Attendant
Company: Royal Automobile Club
Location: Woodcote Park, Epsom, UK

Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK

Casual Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, UK

IT Systems Administrator
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Swimming Teacher
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Tyne and Wear, UK

Fitness Instructor - Part Time
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK

Team Leader
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Epping Forest, UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Waltham Abbey, UK

Duty Leisure Manager
Company: Live Active Leisure
Location: Aberfeldy, Scotland, UK

Assistant Manager - Aquatics
Company: Oxford University Sport
Location: Oxford, UK

Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie group
Location: Forest Hill, UK

Pilates Instructors
Company: Bootcamp Pilates
Location: London, UK

Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bourton-on-the-Water, UK

Customer Sales/Students
Company: Aston University
Location: Birmingham, UK
General Manager
Company: Stantonbury Arts & Leisure
Location: Milton Keynes, UK

Spa Manager
Company: Eden Hotel Collection
Location: Warwickshire, UK

Swimming Instructor P/T
Company: Harrow School
Location: Middlesex, UK

Apprenticeship in Fitness and Customer Services
Company: énergie group
Location: Brentford, UK

Indoor Cycling instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Brentford, UK

Sport and Leisure Assistant Manager
Company: The Hawthorns School
Location: Surrey, UK

Apprenticeship in Fitness and Customer Services
Company: énergie group
Location: Maidstone, UK

Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Maidstone, UK

SwimStars Co-ordinator
Company: Becky Adlington’s Swim Stars
Location: Midlands (with regular travel to Head Office in Manchester), UK

Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Ware, Herts, UK

Leisure Attendants
Company: Brio Leisure
Location: Chester, Ellesmere Port, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: Becky Adlington’s Swim Stars
Location: Various Locations, UK

Recreational Assistant
Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Windsor Leisure Centre, UK

Maintenance Engineer
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Midhurst, West Sussex, UK

Exercise Referral Instructor
Company: GLL
Location: Hackney, UK

Exercise Referral Administrator
Company: GLL
Location: Hackney, UK

Front of House Colleagues
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK

Dry Side Leisure Assistant
Company: GLL
Location: Ruslip, London, UK

Relief Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne, UK

Sports Manager
Company: Soll Leisure
Location: Abingdon, UK

Sports Assistants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Horfield, Bristol, UK

Sports Development Officer
Company: Live Active Leisure
Location: UK

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

Corporate Sales Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Charing Cross, UK

Fitness Instructor P/T
Company: YMCA Maidstone
Location: Maidstone, UK

Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Poole, UK

Exercise Referral Instructor
Company: GLL
Location: Chiltem, UK

Trampoline Coach
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Nunetator, UK

Swimming Teachers
Company: GLL
Location: Lambeth , UK

Regional Sales Manager
Company: Sports Art Fitness
Location: North/South, UK

Senior Duty Officer
Company: Christchurch and East Dorset Council
Location: Wimborne, Dorset, UK

Exercise Referral Instructor (Fixed Term)
Company: GLL
Location: Greenwich, UK

Head of Facilities
Company: Oldham Community Leisure
Location: Oldham, UK

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

General Managers
Company: The Gym Group
Location: nationwide

General Manager
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Sheffield, Leeds North, Nottingham Central , UK

Membership Consultant
Company: Xercise4Less
Location: Leeds North , Nottingham Central , Sheffield

Head Spa Receptionist
Company: Bedford Lodge Hotel
Location: Newmarket, UK

Spa Therapist
Company: Bedford Lodge Hotel
Location: Newmarket, UK

Spa Therapists
Company: Hard Picked Hotels
Location: Various, UK

Spa Therapists
Company: Ramside Hall Hotel & Golf Club
Location: Durham , UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Woburn, Bedfordshire, UK

Beauty Therapists
Company: Center Parcs Ltd
Location: Elveden Forest, Thetford, UK

Spa Therapist
Company: Lifehouse Spa and Hotel
Location: Essex, UK

Hylands House Manager
Company: Chelmsford City Council
Location: Chelmsford, UK

Commercial Manager (Community Facilities)
Company: Oxford City Council
Location: Oxford, UK

General Manager
Company: Continuum Attractions
Location: York, UK

Social Media Manager
Company: Legoland
Location: Florida, United States

Human Resources Director
Company: Legoland
Location: California, United States

Operations Manager
Company: Deen City Farm
Location: London Borough of Merton

Facilities Team Leader
Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: New York NY , United States

Customer Champion
Company: The Rank Group
Location: Sheffield, UK, UK

Trade Sales Coordinator
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: New York NY , United States

Studio Artist
Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: New York, United States

Guest and Membership Services Area Lead
Company: Legoland
Location: California, United States

Head of RHS Garden
Company: Royal Horticultural Society
Location: Torrington, UK

Head of Marketing
Company: The Eye Brand
Location: Orlando, Florida, US

Interim Executive Manager
Company: Borde Hill Garden
Location: Haywards Heath

Studio Artist
Company: Madame Tussauds
Location: Las Vegas, United States

Marketing Manager
Company: Legoland Discovery Centre
Location: Philadelphia, United States

General Manager
Company: The Original Bowling
Location: Various locations, UK

Quality Champion
Company: The Rank Group
Location: Sheffield, UK

Customer Champion
Company: The Rank Group
Location: Sheffield, UK

Resource Planner
Company: The Rank Group
Location: Sheffield, UK

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Partnerships are key: Grey-Thompson

Ever-closer collaboration between leading physical activity organisations such as ukactive and Sport England will be key to driving the sector further up the political agenda.

That was the message from ukactive chair Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson in her opening address at the Flame Conference 2016 in Telford last month.

Ushering in a new era of industry-wide joint-working, Grey-Thompson said stronger partnerships across the physical activity spectrum would be key to converting the sector’s growing momentum into tangible policy outcomes from Westminster.

The cross-bench peer praised the role of health club operators in helping to increase participation with little or no funding, and said this was beginning to be recognised in a changing landscape.

“The government is utterly dependent on our sector to deliver its goals,” she said.

“It cannot hide that the numbers of people participating since London 2012 have been propped up by the people in this room, with over seven million people regularly going to the gym and keep fit classes.”

Grey-Thompson noted that the physical activity sector has never been more relevant in Westminster, and pointed to the adoption of many policy calls from ukactive’s Blueprint for an active Britain in both the government’s and Sport England’s recent sports strategies as a major breakthrough for physical activity providers.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y5X4n_O

Leisure growing ‘twice as fast’ as retail

Continued from front cover
Based on economic data and a survey of 3,000 UK consumers, the Deloitte report on the state of the leisure sector also highlights a growing preference towards spending on experiences over products.

“A confluence of factors, including low inflation and high employment levels, has boosted consumers’ spending on leisure in recent years,” said Simon Oaten, partner for hospitality and leisure at Deloitte.

“We are witnessing an evolution in the mindset of the leisure consumer; a behavioural shift from product-consumption to experience-consumption. Healthy high streets are those that have retail stores interspersed with leisure, such as cafés and restaurants that attract footfall.”

Although rosy in recent times, the outlook for the leisure sector in the wake of last month’s Brexit vote is now less clear. The result of the EU referendum has led to uncertainty which may impact a leisure sector reliant on discretionary spending, says the report. In the longer term, the effects of leaving the EU will largely depend on the terms of the exit and its effect on consumers, employees and investors.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=3x4b7_O