David Edmonds, the chair of Olympic Stadium operators the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), has resigned from his role amid mounting pressure over the spiralling costs of converting the London 2012 venue into a football ground for West Ham United.

The news came two days after the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, launched an investigation into the cost of the project, which has risen to around £750m – much higher than originally projected.

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson said the cost of the plan would be a "drop in the ocean" and empower the public to take greater responsibility for leading a healthy lifestyle. She added that having physical activity and health services located under one roof would make it easier for GPs to prescribe exercise plans for patients battling lifestyle conditions, signposting them towards wellness professionals while taking the load off of hospitals.

Grey-Thompson’s plan forms part of a new report from ukactive, called Blueprint for an Active Britain: Milestone Review, which says the NHS is under growing pressure to plug a £22bn funding gap by 2020. The report estimates that 1,000 wellness hubs – if created over the next 10 years – could alleviate the pressure on the NHS by making people more active and help tackle lifestyle illnesses. Costing £10m-£15m, the new wellness hubs could be strategically placed to absorb the capacity of two or three outdated facilities.

"The level of investment needed is a drop in the ocean compared to the cost to the NHS of a full-blown inactivity epidemic," Grey-Thompson said. Details: http://lei.sr?a=7E5m4_O

Olympic stadium chief Edmonds steps down

David Edmonds, the chair of Olympic Stadium operators the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), has resigned from his role amid mounting pressure over the spiralling costs of converting the London 2012 venue into a football ground for West Ham United.

The news came two days after the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, launched an investigation into the cost of the project, which has risen to around £750m – much higher than originally projected. Continued on back cover

Baseball facility for Manchester in 2017

A new purpose-built baseball facility is being lined up for Manchester and could be complete before the end of next year according to the sport’s governing body.

Around 18 months ago, BaseballSoftball UK revealed its plan to build the venue in the north-west city, and following talks with Manchester City Council the development is on track. The local authority is currently undertaking a review of its playing pitch strategy based on perceived demand for outdoor playing facilities.

The final piece of the puzzle is to secure funding, with bids submitted to Sport England for £15m – £20m. Finance will also be sought from other sources, as well as community fundraising. If the funding package comes together quickly work on the project could begin by April or May next year. Details: http://lei.sr?a=j7Y3F_O
Sports organisations and governing bodies will be able to apply for grants through Sport England’s new funding programmes from December 2016. The grassroots sports quango has made public its first timeline since the publication of its *Towards an Active Nation* strategy in May.

Providers aiming to take a slice of Sport England’s £7.5m facilities pot – called the Community Asset Fund – will be able to bid from January 2017 following a December 2016 launch. Money will be available for the development of single and multi-sport community facilities.

Awards of between £5,000 and £50,000 will be made for these projects, with the first batch of awards announced in April 2017.

In January, Sport England will also publish its wider facilities investment guide to give partners more information on the types of projects it wants to support.

A bulk of the organisation’s funding over the next four years (25 per cent) will go towards tackling inactivity, with the first £10m inactivity fund launching in December 2016. The first phase of the inactivity fund will be focused on getting the over-55s more physically active, with 42 per cent of this age group likely to be inactive compared to 29 per cent of the population as a whole.

Organisations bidding for money from this pot can expect awards of £50,000-£500,000. Expressions of interest need to be submitted by 13 February 2017, with the first awards announced in June next year.

Details: [http://lei.sr?e=W8s3U_O](http://lei.sr?e=W8s3U_O)

### Sustainable stadium for Hastings

Non-league football club Hastings United will relocate to a new 3,000-capacity stadium as part of move to bring a £12m sports facility to the area.

The ground will be built in the Combe Valley part of the East Sussex town alongside a “sustainable sports village”, which will accommodate cricket, hockey, rugby, American football, netball, tennis and petanque.

A sports hall and gym are also being proposed for the site. Alongside the sports venues will be £58m of housing. The financial package for the facilities has been put together by Burney Group & Sherlock Consultancy in partnership with Keepmoat Homes.

The proposal has also involved the work of Hastings United FC and the trustees of the local Hornsey Park Sports Complex, which is also planning to move to the site, although it will need approval from Sport England and the Charity Commission.

However, the project will need to be given the green light by Hastings Borough Council, which owns Combe Valley.

According to the club, the development would lead to £70m worth of investment coming into Hastings.

“The project is intended to produce increased participation in sport via improved facilities for all which will result in healthy living outcomes,” the club said in a statement.

Details: [http://lei.sr?e=r7y6h_O](http://lei.sr?e=r7y6h_O)
Governance code laid out for NGBs

National governing bodies that receive more than £1m of public money over a set cycle – such as the Football Association (FA) and Rugby Football Union (RFU) – will lose their funding if they fail to diversify their boards.

UK Sport and Sport England’s A Code for Sports Governance has set the requirement that all organisations in this bracket must aim towards appointing a minimum of 30 per cent of each gender on their respective boards.

A number of bodies may struggle to achieve that target based on current figures. Of the FA’s 12 board members, one director is female (8 per cent); the RFU has two women in 12 members (16 per cent); the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has 15 per cent female representation with two in 13.

Of the major sports in Britain, the LTA – the governing body for tennis – comes closest with three in 11 (27 per cent).

Targets over ethnic diversity are slightly less clear. While governing bodies are expected to “demonstrate a strong and public commitment to progressing towards a greater diversity on boards”, there is no benchmark aim.

Diversity is not limited to black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) or disabled candidates either, with both sports quangos looking at sexual orientation and socioeconomic circumstances.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q7t6Z_O

ECB boosts state school investment

More than half a million school children a year will have the opportunity to participate in cricket as a result of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) doubling its investment in its popular Chance to Shine programme.

From October 2017, cricket’s national governing body will plough at least £2.5m into the children’s cricket charity, from the £1.25m annual donation it used to pledge.

The new investment means that the ECB has also pledged to match donor contributions of up to £500,000 per year.

In addition, the ECB and Chance to Shine will develop a new primary schools programme over the next 12 months, which will be delivered in partnership with the 39 county cricket boards in England and Wales.

The partners have agreed to three core objectives for the programme: to give young people a “great first experience of cricket”; to build a sustainable culture in state schools; and help young people learn life skills.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j9w9k_O

England to host Rugby League World Cup in 2021

England will host the Rugby League World Cup in 2021 after being selected ahead of a joint bid from the US and Canada.

Making the announcement, the Rugby League International Federation (RLIF) said the wide support for the sport in England – both at grassroots and government level – had ensured the bid’s success in the final assessments in October.

The UK government has already committed up to £25m to the tournament and its legacy, with £15m pledged to support the staging of the event and up to £10m for Rugby League’s infrastructure in order to grow the game across the country.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=w2B4T_O

RFU execs lift the lid on artificial pitch programme

Twenty-seven clubs and partners have been lined up by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) as part of the first phases of its £50m artificial grass pitch (AGP) programme.

During a session at Rugby Expo earlier this month, executives from the governing body lifted the lid on the project, which is expected to bring 16,000 regular players into the sport by 2020.

AGP project manager Rory Price told delegates that 22 clubs had been identified as part of the RFU’s Rugby Turf model, with 20 pitches expected to be complete by summer 2018. Of that 20, five are part of a pilot phase, with three completed already in Aylesbury, Preston and Weston-super-Mare.

Another 40 will be built by 2020 to bring that number up to 60, with the RFU investing £750,000 in each site. Clubs are not able to make expressions of interest for the funding as the programme is being "solicited" by the RFU, which is looking for specific criteria such as land ownership, quality of amenities and local provision.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=S3b6y_O

All 60 Rugby Turf pitches will be built by 2020

Sports minister Tracey Crouch said all NGBs need to adhere to the code.

England’s Football Association (FA) and Rugby Football Union (RFU) – which is looking to attract expressions of interest from quangos looking at sexual orientation and BAME or disabled candidates – have set their requirements clear. While governing bodies are expected to show a strong and public commitment to progressing towards a greater diversity on boards, there is no benchmark aim.

Diversity is not limited to black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) or disabled candidates either. Both sports quangos are looking at sexual orientation and socioeconomic circumstances.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q7t6Z_O

Chance to Shine has engaged three million state school children

The partners have agreed to three core objectives for the programme: to give young people a “great first experience of cricket”; to build a sustainable culture in state schools; and help young people learn life skills.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j9w9k_O
BH Live, a social enterprise which operates leisure facilities across the South of England, has opened a new health club in Corfe Mullen, East Dorset.

The site – previously operated by Virgin Active – includes a large gym floor, exercise studios, a 25m swimming pool and outdoor tennis courts.

The property had been unoccupied for more than two years since Virgin Active shuttered the club in February 2014. The opening, on 14 November, follows a £1m redevelopment programme at the site, which has seen the pool being upgraded and the existing gym floor being expanded and fitted with new Life Fitness equipment and a MyZone display system.

Called BH Live Active Corf Mullen, the facility will take a holistic approach to health and wellbeing, with a number of activities being delivered in partnership with local healthcare providers.

An exercise referral activity programme will be put in place in order to encourage people with health conditions to get more physically active and the site will also cater for families with a new soft play zone being installed for families with pre-school children.

BH Live Active's 813 Club – for families with children aged between eight and 13 – will also be launched to encourage families to get more active together. A learn-to-swim programme for adults will begin in 2017.

Peter Gunn, BH Live's CEO, said: “We have had phenomenal support from the local authorities, community and businesses while the improvements have been taking place – and we continue to explore further expansion opportunities across the south of England.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=a3H5F_O

ClassPass cuts unlimited offer

Studio subscription service ClassPass is to cap the maximum number of visits its members can make to its network of boutique studios to just 10 per month – bringing an end to its unlimited memberships. Customers who were on unlimited plans were told of the changes on 2 November.

The ClassPass business model is based on fitness fans paying a flat-rate monthly fee in return for a wide range of boutique exercise classes at a discounted rate – offered by operators who have signed up with the platform.

Prior to the changes, ClassPass offered two tiers of membership.

For £55 a month, members could attend five classes each month, with a maximum of two visits a month to any one studio.

The unlimited package cost £110 a month and allowed members unlimited access to classes – although they could only visit any one studio three times during the month.

The new higher rate package is expected to cost £105, including 10 classes per month and a limit of three visits to any one studio.

Kate Cracknell, editor of Leisure Opportunities’ sister publication Health Club Management, said: “The withdrawal of the unlimited package is no doubt a move to boost profits at ClassPass: boutique users are generally very engaged with fitness, so those on an unlimited package will use it very heavily – meaning significant, and possibly unsustainable, per-class payments from ClassPass to its network of boutiques.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q2Y4B_O

Heath & Fitness

BH Live opens ex-Virgin Active club

ClassPass cuts unlimited offer
In its 4th year, active-net 2017 guarantees Suppliers fourteen, 20 minute, 1 to 1 meetings with public sector Buyers from Sport and Physical activity.

29th and 30th of March 2017 at Eastwood Hall, Nottingham

With already confirmed Buyers such as Places for People, Freedom, 1Life, SERCO, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Stoke on Trent City Council already attending, as well as educational workshops, entry into event directory, informal networking and an after dinner speaker included as part of your package, make sure you contact kirstyreed@leisure-net.org to secure your place.

Alternatively, visit our website at www.active-net.org to download your booking form and see who else is attending!

active-net enjoys the support of the sector, thank you to:

www.active-net.org
**Exercise prevents memory loss**

An hour of moderate exercise – such as walking – three times a week can help reduce memory loss among elderly people.

A study by the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada, suggests that regular exercise can help reduce vascular cognitive impairment (VCI), the second most common cause of dementia after Alzheimer’s disease. VCI has been attributed with problems with memory and thinking skills, resulting from damage to large and small blood vessels in the brain.

The disorder is not the same as Alzheimer’s disease – which is a breakdown of the brain’s neurons – but rather a disease within the brain’s blood vessels.

The UBC study involved 70 people with an average age of 74, who were divided into two groups. One group undertook an exercise programme, involving physical activities three times a week for an hour, while the other undertook an education programme about the disease and committed to a healthy diet for six months. The study found that those in the exercise group were able to improve their cognitive abilities.

“Studies have shown that exercise can help reduce the risk of developing memory problems, but few studies have looked at whether it can help people who already have these problems get better or keep from getting worse,” said study author Teresa Liu-Ambrose.

**£29m Braywick centre in the works**

The public is being given the opportunity to offer its views on the new £29m leisure centre planned for Braywick Park in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) has launched a public consultation on proposals to replace the Magnet Leisure Centre with a modern facility, which would combine a number of leisure and community services under one roof.

Plans for the Braywick Leisure Centre include a 200-station health and fitness club with group exercise spaces; a 10-lane, 25m swimming pool with moveable floor; a learner pool and two squash courts. The plans would also see the existing outdoor sports facilities at Braywick Park – which include football pitches – being retained and improved.

RBWM aims to fund the £29m project by developing four separate council-owned pieces of land through a joint venture partnership.

One of these is the ageing Magnet Leisure Centre – which is set to be demolished if the plans for Braywick are approved.

Councillor Samantha Rayner, RBWM cabinet member for culture and communities, said: “The current Magnet centre is now 42 years old and has been a great success, being one of the first community leisure centres in the country.

“We want to build on this success and make significant changes to the areas which are in high demand – the pools and gym.”

**£11.8m Wyre Forest Leisure Centre opens to the public**

Double Olympic champion Rebecca Adlington has officially opened the £11.8m Wyre Forest Leisure Centre in Kidderminster. Designed by Roberts Limbrick Architects and built by Pellikaan Construction, the centre includes a six-lane 25m pool, a learner pool with moveable floor, sauna, steamroom and a 100-station gym with exercise and dance studios.

Operated by Places for People Leisure, additional facilities include a six-court sports hall, a climbing wall, six-a-side football pitches and children’s play area.

Ingerslev said the next 20 years of technological development will match the last century.

**Technology advisory council for fitness sector**

The International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) will launch an advisory council on technology and innovation in 2017, as part of its plans to assist its members better utilise emerging tech such as wearables, big data and virtual reality (VR).

“Technology is changing the customer journey and the perception of brands,” said Rasmus Ingerslev, IHRSA chair.

“The next 20 years of technological development will match the last 100 years. The health club industry’s traditional four walls are being affected by wearables, tracking, streaming, and online exercise.

“This doesn’t mean the health club industry can’t compete, just that the industry must stay alert and up-to-date on these trends to become and remain relevant.”

**£11.8m Wyre Forest Leisure Centre opens to the public**

Details: http://lei.sr?a=c8s3u_O

**Technology advisory council for fitness sector**

Details: http://lei.sr?a=F9k6F_O

**£29m Braywick centre in the works**

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y4y3a_O

**£11.8m Wyre Forest Leisure Centre opens to the public**

Details: http://lei.sr?a=9j3e4_O

**Technology advisory council for fitness sector**

Details: http://lei.sr?a=0j3c4_O
1Life is an aspirational brand that puts staff, clients, customers and community at its heart, encouraging everyone to get the most out of life through health & wellbeing, sport and physical activity.

Working together for a brighter future.
V&A Dundee work hits milestone

A major milestone in the construction of Kengo Kuma’s V&A Museum of Design Dundee in Scotland has been reached, with the completion of the upper floor revealing an extensive public area that will house galleries, learning spaces and a restaurant.

At the ground floor level V&A Dundee will be formed of two separate buildings located on Dundee’s waterfront. The newly-completed second floor connects these two together, and houses many of the museum’s leisure amenities.

At the heart of the newly-completed space is the Michelin Design Gallery. This will host touring exhibitions and showcase work completed by families, schools and community groups as part of V&A Dundee’s learning programmes to inspire and promote contemporary talent and encourage design innovation. The gallery will carry the name of tyre manufacturer Michelin – which is a high-profile employer in the city – for 25 years.

Philip Long, director of V&A Dundee, said the gallery “will be an inspiring space for community participants of all ages to see what they design showcased within an international museum.”

A Michelin mentoring programme will also be put in place through the partnership with V&A Dundee. This will offer Michelin staff the opportunity to be directly involved with the museum and its learning programmes, as well as providing a platform to share their own knowledge and skills.

V&A Museum of Design Dundee is expected to open in 2018.

Dewsbury Museum forced to close

One of the UK’s oldest museums – an institution dating back to the Victorian era – has been forced to close, thanks to austerity cuts.

The 120-year-old Dewsbury Museum in West Yorkshire is a victim of the government’s deficit austerity programme – a series of sustained reductions in public spending, intended to reduce the government budget deficit and the welfare state in the UK.

Kirklees Council made the decision to close the museum, along with Red House Museum in Gomersal, last month, with the latter allowed to stay open until 21 December following an appeal.

The local authority’s budget for museums and galleries is being cut in half from April 2017, with the council forced to draw up new plans to restructure its offering. The decision to close the museums will save £531,000 a year.

The Grade-II Listed museum was originally a cloth merchant’s home and was frequently visited by author Charlotte Bronte, who featured it in her 1849 novel Shirley.

Dewsbury Museum underwent a £1m renovation in 2010 to improve visitor facilities and features a toy gallery, recreated 1940s classroom, and the ‘Discovering Dewsbury’ local history gallery.

If no-one is found to run them, both Dewsbury and Red House museums’ collections will be transferred to other local museums.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=h2T5p_O

Science Museum begins search for gallery designer

London’s Science Museum has kicked off the search for a lead designer to create its new London Science City Gallery.

Applications are open until 21 November for firms to make their interest known. The selected practice will be responsible for the full coordination of design, engineering and services for the project.

The gallery will explore London’s central role in the scientific advances in the 17th and 18th centuries. The exhibition will include elements of 3D Design, graphic design and lighting design.

The deadline to apply for the design contract, which is worth £240,000, is 12pm on 21 November. The Science City Gallery project is part of a wider £60m regeneration masterplan initiated by the South Kensington museum.

In 2015, Zaha Hadid Architects and Muf were awarded separate contracts to redevelop the museum’s Maths Gallery and Interactive Gallery respectively. The former will open in December, while the latter was completed earlier this year.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=W7P2h_O

Architect sought for £49m Southend museum project

Five years on from its inception, Southend Council is searching for an architect to develop a £49m museum to house the Saxon King’s relics, launching a £1.3m bid to find a suitable candidate for the project.

First touted in 2011, the council is searching for an architect-led design team to create a museum to display the golden relics discovered in the unknown Saxon King’s burial site in 2003. In addition to the Saxon King’s treasures, the proposed development will also house important local discoveries such as those from the 17th century shipwreck of HMS London.

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=6j5A3_O
BRINGING THE INDUSTRY TOGETHER
IN TWO GREAT SHOWS

17th – 19th Jan 2017
ExCeL London Exhibition Centre
The founder of budget health club operator Pure Gym, Peter Roberts, has launched a new salon concept which aims to “transform” the UK’s beauty market.

Spruce Moose will become the UK’s first nationwide beauty business to operate a membership model, offering up to 40 per cent off treatments to those who sign up. The model is similar to that operated by French company Bodyminute. The venture is being launched by Roberts and two former Pure Gym directors – ex-development director Brian Scurrah and former property director Angela Crawford.

The first Spruce Moose is set to open later this month at the newly-opened Everyman cinema and retail complex in Harrogate, Yorkshire. According to Tom Hodgson, a surveyor at Pudney Shuttleworth – the property agent which is assisting Spruce Moose to find UK locations – the three owners have made a £250,000 investment in the Harrogate site.

“Spruce Moose is being launched by Peter Roberts, founder of Pure Gym, and two former Pure Gym directors. The venture is being launched in Harrogate, Yorkshire in December. The new spa is part of the property’s £2m expansion, which has included the opening of six Beach Huts and two larger Beach Suites.

“I looked at a few different locations in the major northern cities but settled on Harrogate as the ideal town to showcase the first Spruce Moose,” Hodgson said. “Getting the first location right for was imperative for the brand’s image. “This location in particular, within the new Everyman Cinema scheme, next door to Cote Brasserie is perfectly sandwiched in between Harrogate’s retail and office core, both of which are Spruce Moose’s core markets.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=f8a2U_O

Sea-view spa for Devon’s Cary Arms

The Cary Arms, a boutique hotel on England’s south coast in Devon, will open a luxury glass-fronted sea-view “Cary Spa” in December. The new spa is part of the property’s £2m expansion, which has included the opening of six Beach Huts and two larger Beach Suites.

Owned by Lana de Savary, the wife of entrepreneur and yachtsman Peter de Savary, the spa offers a host of health and wellbeing treatments and additional facilities.

The new Cary Spa features a glass-fronted pool and deck offering panoramic vistas along the unspoilt Jurassic coastline. Inside the spa, there will be a series of treatment rooms, including the introduction of a couples massage room, where treatments will be based on leading marine-themed French beauty brand Thalgo.

The spa will also feature a mood-enhancing aromatherapy/light shower, a hydrotherapy pool, sauna, steam room and a gymnasium. Guests at the inn will have full complimentary access to the spa facilities.

The spa opening follows the unveiling of the new beach huts and beach suites. Sitting on the water’s edge, the beach hut comprises an outdoor terrace, sitting room, wet bar, fireplace, bedroom and bathroom with views across Lyme Bay to Portland Bill.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=a7w8V_O

JO GOODMAN
Sales & marketing director at Habia – the spa, hair and beauty arm of SkillsActive

T
rain people well enough that they can leave, treat them well enough so they don’t want to. If you train and look after your staff, they’ll look after your customers. It’s that simple.

As much as I’d like to take credit for the above statement, I have to confess that it’s a quote from Sir Richard Branson – and you can’t deny that he knows a thing or two about running a successful business. Unfortunately, however, investment in staff training is often bottom of the pile when salon and spa owners formulate their budgets.

If you are one of those, take a moment to consider the consequences. The inconvenience of high staff turnover is well understood, but consider the resulting financial impact. Quite apart from the potential recruitment costs, the loss of experienced personnel can damage staff morale, hit productivity and have a detrimental effect on client retention.

One of the main reasons proffered for failure to invest in training is the fear that the recipients will then leave for pastures new. But what if you don’t train them and they stay? Need I say more?

But how best to deliver training and what areas should you consider? First, put together a 12-month training plan, keeping what areas should you consider? First, put together a 12-month training plan, keeping what is working and what is not. And when you control costs, identify what training can be delivered in-house and look at the resources available. For more specialist training, find an external industry trainer and include modules that improve employee productivity and drive revenue.

It’s equally important to monitor employee engagement levels to identify what is working and what is not. And don’t focus purely on financial returns on investment, consider the more intangible benefits, too.

Still unconvinced? Well consider this: if you want talented, educated and skilled employees, it’s really quite simple – you have to create them.

The Cary Arms, a boutique hotel on England’s south coast in Devon, will open a luxury glass-fronted sea-view “Cary Spa” in December. The new spa is part of the property’s £2m expansion, which has included the opening of six Beach Huts and two larger Beach Suites.

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=a7w8V_O
Historic Sheraton Grand relaunches

The Sheraton Grand London Park Lane in Mayfair, London, has been relaunched following a multi-million pound renovation and redesign by interior designers MKV Design and architects Woods Bagot.

The two-year project has seen the hotel’s 303 guestrooms completely redesigned, and the addition of a new bar and restaurant at street level, a redesigned reception lobby and upgraded public areas including the famed Palm Court Lounge. The Grade II listed Ballroom and Silver Gallery also underwent a sensitive restoration as part of the project.

“We were conscious of the heritage we were dealing with in this listed building on London’s Piccadilly, which has the distinction of being both the first hotel in London constructed with a steel frame back in 1927 and also the only hotel remaining in the capital with extensive Art Deco interiors,” MKV founder Maria Vafiadis told Leisure Opportunities.

Hotel operators ‘must integrate wellness’

Hotel operators have not developed a sophisticated understanding of wellness and must do more to integrate it into their developments if they wish to succeed, according to Omer Isvan, president of international investment consultancy Servotel.

Isvan, who was speaking at a session at the Global Wellness Summit in Tyrol, Austria last week, argued that investors are placing more importance on hotels and resorts that offer truly transformational experiences that boost wellbeing.

“Spas have brought a new segmentation into the hotel, changed the average length of stay and spend of a person, and secured repeat customers,” said Isvan. “I’ve seen hotels very often carried by a loss-making spa, and if I took that spa out of the hotel, the hotel would collapse.”

He said that achieving integrative wellness takes “more than just a spa that delivers the feel-good factor” and there is a growing consumer need for fully integrative wellness destinations, which investors are ready and waiting to put money into.

“(Investors) have the cash – we have the intent,” he said. “There’s no shortage of land, labour and capital to put it together. But we have a shortage of know how.

“In the hospitality industry, you can buy a ‘hotel management package’ from the likes of Hilton. There’s a huge supermarket where you can buy brands, management, distribution, marketing and sales, recognition and PR. But this has not happened with integrative medicine and wellness and that’s where the big gap is today.”

Details: http://lei.sr/a=sp9a4_O
TOURISM

‘Trump factor’ to affect tourism

Analysts have predicted that Donald Trump’s victory in the US Presidential election will have a similar effect to the UK’s Brexit vote, with the result sending shockwaves worldwide thanks to a weakened dollar.

Speaking at the World Travel Market in London, Caroline Bremner, head of travel for market research firm Euromonitor, explained that its economists had created models based on the result of the US election, with a Trump win spelling misery for the US and its overseas travel markets.

“We call it the Trump Downturn,” she said. “We predict that Trump’s victory will reduce the US economy over the next five years by just under 5 per cent, meaning that instead of a predicted growth of 1.5 to 2 per cent for 2017, the US economy would have marginal growth – around about 0.3 per cent next year.”

“When the US economy slows, that has a drag effect on the global economy.”

According to Euromonitor, Trump’s win will echo the effects of the UK’s decision to leave the European Union, with the shock to the US political system having a knock-on effect for the economy.

“We will see the dollar depreciate just as we saw with the pound,” Bremner said. “And that means US travellers have less money abroad.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=k2J4R_O

Campaign targets Gulf visitors

VisitBritain has launched a major new initiative to attract more inbound visitors from the Gulf.

The national tourism agency will roll out a six-week marketing campaign in Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of a strategy to present the UK as an “ideal destination” for the region’s burgeoning middle class.

At the heart of the drive will be the #OMGB (Oh My GREAT Britain) hashtag, which will be used in conjunction with images and a video filmed on locations across the UK. The campaign will appear on social media and the web, in print magazines and on digital screens in malls.

The Middle Eastern market is an increasingly important sector for the UK’s inbound tourism. Last year saw a record 675,000 visits to the UK from Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE collectively, up 20 per cent on 2014, with spending up 10 per cent to £1.5bn.

Inbound tourism to the UK from Saudi Arabia saw the largest boost in 2015, with visits up 2 per cent to 147,000 and spend up 52 per cent to £556m, moving Saudi Arabia into the UK’s top 10 most valuable markets for the first time.

Visitors from the Gulf are some of the highest spending in the UK, spending £2,200 on average per visit. They also rank among the top 10 markets most likely to visit luxury stores, according to VisitBritain research published last year.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=F4b6M_O

Visitors from the Gulf are some of the highest spending in the UK, spending £2,200 on average per visit.

London’s shops are a major draw for visitors from The Gulf

TOURISM

‘Trump factor’ to affect tourism

Analysts have predicted that Donald Trump’s victory in the US Presidential election will have a similar effect to the UK’s Brexit vote, with the result sending shockwaves worldwide thanks to a weakened dollar.

Speaking at the World Travel Market in London, Caroline Bremner, head of travel for market research firm Euromonitor, explained that its economists had created models based on the result of the US election, with a Trump win spelling misery for the US and its overseas travel markets.

“We call it the Trump Downturn,” she said. “We predict that Trump’s victory will reduce the US economy over the next five years by just under 5 per cent, meaning that instead of a predicted growth of 1.5 to 2 per cent for 2017, the US economy would have marginal growth – around about 0.3 per cent next year.”

“When the US economy slows, that has a drag effect on the global economy.”

According to Euromonitor, Trump’s win will echo the effects of the UK’s decision to leave the European Union, with the shock to the US political system having a knock-on effect for the economy.

“We will see the dollar depreciate just as we saw with the pound,” Bremner said. “And that means US travellers have less money abroad.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=k2J4R_O

Campaign targets Gulf visitors

VisitBritain has launched a major new initiative to attract more inbound visitors from the Gulf.

The national tourism agency will roll out a six-week marketing campaign in Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of a strategy to present the UK as an “ideal destination” for the region’s burgeoning middle class.

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London’s shops are a major draw for visitors from The Gulf
Are you thinking of buying, selling, reviewing or leasing health & fitness sites in 2016?

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Air base project given go ahead

London-based architecture studio Jestico + Whiles’ plans to transform a disused air base in Oxfordshire into a major new leisure district has been given the green light by the local council.

According to the design team, the complex – located in the village of Upper Heyford – will be like no other in the country due to its typological flexibility and historic reference points. Cherwell District Council has approved the project, and an estimated 12-month construction schedule is set to begin in the New Year.

The design will repurpose two former buildings – occupied at different times by both the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) – using contrasting, modern materials to extend the spaces, making them more suitable for communal use. Facilities will include an American style brasserie, a boutique hotel, a delicatessen and market hall, a café and brunch bar, two terraces, external seating, co-working spaces, play areas and a landscaped garden.

“Our vision is to create an exciting sustainable hub for enterprise, culture and living,” said Paul Silver, chief executive of project developer Dorchester Living.

“We’re re-imagining how a village should look and feel, and by pushing the boundaries of the buildings purpose, design and materials, we’re creating great community spaces that people can be proud of and inspired to use. We want these buildings and spaces to stand the test of time and that was integral to our planning.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=U7J9z_O

Safe-standing at new Spurs stadium?

Tottenham Hotspur’s new stadium will have the ability to accommodate safe-standing, and will include an exclusive ‘tunnel bar’ in which fans will be able to see the players come out onto the pitch.

Darren Baldwin, the club’s head of playing surface and estates, lifted the lid on plans for the ambitious 61,000-capacity stadium during an address at the Saltex Convention in Birmingham on 2 November.

Baldwin revealed that the Populous-designed stadium had been drafted to allow for safe-standing at the request of chair Daniel Levy to try and replicate the atmosphere of White Hart Lane.

The safe-standing area would be part of the large 17,000 single tier ‘kop’ end at the stadium’s south stand, and was partly inspired by the ‘Yellow Wall’ created by the fans of German club Borussia Dortmund.

Baldwin said that when Spurs played the former German champions at its Westfalenstadion ground last year, the “players felt under immense pressure”.

However, he admitted that it “could take a few years yet” for the government to relax the laws on standing at football matches.

Baldwin also touched on the “unique” tunnel bar, which allows hospitality fans to view the players from a few feet as they get ready to run out onto the pitch.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=W5e7A_O

Leisure dominates RIBA’s best buildings shortlist

Leisure buildings dominate the shortlist of the first ever RIBA International Prize, which is seeking to recognise the best building in the world.

The Heydar Aliyev Centre in Baku, Azerbaijan by Zaha Hadid Architects; the Stormen Concert Hall in Bodø, Norway by DRDH Architects; the Arcquipelago Contemporary Arts Centre in The Azores (Portugal) by Menos é Mais Arquitectos; and the Museo Jumex in Mexico City by UK-based David Chipperfield all feature on the six-strong list.

The RIBA International Prize was set up to consider any building in any country, irrespective of its function or budget, that “demonstrates a range of innovative responses to the role of public architecture, providing major new additions to their contexts and communities.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=2D7r7_O

WilkinsonEyre to design National Railway Museum

Architecture studio WilkinsonEyre have been selected to develop a new railway museum in Leicester, UK, following a period of public consultation.

The new museum is a partnership between Great Central Railway, Leicester City Council and the York’s National Railway Museum. Located next to the historic railway terminus at Leicester North station, it will house locomotives and carriages from the UK’s national collection.

Six candidates were in the running to design the new building, including Farrells, Grimshaw and HawkinsBrown.

WilkinsonEyre’s design will see three two-storey exhibition halls constructed alongside the station. A glass wall will allow visitors arriving by train to see into the museum, and museum visitors can watch the trains travelling past.

The existing railway station building and platform will be restored and maintained.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=A7r9e_O

PROPERTY

The design is based on three exhibition halls

WilkinsonEyre to design National Railway Museum

Two former air base buildings will be repurposed and redeveloped

“Leisure Opportunities online: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital”

Baldwin said the project was likely to go over the £600m first mooted

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WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Roehampton Playing Fields, Dover House Road, London SW15

Concession contract for the management and maintenance of Roehampton Playing Fields and redevelopment of the existing pavilion ("the Site")

Wandsworth Borough Council is seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced and competent suppliers for the management and maintenance of Roehampton Playing Fields and redevelopment of the existing pavilion for a 30-year term.

Expressing an interest

To express an interest in the opportunity, Suppliers must submit proposals in accordance with the instructions set out in the Request for Proposal (RFP) which is available at www.delta-esourcing.com

Suppliers must register on this site to respond, although those already registered will not need to register again and will be able to use their existing username and password. Please note there is a password reminder link on the homepage.

Suppliers must log in, go to Response Manager and add the following Access Code: 98Y4W2CXNU. Suppliers should then follow the on screen instructions.

Completing the first stage of the procurement process

Completed Outline Proposal for the Site in accordance with the instructions in the RFP along with any supporting documentation must be submitted through the portal by 12 pm (noon) on 18th January 2017.

Details of the selection criteria are provided within the RFP. If you have any questions with regards to this opportunity, please use the message facility available via the Delta e-Sourcing portal.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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W: www.leisurepropertyforum.org
Leadership and professional standards (continued)

Seeking the opinions of employers, awarding organisations and training providers on the task force under development of qualifications and apprenticeships.

Published this month.

The UK’s fitness workforce is “ill-equipped” to deal with the needs of a modern-day, diverse customer base – according to an industry report published this month.

The Raising the Bar 2016 report, compiled by Future Fit Training in partnership with ukactive and CIMSPA, charts the results of a survey which set out to identify the ability of fitness employers and their employees to deliver a service in a market which increasingly includes special populations.

The results show that a majority (88 per cent) of the sector’s employers believe personal training staff are not adequately trained to engage with special populations – such as children, older adults, pre and post-natal women, diabetics and overweight clients.

Published on 9 November, during the ukactive Summit in London, the report states: “The survey clearly shows that the industry’s personal training qualification standards need to improve in a meaningful way to meet the shift in expectation and demand from today’s changing customer base. No longer is the industry simply working with healthy people looking to get fit. Today’s trainers are increasingly asked to work with special populations and children and tasked to help deliver on NHS, government and Sport England policies.

“The customer demand has changed dramatically over recent years, but the training of professionals has not, resulting in a workforce that is ill-equipped to help people bring about sustainable improvements to their health and wellbeing.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x7y2z_O

LeadAbility programme launched

Not-for-profit health body ukactive has launched a new scholarship initiative to fast-track talented disabled people into senior leadership positions across the physical activity sector.

The Matrix LeadAbility Scholarship Programme will initially provide fully funded places for “up and coming” disabled leaders on the 2017 Future Leaders Programme run by ukactive and University of Navarra in Spain.

During a week-long course with a network of peers at the university’s IESE Business School in Barcelona, participants will receive expert teaching, training and mentoring to develop their strategic, commercial and leadership skills.

Statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions show that despite making up 15 per cent of the workforce, disabled people remain significantly less likely to be in some form of employment. According to Disability Rights UK, there is a particularly stark contrast at the senior leadership level, where non-disabled people are three times as likely to earn over £80,000 as disabled people, and twice as likely to be board level directors.

“LeadAbility provides a fantastic opportunity to diversify our workforce by helping disabled people land senior positions in the physical activity sector based solely on merit,” said ukactive chair Tanni Grey-Thompson. “It also demonstrates another proactive step towards being the all-inclusive sector that we aspire to be, whether it’s in our teams or growing our market by attracting new people through our doors who might have previously felt our services were not for them – both disabled people and the wider population.

The scholarship programme will be sponsored by Matrix Fitness and co-ordinated by ukactive in conjunction with charity Aspire.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x6U8U_O

Fitness workforce ‘ill-equipped’

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Dianne Eade, Newquay Zoo
Head of Finance, Human Resources and Administration

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Company: The Gym Group
Location: Various locations, UK
Fitness Instructor
Company: Warwick District Council
Location: Warwickshire, UK
Leisure Centre Attendants
Company: Warwick District Council
Location: Warwickshire, UK
Front of House Team Leader
Company: 360 Play
Location: Stevenage, UK
Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie group
Location: Bethnal Green, UK
Sales Executive
Company: eGym
Location: London, UK

Personal trainers
Company: American School in London
Location: London, UK
Lifeguards
Company: American School in London
Location: London, UK
Fitness class instructors
Company: American School in London
Location: London, UK
Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Reading Central, UK
Front of House Assistant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Warwickshire, UK
Crèche Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Stratford-upon-Avon, UK
Golf Services Assistant
Company: Glendale Golf
Location: Sheen, UK
Sales Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Solihull, UK
Front of House Assistant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Warwickshire, UK
Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Bourton-on-the-Water, UK
Golf Operations Manager
Company: Glendale Golf
Location: Richmond, UK
Personal trainers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK
Sales manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Epping, UK
Part-time Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Elephant & Castle, London, UK
Swimming Instructor
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Cardiff, UK
Casual Fitness Motivator
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Elephant & Castle, London, UK
Swimming Teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Aylesbury, UK
Marketing Manager
Company: Flintshire County Council
Location: Flintshire, UK
Club Development Coordinator
Company: University of Nottingham
Location: Nottingham, UK
Sports Facilities Co-ordinator
Company: Anglia Ruskin University
Location: Chelmsford or Cambridge, UK
Front of House Receptionists
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Market Rasen, UK
Lifeguards
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Various locations, UK
General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: High Wycombe, UK
Team leaders (Wet)
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Epping Forest, UK
Training Manager
Company: Parkwood Holdings
Location: Worcester, UK
Personal Trainer
Company: énergie group
Location: Various locations, UK
Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: Colchester, UK
Duty Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Poole, UK
Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie Group
Location: Fulham, UK
Membership consultants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Poole, UK
Senior Golf Services Assistant
Company: Glendale Golf
Location: Richmond, UK
Senior Implementations Exec
Company: Xn hotel Systems
Location: Derby
Freelance Personal Trainer
Company: Hilton Hotels
Location: Warwick, UK
Lifeguard
Company: Stowe School
Location: Buckingham, UK
Parklife Projects Manager
Company: The Football Association
Location: Home Base, UK
Membership Sales Advisor
Company: énergie group
Location: Wellesborough, UK
Team leaders
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Cheltenham, UK
Hot Yoga Instructors
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London SW1V, UK
Hot Yoga Instructors
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London W2, UK
Aquazone Swimming Instructor
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Solihull, UK
Day Spa Manager
Company: Tekapo Springs
Location: Tekapo, New Zealand
Operations Manager
Company: Lee on the Solent Tennis club
Location: Hampshire, UK
Hot Yoga Instructors
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK
Duty Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Erith, UK
Stadium & Park Manager
Company: Ashford Leisure Trust
Location: Ashford, Kent, UK
Centre Manager
Company: Glendale Golf
Location: Carney Island, UK
Tennis Coach
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Solihull, UK
Recreation Assistant
Company: GLL
Location: Swiss Cottage, London, UK
Recreation Assistants
Company: GLL
Location: Various locations, UK
Membership consultants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sutton, UK
Sales manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Fleet, UK
Sports Assistants
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK
Retention Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK
Assistant Manager Post
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK
Health and Fitness Manager
Company: Volar Limited
Location: Knowsley, UK
Health Club Manager
Company: Hilton Hotels
Location: Maidstone, UK
Lifestyle Advisor
Company: Active Tameside
Location: Tameside, UK
Personal Trainer
Company: Active Tameside
Location: Tameside, UK
Assistant General Manager
Company: The Gym Group
Location: London Walworth Road, UK
Sales & Membership Advisor
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Tower Hamlets, UK
Duty Supervisor
Company: University of Cambridge
Location: Cambridge, UK
Compliance Manager
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Worcester, UK
Duty Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Aylesbury, UK
Front of House Receptionist
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Aylesbury, UK
Fitness Instructor
Company: énergie group
Location: Bromley, UK
Swimming teachers
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne, UK
Front of house manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne, UK
Customer Service Advisor
Company: Move GB
Location: Bath, UK, UK
Duty Manager (Wet)
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Spelthorne, UK
Fitness Motivator Apprentice
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Sunbury-on-Thames, UK
General Manager
Company: JD Gyms
Location: Bristol, UK
Sports Assistant
Company: Everyone Active
Location: Waltham Abbey, UK
Swim Manager
Company: Everyone Active
Location: London, UK
Recreation Assistant
Company: Legacy Leisure
Location: Reading, UK
Assistant Regional Director
Company: Parkwood Leisure
Location: Wales and South West, UK
Sales Manager
Company: énergie group
Location: Bethnal Green, UK
‘Significant challenges’ for AFC plans

The chair of Aberdeen Football Club (AFC) has conceded that there are “significant challenges” to be faced in terms of getting the required funds together to build its new stadium.

Last year’s Scottish Premier League runner-up revealed a record turnover of £13.4m for the 2015-16 year, but Stewart Milne said there was work to be done to put the finance package together to build the Kingsford-based development.

During the publication of the club’s annual results, Milne said: “There are significant challenges ahead, not least in the raising of the funds that will be required to deliver the project which would provide the club, the Community Trust and our youth academy with appropriate facilities and infrastructure to increase their portfolio of activities in the local area.”

Despite this, the plan to build the facilities has gathered pace with the first round of public consultations completed.

Aberdeen FC had previously started to develop a proposal to build the stadium in Loirston Loch, but decided to move to Kingsford, which is located seven miles from the town centre of Aberdeen.

The final planning application will be submitted by the end of 2016, and Milne revealed that club employees were visiting other football clubs with the ultimate aim of providing supporters, players and staff with a modern facility we can be justifiably proud of”.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=4v7X2_O

Olympic Stadium boss leaves position

Continued from front cover

Edmonds, who was appointed chair of the LLDC in September 2015, led the board responsible for the Olympic Stadium and played a leading role in planning for and delivering the post-2012 London Olympic Games legacy programme.

The stadium – designed by sports architects Populous – was built for the London 2012 Games legacy programme.

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The stadium – designed by sports architects Populous – was built for the London 2012 Games, with a long-term plan in place to reconfigure the ground afterwards into a multi-purpose arena. In 2015, Khan’s predecessor Boris Johnson said a conversion to make the stadium suitable to host football matches would cost around £272m. However, this figure has now risen to £323m.

According to the BBC, unforeseen costs in moving the retractable seating is the main cause of the increased price tag. As West Ham has signed a deal contributing £2.5m a year in rent and £15m towards the renovations, the shortfall will reportedly be covered by the taxpayer and the LLDC.

In an interview with BBC Radio Four, the chair of the House of Commons Select Committee for DCMS and Conservative MP, Damian Collins, said: “These costs seem to be out of control. I think most people would say West Ham have got an unbelievably good deal.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=714T4_O

The stadium is set to open in time for the start of the 2019-20 season

The stadium was designed by architects Populous

West Ham United