Five sports have joined forces with funding agency Sport England in a bid to improve sports hall provision and secure a lasting facilities legacy across the country.

New guidance called Developing the Right Sports Hall has been produced alongside the national governing bodies of badminton, basketball, cricket, netball and volleyball. It is hoped the document will result in a more efficient and flexible approach to constructing new or upgrading existing facilities, while ensuring the right specification and location.

Canterbury’s new £25.6m Marlowe Theatre has been officially unveiled by HRH The Earl of Wessex, following the completion of a two-year construction project.

A gala event marked the opening of the new arts venue, which has been designed by London-based Keith Williams Architects and replaces a former building first opened in the 1930s but that has now been demolished.

The new Marlowe Theatre includes a 1,200-seat main auditorium set across three levels, with an orchestra pit for 80 musicians. Bars, cafés and a piazza also form part of the scheme.

Canterbury City Council (CCC) will manage and own the property, which is set to cater for a wide range of alternative, community and educational projects in the Marlowe Studio.

CCC was the lead funding partner in the development, contributing £17m, while further support was provided by Kent County Council and the regional development agency.

Leisure schemes miss out on Stirling Prize

Leisure projects have missed out on the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stirling Prize 2011 after London’s Evelyn Grace Academy picked up this year’s accolade. The Zaha Hadid Architects-designed school held off competition from the Hopkins-designed London 2012 Velodrome to net the award.

Folkwang Museum in Essen, Germany (David Chipperfield Architects) and Stratford-upon-Avon’s Royal Shakespeare and Swan Theatres (Bennetts Associates) were also shortlisted for the accolade.
**SPORT**

**Youth Charter urges legacy debate**

Manchester-based organisation Youth Charter has launched a new e-petition calling on the House of Commons to debate the social and cultural benefits of the London 2012 Games.

The group has launched the 2012 Sport Legacy Access For All petition in order to ensure that plans for a sustainable legacy for young people are fully implemented. Youth Charter also said that it is looking to provide a response and contribute to the debate surrounding the causes and lessons learned from this summer’s riots.

It follows the launch of the organisation’s manifesto earlier this summer, which included a call for free access to sports and leisure facilities for all young people aged under 18.

Youth Charter executive chair Geoff Thompson said: “The 2012 Games present a huge opportunity for the sporting world to leave a lasting legacy for the young people of the UK but in order to make that happen we need to be sure of the plans that are going to be implemented. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games can help address the ongoing social and cultural disaffection of young people that was in evidence this summer.”

**LFC secures stadium decision extension**

Liverpool Football Club (LFC) has reportedly secured more time to decide whether it wants to take up a 999-year lease at Stanley Park for the purpose of building a new stadium.

In July, the Premier League club admitted that plans for the renovation of its current Anfield home looked “increasingly unlikely” due to a number of planning obstacles.

The *Liverpool Echo* has now revealed that Liverpool City Council has granted LFC a further extension to its end-of-September deadline in which to make a decision.

**FAW submits football centre proposals**

Plans for the construction of a new training facility in Newport, Wales, have been submitted to the local authority by the Football Association of Wales (FAW).

Newport International Sports Village (NISV) has been identified as the site for the scheme, which will also involve Newport City Council and the Welsh Football Trust (WFT). A dedicated facility for all FAW and WFT representative squads is earmarked as part of the development, along with a Centre of Excellence for coach education and sports science.

The project will include education space; WFT football development headquarters; and the provision of training facilities for international and professional teams visiting Wales.

Under the plans, alterations would be made to the rear of the existing NISV velodrome to provide storage space, while a number of new artificial and grass pitches will be introduced. The existing skatepark will be demolished to make way for a spectator stand.
LEISURE WORKS

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To book delegate tickets priced members £300 and non-members £350 contact: amanda.fry@bisl.org Tel: 020 8255 3782
**Chelsea FC in stadium proposal**

Chelsea Football Club (CFC) has revealed that it has made an offer to buy back the land on which its Stamford Bridge stadium is currently located from Chelsea Pitch Owners (CPO). CPO was established in 1993 in order to secure the future of the west London venue, which had come under threat and left the Premier League club at risk of being made homeless.

However, CFC now believes the “long-term commitment” of its owner Roman Abramovich means that any threat to Stamford Bridge no longer stands.

In its offer to CPO, the club will take on the freehold in return for “effectively” writing off a £10m loan made to CPO 14 years ago to assist in its purchase of the site.

It comes as CFC revealed that it is considering a move away from Stamford Bridge due to “major obstacles” to renovation and in order to generate higher levels of matchday income.

The CPO offer includes a commitment that CFC will not be required to move before 2020 unless within 3 miles (4.8km) radius of its current home and meets a minimum capacity need of 55,000.

**New Colwyn Bay complex nears opening**

Conwy Council has confirmed that its new centre of excellence for culture, leisure and sport at Parc Eirias, Colwyn Bay, is on track for its official opening next month.

Work on the construction phase of the £6.5m Parc Eirias Events Centre development is now complete, with the fixtures and fittings now to be finalised ahead of the venue’s launch. Wynne Construction has delivered the new facility, which provides an indoor arena with a 60m x 40m pitch and a television gantry with playback screen for live analysis.

A heavy weights gym; four changing rooms, one with a plunge bath; a physiotherapy room with three treatment couches; and 10 corporate boxes/meeting rooms are also on offer.

The gym equipment contract was awarded to PerformBetter.

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) will base its North Wales Senior Academy at Parc Eirias and outdoor facilities include a pitch with surface supplied by Souter Sports.

**BOA signs new agreement with Russian NOC**

The British Olympic Association (BOA) has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with its Russian counterpart to identify areas of strategic partnership.

It is intended that the new agreement will help the two organisations work together ahead of the London 2012 Games and the Sochi 2014 Winter Games to share best practice.

Information relating to the organisation of the events and the respective “sporting landscape” of both countries will also be made available under the terms of the MoU.
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**HEALTH AND FITNESS**

**New facilities unveiled at North Somerset venue**

New facilities have been opened at Churchill Sports Centre, Churchill Green, by North Somerset Council (NSC) and leisure trust Tone following a £900,000 investment.

A £300,000 all-weather 3G artificial pitch has been provided at the facility, while a new gym with 30 stations and accessible changing facilities have also been created.

The investment by NSC and Tone also included the conversion of an old gym into a multi-purpose studio and an upgrade of the swimming pool lighting.

**Afan Lido demolition work now underway**

Plans for the multi-million pound redevelopment of the Afan Lido complex in Port Talbot have moved forward after contractors started demolition work at the site.

A £13.6m Holder Mathias Architects-designed facility is mooted for the site, after the existing building was destroyed by a large fire in December 2009.

It is currently proposed that the replacement facility will be completed in 2013, with the initial plans featuring the provision of a six-lane, 25m swimming pool; a four-court sports hall; and a learners’ pool.

**Wootton Bassett in line for new leisure facilities**

Plans for a “multi-purpose community campus” in Wootton Bassett have moved forward after the local authority’s area board gave the project the green light.

Under plans backed by Wiltshire Council’s Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board, it has been proposed that a split site will be developed to incorporate a range of leisure and community services.

Included in the development proposals is the creation of a campus building in the Lime Kiln area, which will offer indoor and outdoor sports space; a gym and dance studios; and a six-lane swimming pool.

**MMA star plans gym expansion**

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) star Khalid Ismail has confirmed plans for the expansion of his Lions Den Gyms (LDG) business at locations “in a radius around London”.

LDG was launched by Ismail in 2006 and currently has two centres, one in Chadwell Heath and another in Romford. It is hoped a third site will open in early 2012.

Ismail told Leisure Opportunities the Romford club, which was unveiled in early 2010, was funded through reinvesting capital following the success of LDG’s first site.

Meanwhile, Ismail has also worked with local community groups in an effort to engage more young people to take up sport and to focus on learning and training.

Ismail hopes expanding LDG and offering a “gym for everyone, no matter what your age, fitness level or background”, will help address some issues that led to August’s riots.

He said: “There is definitely a call for more centres like ours to be opened in and around London. The riots were about people being drawn into an atmosphere and a way of thinking which is destructive.”

**Fit4less opens new location in Stockport**

Fit4less, the low-cost gym concept from énergie Group, has opened its 14th UK club in Stockport, with more locations to follow “shortly”.

The launch of the 5,000sq ft (465sq m) facility in Stockport comes after the opening of the Fit4less Hartlepool and ahead of the “imminent” opening of a site in Port Talbot.

Facilities at the Stockport branch include a cardio theatre and a free weights area equipped by Precor. Personal training and group classes are also available.

David Beattie, brand and marketing director at énergie, said: “The Fit4less brand is increasingly popular amongst investors looking to capitalise on the surge in demand for affordable quality gyms.

“The support network from marketing to training is giving our franchisees all the tools necessary to see memberships come in even before the doors open as well as drive sales to meet and exceed targets.”

**Buxton Swimming and Fitness Centre reopens**

Buxton Swimming and Fitness Centre has been relaunched by High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) and DC Leisure, following the completion of a refurbishment project.

The new-look venue incorporates a 25m, six-lane competition pool and a teaching pool, plus a 32-station Kinetika fitness suite with Technogym and Escape Fitness equipment.

An official opening event took place to mark the venue’s relaunch on 24 September, which enabled visitors to participate in a number of free activities.
Nantwich college gets new gym

The “Olympic Boulevard”, a £1.2m extension to Malbank School and Sixth Form College in Nantwich, Cheshire, has been opened for use by students and the local community.

With 1,300 students, the institution has strong links in promoting sport and the values of the Olympic Games, which has seen it receive national and international recognition.

The school’s sporting links inspired the design of the Olympic Boulevard extension, which boasts a 100sq m (1,076sq ft) gym fitted with Precor cardiovascular and strength equipment.

Working in partnership with the Parents and Teachers Organisation and the Youth Charter for Sport, Malbank School and Sixth Form College secured 50 per cent of the funding.

Cheshire Council Council contributed the remainder of the balance, with the extension also housing a Starbucks internet café; a family learning centre; and an ICT suite.

Headteacher Jeannette Walker said: “To have state of the art equipment available for our students and our community is fantastic.”

Ealing Baths to close until spring 2014

Ealing Council has announced that Acton Baths will close to the public on 4 December until spring 2014 as part of its plans for a major redevelopment of Acton Town Hall.

The council said it will help members and user groups in finding alternative facilities to use during the closure, with some activities set to move to nearby leisure venues.

A 25m swimming pool; a teaching pool; a large gym; and other leisure facilities are currently being proposed for the multi-million pound regeneration of the complex.

S&P Architects are working with Ealing Council on the plans for the scheme, which will see a library; community spaces; and offices for the local authority also included.

Ealing Council leader Julian Bell said: “When the redevelopment is complete, it will be a fantastic asset for this part of the borough, providing modern leisure and community facilities for the community.”

Local authority to close Stratford leisure centre

Newham Council will consult with local residents over plans for a new facility on the site of Stratford’s Atherton Leisure Centre, which is to shut on 31 December.

It is expected that a full public consultation will get underway in mid-November to help shape plans for the new facility, which will be built on the Atherton site.

The council agreed to close the centre, which is sited less than a mile from the Olympic Park, due to increasing costs relating to the ceiling over its main swimming pool.

Aylesbury Vale leisure project to commence

Willmott Dixon is to start work on a £6.45m revamp of Aqua Vale Swimming and Fitness Centre in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, as part of wider council regeneration plans.

Aylesbury Vale District Council is to undertake the improvement programme in a bid to complement its multi-million pound vision for the town centre.

Work on the FaulknerBrown Architects-designed development is scheduled to be completed in September next year, with the council planning to keep the facility open amid work on the phased programme.

New leisure centre opens in Kent village

A new Hartwell Architects-designed leisure facility has opened its doors to the public on the Spinney Lane sports ground site in Aylesham, near Canterbury, Kent.

Freedom Leisure will operate the new Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre in partnership with the Aylesham and Snowdon Social Welfare Scheme.

Facilities at the WW Martin-built venue include a 26-station Life Fitness suite incorporating cardiovascular, resistance and free weights equipment, along with 10 outdoor grass sports pitches.

Fusion Lifestyle takes over Charnwood leisure venues

Charnwood Borough Council has said that Fusion Lifestyle has taken over management of Soar Valley Leisure Centre, Mountsorrel; South Charnwood Leisure Centre in Syston; and Loughborough Leisure Centre.

Fusion will invest more than £1.9m in enhancing the facilities at all three centres as part of the deal, while more than £2.4m will be invested in new equipment.

The 10.5-year contract will also see Fusion spend £3.9m on repairs and maintenance. CBC is expecting to save around £4.6m over the lifetime of the deal.

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HOTELS

Brits to get 2012 hotel discounts?

Culture secretary Jeremy Hunt has revealed plans for hotel operators across the UK to offer discounts to British holidaymakers next year as part of efforts to boost domestic tourism. Addressing the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester, Hunt said he is in talks regarding the possibility of offering a 20.12 per cent discount at hotels and B&Bs.

The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and associated events, including the Torch Relay, were highlighted by Hunt as having the potential to “transform” the UK’s tourism sector.

Working in partnership with tourism minister John Penrose, Hunt said the government will be looking to turn “strong interest into good business”. Last month, Hunt announced that £3m from the Olympic budget had been allocated to help boost domestic tourism based around the Torch Relay and the Cultural Olympiad.

Hunt said: “We want to use next year to transform our domestic tourism industry. We want next year to be the year to have a holiday at home.”

Councillors back historic Margate hotel plans

A historic property located on the seafront in Margate, Kent, is to be transformed back into a hotel after plans for the scheme were approved by Thanet District Council (TDC).

Proposals to change the use of the Fort Road Hotel from bedsits into guest accommodation was given the green light, while the council will also pursue its search for a developer.

TDC secured the site in December 2010 with the help of a Compulsory Purchase Order and is now working with Arts Council England and English Heritage to deliver the new hotel.

Mercer Street Hotel reopens in London

The Mercer Street Hotel has reopened its doors to guests in Covent Garden, London, following the completion of a major £15m refurbishment.

The 137-bedroom property, which was formerly known as The Mountbatten, is now part of the Radisson Edwardian group and is sited at the heart of the Seven Dials Village.

Each of the guest rooms incorporate Apple television technology, free wi-fi and services such as free printing to attract business travellers.

At the centre of the property is the Dial bar and restaurant concept, which offers pre-theatre dining and post-theatre drinking. Dial serves contemporary European cuisine using market-fresh UK produce, while the bar offers a meze menu.

The newly-relaunched hotel offers in-room spa treatments, along with a fitness room and six meeting rooms capable of catering for between six and 50 delegates.
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Special event marks Theatr Colwyn relaunch

A special event has taken place to celebrate the reopening of Colwyn Bay’s new-look Theatr Colwyn, following the completion of a £738,000 refurbishment project.

The property, which is one of the oldest operating civic theatres in Wales, received £500,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government towards the programme.

Theatr Colwyn’s upstairs bar has now been relocated to the foyer, while a new box office has been created along with office space. Disabled access has also been improved at the town’s arts venue.

New Year start for Swansea project

Swansea’s Glynn Vivian Art Gallery is to close to the public from 30 October ahead of a £6m revamp and extension of the cultural attraction.

Preparations for the scheme are due to commence in November in order to enable the main phase of work to begin in the New Year, which will lead to an increase in exhibition space.

A new lecture and community room; a reading and resource area; and upgraded facilities for schools and colleges are also proposed, along with a new storage and conservation area.

During its closure, a series of workshops for local schoolchildren and adults will take place at alternative venues across the city, while some works will be put on display elsewhere.

Graham Thomas, the council’s cabinet member for culture, recreation and tourism, said:

“This redevelopment scheme will create a new and exciting visitor experience and bring the attraction into the 21st century, while conserving the original character of the building.”

Funding for the project has been contributed by the Welsh Assembly Government, Swansea Council and the Arts Council of Wales.

ACW announces Power of the Flame launch

Art Council of Wales (ACW) has announced the launch of the Power of the Flame legacy project, which will comprise five major projects to mark the London 2012 Games.

Legacy Trust UK is funding the Power of the Flame initiative, which is set to see a range of cultural activities and events take place throughout the country.

ACW chair Dai Smith said: “The aim of this ambitious programme of events and activities is to inspire and engage with the children and young people of Wales.”

‘Strong financial year’ for National Theatre

The National Theatre (NT) has announced that 2010-11 was a “strong financial year”, with its income increasing by nearly 9.5 per cent compared with the previous year.

In its annual report, the body revealed its production of War Horse at the New London Theatre generated £13.9m at the box office and a surplus of £2.9m alone.

Attendances for War Horse averaged at 97 per cent during the 12-month period, with attendances at shows staged at its South Bank home averaging 90 per cent in 2010-11.

The surplus generated by War Horse has now gone towards the NT Future project, a planned £70m redevelopment which the organisation said is now at the detailed design stage.

More than £30m has been secured towards the total cost of the scheme, which included a £10m gift from NT board member and Travelex founder and chair Lloyd Dorfman.
Catalyst scheme details revealed

Arts Council England (ACE); the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF); and the government have announced further details of a £100m scheme that has been designed to increase philanthropic donations.

Full guidance for applicants to the Catalyst scheme has been published, with heritage groups now able to submit bids for support under the first part of the programme.

The £100m fund comprises three strands: the first being the £55m Catalyst: Endowments strand jointly funded by ACE, HLF and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Groups will be able to apply for an endowment worth between £500,000 and £5m, which will have to be at least matched through private giving. The Catalyst Arts: capacity building and match funding scheme will see £30m invested by ACE to support groups that have already had some success in fundraising.

The catalyst Arts and Catalyst Heritage fundraising capacity building programme will see £7m invested by ACE and £5m invested by the HLF. A further £3m will also be made available by ACE to help increase knowledge sharing.

Two firms to work on Welsh heritage sites

Branding and design agency M Worldwide and fit-out contractor Datum Contracts have been appointed to work on retail and visitor centre concepts at historic attractions across Wales.

New retail and visitor facilities at Conwy Castle, which are to be open by Easter 2012, will benefit from M Worldwide and Datum Contracts’ new approach as part of a trial. M Worldwide will be responsible for drawing up design principles that can be applied across the Cadw estate, which will then be implemented by Datum Contracts.

WB’s Harry Potter tours to open in March

Details of some of the experiences visitors can view on a new behind-the-scenes tour of the Harry Potter movies from 31 March 2012 have been announced by Warner Bros.

Warner Bros Studio Tour London—The Making of Harry Potter will boast some of the iconic sets included in the films, including the Great Hall and Dumbledore’s office.

Other sets to be included will be the Ministry of Magic; 4 Privet Drive; Gryffindor’s common room; and the Hogwarts bridge.

The new Harry Potter attraction has been designed by US-based exhibition design company Thinkwell and will cover more than 150,000 sq ft (13,935 sq m) at WB’s studios in Leavesden, Hertfordshire.

Rupert Grint, the actor who played Ron Weasley, said: “The sets all have tiny little details that you may not always notice in the films, but when you walk through them, you can see all the work that’s gone into them.”

Cardigan Castle secures £4.5m revamp funding

An extensive £10m restoration of Cardigan Castle is set to get underway after it was announced that £4.5m had been provided by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Cadwgan Trust is leading efforts to revitalise the historic west Wales property and has now secured £4.3m from the European Regional Development Fund.

Meanwhile, more than £460,000 has been contributed by the Welsh Assembly Government through its historic environment agency, Cadw, to make up the remainder of the investment.

Museum of Somerset reopens in Taunton

The new-look Museum of Somerset has reopened to the public at Taunton Castle, after a £6.93m transformation that increased its exhibition space by 50 per cent.

Somerset County Council invested £1.8m in the project, which is designed to explore the story of the the county from prehistoric times through to the modern day.

Exhibits at the revamped attraction include the Frome Hoard, which is one of the largest collections of Roman coins found in the UK. A learning centre and a café are also on offer at the attraction.

Royal Albert museum to open in December

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter is due to reopen on 15 December, following the completion of a £2.4m redevelopment of the attraction.

The building is one of Britain’s largest regional museums and the current works are the first major development at RAMM since its foundation in 1868.

As part of the refurbishment, late 20th century fittings and additions were stripped out uncovering original architectural features and revealing the splendour of the property’s original Victorian spaces.
Champneys Health Resorts Group has announced that US-born Alex De Carvalho has been appointed as the UK-based spa operator’s new managing director.

De Carvalho joins the company with around 20 years of international hospitality sector experience, which has included senior roles at Hilton and InterContinental Hotels Group.

“Champneys has a chance to be the leading health and wellbeing brand in the UK, helping our customers to relax, rejuvenate and detoxify their mind and bodies,” he said.

Bovey Castle, Devon, has been unveiled as the home of a new UK flagship spa for Sundari, the ayurvedic-inspired brand established by yoga enthusiast and model Christy Turlington.

Therapists from the luxury hotel and sporting estate have worked alongside a team from Sundari on the development of exclusive treatments using ingredients sourced from around world.

All treatments are based on the ‘dosha’ of each client, with all signature rituals and therapies lasting more than 90 minutes in duration to start with personally-tailored yoga stretches. Bovey Castle’s Sundari Spa currently includes five treatment rooms; a relaxation room; and a salon, as well as a sauna, a steamroom, a whirlpool and a fitness suite equipped by Precor.

Singapore-based hospitality operator Como Hotels and Resorts has announced that the Shambhala Urban Escape is to open at its Metropolitan London property on 16 October. The group said its facility, which will provide an “intimate, results-driven spa”, aims to demonstrate its holistic approach and offer treatments developed at resort spas across the world.

Linz Coppick of Forme UK has led the design of the new Como Shambhala Urban Escape, which features six treatment rooms; two of which will be doubles and offer steamrooms.

The new spa also includes an expanded gym and yoga facilities, while the reception will have a dedicated retail space stocking Como Shambhala products. Treatments will include Dr Perricone, with the Metropolitan London set to become one of the first UK spas to work with the US product line.

A spokesperson said: “The space is designed for city dwellers, hotel guests and visitors to the capital and has been designed based on the popularity and the deep loyalty shown to the Como Shambhala brand worldwide.”

Ballymoney Borough Council (BBC) in Northern Ireland has unveiled the new-look Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre in the town, following its forced closure earlier this year due to a fire.

Pulse was appointed by the local authority to undertake a refurbishment of the venue, which features a revamped fitness suite fitted with new Pulse Fusion cardiovascular equipment.

In addition, Pulse has also created a new health suite comprising a spa bath; a sauna; an ice bowl; a seated relaxation area; a steamroom with crystal feature; and heated loungers.

Meanwhile, Pulse’s contract with BBC will also see it provide ongoing sales and marketing support for the next three years at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.

Aromatherapy Associates has been appointed to supply the spa at Raithwaite Hall Country Retreat near Whitby, North Yorkshire, UK which is scheduled to open in October.

The international health and beauty group has been chosen as the property’s spa partner in advance of its grand opening, with day spa and overnight spa break services to be offered.

Facilities at the Raithwaite Spa will include four treatment rooms; a relaxation lounge; and a steamroom, sauna and whirlpool, along with a heated swimming pool and a gym.

Aromatherapy Associates will offer a full range of treatments as part of the deal, which will include manicures, pedicures, massages and facials, plus hand and feet therapies. The group has also created bespoke services for the spa, such as the Ocean Breeze, which will involve the use of body brushing and massage, and the Ramblers Retreat.

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“Champneys has a chance to be the leading health and wellbeing brand in the UK, helping our customers to relax, rejuvenate and detoxify their mind and bodies,” he said.
Trust plans new ‘flagship wood’

A new 460-acre (186-hectare) “flagship wood” will be created between Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville, Leicestershire, in a bid to help mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee next year.

The Woodland Trust (WT) is behind plans for the publicly-accessible woodland and is now looking to raise £3.3m to acquire the site, which is within The National Forest.

It is hoped the woodland will establish a “living legacy” from the Diamond Jubilee and forms part of the trust’s efforts to double native woodland cover by 2050.

Around 10 million people will have “easy” access to the woodland once established, while also attracting wildlife species such as the yellowhammer and marsh tit.

Sue Holden, chief executive of WT, said: “We need help to create woodland for the nation, to give everyone access to the beauty of the natural world and create a legacy for the Queen’s Jubilee. “It’s a chance to celebrate the reign of one of our best-loved and longest-reigning monarchs while educating people about the need to increase woodland cover in the UK.”

Expansion planned for National Parks

Natural England has announced that it has agreed to adopt recommendations to expand the boundaries of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

If approved by the secretary of state, the proposals will see a total of 500 sq km (193 sq miles) of National Park land added across both of the two areas. Under proposals for the Lake District National Park, an area from Birkbeck Falls Common to Whinfell Common in the east and part of the Lyth Valley to the south will be added.

Meanwhile, parts of the Orton Fells to the north of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and a number of locations on the western perimeter of the current boundaries will be added.

Natural England chair Poul Christensen said: “[The decision to proceed] represents an opportunity to ensure that these special landscapes are looked after for the future.”

£2.3m HLF grant for Swansea’s Penllergare Valley Woods

Swansea’s Penllergare Valley Woods are to undergo restoration work after the trust leading the proposals was awarded more than £2.3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The Penllergare Trust has successfully secured funding towards the revamp of the Grade II-listed woodland through the Parks for People programme.

The HLF grant will help provide new visitor facilities, including bilingual interpretation, and will hopefully lead to an increase in visitors to 130,000 a year once work is complete.

Additional funding for Welsh National Parks

National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in Wales are to receive a further £1.9m from the Welsh Assembly Government over the next two years. Welsh environment minister John Griffiths said £1.2m would come through the Sustainable Development Fund to National Parks and £700,000 towards the country’s AONBs.

The fund aims to “engage” communities in sustainability projects and it is hoped that the investment will encourage the development of more schemes.

Work to begin on South Bank’s Jubilee Gardens

Work is to begin “imminently” on a major refurbishment of the Jubilee Gardens on London’s South Bank after Frosts Landscape Construction was appointed contractor.

West 8 are behind the design of the £3.2m scheme, which will deliver a new green landscape featuring 70 new trees and flowerbeds to replace the current gardens.

The refurbishment is being managed by the Jubilee Gardens Project Board, which includes Southbank Centre; Lambeth Council; the Jubilee Gardens Trust; and Transport for London.

Work begins on Maidstone park overhaul

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) has announced that work has now commenced on the multi-million pound rejuvenation of the Kent town’s Mote Park.

Construction company Gallagher has moved on site to undertake the 10-month refurbishment, which has benefited from a £1.8m Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

MBC is investing £700,000 in the scheme, which will comprise the restoration of the 1840s waterfall; an upgraded Boat House Area; and the restoration of an 1800s pavilion.

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United Modular Solutions has been appointed by Sir Robert McAlpine to provide modular build services on the new £25m Wave Hotel and Apartments at Butlin’s Bognor Regis site.

The eight-storey property will be constructed using the volumetric modular system and it is expected that more than 530 units will be used in the development process. Located on the western side of the holiday resort, the 244-bedroom hotel is set to include a series of white render curves and balconies to ensure a nautical theme.

Hepworth Wakefield, the David Chipperfield Architects-designed art attraction in Yorkshire, has been crowned Best Architectural Achievement at the British Design Awards 2011.

The building held off four other shortlisted projects to pick up the accolade, including work by RHWL and Richard Griffiths Architects at London’s St Pancras Renaissance Hotel. Heatherwick Studio’s UK Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo 2010 and Plasma Studio’s Creativity Pavilion were also in the running for the award.

Plans for a multi-million pound sports development in Hull appear to be dead after the local council reportedly refused to sell the city’s KC Stadium and surrounding land. According to the Hull Daily Mail, Hull City Council portfolio holder for leisure and culture Terry Geraghty told businessman Assem Allam that the land would not be sold.

Allam told the newspaper: “I am only sorry the community will be deprived of a first-class sporting facility for all the family, which would have been open every day.”

Hammersmith and Fulham Council (HFC) has approved plans put forward by developer St George for a new riverside development, which is set to regenerate the Fulham Reach area of London. Located on Distillery Lane, the scheme is to comprise a gym; restaurants; a swimming pool; and a boat club, alongside nearly 750 residential apartments.

The local authority has also negotiated a £12m Section 106 agreement with St George that will be invested in improvements to the surrounding areas.

Crieff Hydro resort in Perthshire has tabled plans for a £100m expansion of its facilities. The privately-owned resort’s owners have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice to Perth & Kinross Council for a major development at a site located north of the A85 and west of the village of Gilmerton.

The plans include the development of 200 lodges; a 100-bed care home/assisted living centre; a range of leisure facilities, such as a swimming pool and health club; and ancillary retail, café and farm shop.

A spokesperson for the resort said: “Prior to any actual planning application, the process dictates that we undertake a public consultation on any plans by mid November. The purpose of public consultations is to encourage communications and open relationships between developers and communities - making the planning process more open and inclusive - something that we are fully committed to.”

Crieff Hydro is one of Scotland’s oldest trading companies and is managed by fifth generation descendants of Dr Thomas Henry Meikle, who founded the hotel in 1868.

The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) has announced which design teams have been shortlisted to draw up plans for “two new distinctive areas” to be created in East London.

A major public space is being planned for the southern part of the Olympic Park, which is to be located between the Aquatics Centre, the Olympic Stadium and the ArcelorMittal Orbit.

It is hoped the South Park space will create an urban landscape similar to the South Bank and will incorporate a visitor centre, water features and play facilities.

Meanwhile, a second area to the north of the park will be located in the green river valley and boast a visitor centre and a multi-purpose indoor space for community use.

Five teams have been shortlisted for the South Park competition:

The hydrotherapy resort was first opened in 1868 by Dr Thomas Meikle
UK and international property experts covering all sectors of the leisure and hotel industry

Alan Plumb
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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Atkinson Centre for the Arts, Southport. Southport Theatre and Convention Centre.

Sefton Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified and experienced organisations with the drive and commitment to unlock the potential of two major cultural destination assets. The Expressions for the two venues are separate but combined interest in both from suitable operators will be accepted.

The first venue is The Atkinson, a 6,000+ sq m £16m gallery, museum, theatre, music and performance space with library situated in the middle of one of England’s finest streets - Lord St. It is presently under construction and has been designed to quickly establish itself as a cultural centre of excellence in terms of quality, space, flexibility and programme. It is positioned to appeal to both local and visitor markets.

The second is the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre which reopened in 2008 after benefiting from over £8m of investment on refurbishment and expansion. It is adjacent to the new 133 room Ramada Plaza 4* hotel which acts as headquarters hotel to the impressive conference, exhibition and banqueting facilities the venue offers. In addition to circa 2000 sq m of flexible event/conference/exhibition/hospitality space the theatre element comprises 1630 seat auditorium.

Both venues are located in ‘Southport - England’s Classic Resort’ - which itself has been transformed over the last 15yrs with over £200m of investment. The 15 minute drive time local population is over 90000 and the Borough of Sefton enjoys well over 10m visitor days annually. Sefton Council uses an e-business portal (known as the Chest) to enable you to view details of both of these, and all forthcoming contract opportunities for Sefton and other Councils in the North West.

To access this information you will have to register at www.thechest.nwce.gov.uk.

You will then have until the 11th November to submit your Expression of Interest in either, or both of these high profile projects.

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A SHOT AT AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY

World of Golf New Malden, one of Europe’s most popular golf centres, is being marketed for sale by leisure sector specialists Christie + Co.

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- High-profile location fronting the A3
- Current year EBITDA approaching £1,000,000

Freehold – offers invited

For further information, please contact:
Alex Campbell at Christie + Co on 020 7227 0727
E: alex.campbell@christie.com
GVA Humberts Leisure

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Savills Oxford
kgriffiths@savills.com
01865 269000
savills.co.uk/leisure

Golf and leisure complex with development consent
Polzeath, Cornwall

Rock: 2.5 miles, Bodmin: 13 miles
- 18 hole, 6,551 yard, par 72 golf course
- 12 bay practice range
- 869 sq m golf clubhouse
- 732 sq m health and fitness club
- 241 sq m greenkeeper’s building
- Planning permission for 7 holiday homes
- Land with further development potential
About 230 acres Guide £1.75 million

Enfield Sports Development Team invites expressions of interest for the delivery of sports coaching provision for Enfield residents.

The London Borough of Enfield’s Everybody Active Strategy aims to provide a range of activities for the workplace, schools and for the community. The sport and physical activity provision currently comprises of the delivery of over 15 different sports and physical activities per week for residents from the age of 2yrs old to 50+ activities. Average annual attendances for young people is 47,475 and 21,109 adults in a range of sport and dance activities.

The Council is seeking an innovative delivery partner who can demonstrate they have the necessary experience, skills, resources and capacity to provide and develop the sports development services. This includes delivering coaching/instructing of activities in traditional sports, dance activities, walks, fitness based provision and extreme sports for a wide range of audiences including providing diversionary activities, activities for over 50s, women and girls, disabled people and activities in deprived areas of the borough.

The successful provider will be required to have fully qualified instructors, coaches and equipment to provide all activities to a high standard. The provider will also be responsible for carrying out CRB checks and other checks required for the delivery of the service.

The deadline for expressing an interest by requesting and returning a completed Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) is 5pm on the 11th November 2011.

To express an interest and receive a PQQ please go to www.londontenders.org and click on the Suppliers Area link on the left hand side of the page.

Registration is free and takes around ten minutes.

www.enfield.gov.uk
New resources for exercise referral award

Ofqual-approved accreditation body Active IQ has launched new eLearning and online resources in support of its Level 3 Certificate in Exercise Referral.

The award is designed for advanced instructors and personal trainers looking to work with special populations in areas such as cardiovascular and mental health issues.

Resources will offer greater support to learners working to build on existing Level 2 and 3 skills and provide a greater understanding of medical conditions.

Active IQ director Julian Berriman said: “The Level 3 Certificate in Exercise Referral is a very modern qualification, both in terms of content and learning methods, and is now a pre-requisite for Level 4 entry.

Grants for leisure/hospitality training

The government has revealed that the first round of bids to the Growth and Innovation Fund will include a £1.7m grant being made available to increase skills in hospitality, while active leisure will benefit from nearly £900,000.

Skills Active will also deliver projects designed to improve the access to specialist training and qualifications for workers in the playwork and fitness and leisure sectors. Meanwhile, People 1st will create a Hospitality Guild which will broker 500 new apprenticeship places, introduce four voluntary licence and create a new scheme to help employers deliver more effective skills to practise schemes and help 15,000 unemployed people to find work.

It is part of a £20m matched funding scheme to help employers deliver more effective skills solutions through more apprenticeships, new professional standards and closer partnerships with education and training providers.

HE institutions to submit courses for endorsement

Higher Education Institutions are being urged to submit undergraduate courses in sports development, sport management, fitness, playwork and sports coaching for endorsement through a new national scheme launched by SkillsActive.

The new Higher Education Endorsement Scheme has been developed following a consultation period and pilot scheme involving academics, employers and students. It’s the first time the sports and fitness sectors have partnered to offer industry endorsement.
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**Assistant Regional Manager**

Central Region, OTE£65,000

Bannatyne health clubs are the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, offering state of the art facilities in 61 convenient locations to over 180,000 members.

Working for the company is much more than just a job; dedicated to their members, the company employs people who are passionate about the business.

**Key Responsibilities**

- To assist the Central Regional Manager in co-ordinating the regions business plans.
- Ensuring that the Clubs meet their sales targets, liaise closely with the Regional & General Managers to ensure planned sales activity maximizes all revenue opportunities.
- Assist in maintaining an effective control of revenue and expenditure against targets to achieve optimum financial efficiency.
- Communicate performance standards and expectations with direct reports, in a way that motivates the General Managers and their teams.
- Ensure General Managers adhere to peoples policies and practices in accordance with current employment legislation.

**Our ideal candidate will have**

Strong leadership, multi-site senior management experience and preferably a Leisure Management qualification. They should have good interpersonal skills with the ability to work and interact with all levels. A proven track record of sound financial, organizational and management skills and knowledge is desirable along with an excellent knowledge of sales processes and practices.

Their experience and knowledge of the leisure industry will bring commercial awareness and exceptional customer focus skills. They should be creative and have the ability to influence others to achieve results. Must be able to work flexibly to suit the needs of the business.

To apply send or email your CV and covering letter to: Caroline Gillott – HR Administrator, Bannatyne Fitness Limited, Power House, Haughton Road, Darlington DL1 1ST or carolinegillott@bannatyne.co.uk
**STAMFORD ENDED SCHOOLS**

**Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager**

Stamford Endowed Schools require an experienced and commercially focused manager to develop the business and educational use of the three schools' sports and leisure facilities including the new 25m indoor swimming pool and gymnasium complex at Stamford School scheduled to open in Spring 2012.

The successful candidate will have a higher education qualification in sports and recreation management, have spent at least two years as assistant manager in a commercial leisure centre and have lifeguarding and coaching qualifications.

Competitive salary and benefits.

Shift pattern will include evening and weekend working from Summer 2012.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from Mrs Jacqui Boles at: Stamford Endowed Schools HR Office, Stamford High School, St Martin’s, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2LL.

Telephone 01780 484273, Fax 01780 484205, e-mail: jboles@ses.linacs.sch.uk www.ses.linacs.sch.uk

Applications should be submitted no later than Friday 4 November 2011.

The Stamford Endowed Schools are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

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**The Stamford Endowed Schools** are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

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**Southgate College**

**Daring to be Different**

**Sports Commercial Officer**

Southgate, Greater London

£30k basic + PRP

Full-time, fixed term until 31st July 2012

Applications close: Friday 14th October 2011

Interview date: Monday 24th October 2011

Southgate College is looking to employ a dynamic and experienced Sports Commercial Officer. The successful candidate will work with external partners generating income through bids, grants and commercial partnerships, whilst working closely with the Head of Sport and the Sports Academic Operational Manager to ensure successful delivery of income based projects or courses. The Sports Commercial Officer will be expected to have proven success in networking and income generation within the sports industry and have a good knowledge of the FE sector and how it can attract investment.

In return, we offer:

- Competitive salary
- Generous holiday entitlement
- Flexible working
- Local Government Pension Scheme
- Regular staff development
- Childcare vouchers
- Free Car Parking
- Restaurant and Bistro on site
- Health and fitness gym on site
- Employee Assistance Programme

Southgate College is located in a suburb 40 minutes from Central London by underground yet only a short distance from open countryside. The College is a few minutes walk from Southgate Tube on the Piccadilly Line. There is also a good bus service to adjacent areas of Haringey, Barnet, Hertfordshire and Enfield.

For further information about the College, please visit our website www.southgate.ac.uk

To apply for this vacancy, please complete the application form online and click ‘Send’ when you have finished.

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**Leisure and Culture Officer**

**Salary**: Band 9 (£25,472 - £27,849)

**18.5 Hours per Week / Permanent**

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic individual who is either fully qualified or close to becoming fully qualified. You will be working in a multi-functional team, taking a lead role on a specialist area as knowledge and competency permit.

You should have experience of managing people and projects. The role entails the management of the Leisure and Culture Services within Melton Borough Council. You will need experience of partnership working and be able to show an aptitude to use leisure and culture of improve outcomes for the more vulnerable members of the community.

This is an excellent opportunity to be part of an exciting team within the People Team (Communities and Neighbourhoods) working towards improving neighbourhoods and outcomes for people.

Melton Borough is easily accessible, lying 18 miles from Nottingham and 15 miles from both Leicester and Grantham.

It has excellent road and rail networks.

Benefits include training opportunities, car user allowance, payment of professional subscription. Other benefits include fantastic opportunities for home and flexible working.

An enhanced CRB check will be required.

For an informal discussion please contact Ronan Browne on 01664 502502 or email RBrowne@melton.gov.uk

Closing date: Friday 21st October 2011. CV’s are not accepted.

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**Barn Elms Sports Centre Manager**

Leisure and Sports Services are seeking a Sports Centre Manager to take us forward in developing a sporting and physical activity culture for everyone within Wandsworth. Closing date: 24 October 2011.

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**£25,515 - £27,009 per annum plus PRP**

**Closing date: 28 October 2011**

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For more details and an application, please visit the website [www.southgate.ac.uk](http://www.southgate.ac.uk)
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Salary £21,480 - £265k + 8% Bonus after qualifying period

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GLL are currently recruiting an Assistant Manager Fitness and Sales for our busy Finchley Lido based in the London Borough of Barnet reporting to the General Manager at the centre.

Key aspects of the role will include:
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COUNTY FA DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Salary range £28,000 - £33,000

This position reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer and will lead the football development workforce and coordinate and implement the National Game Strategy within the County.

The role encompasses the following areas:
- Strategic planning
- Managing the football development workforce including a number of full time and part time officers
- Supporting the Referee Development and Welfare workforce.
- National Game Strategy delivery:-
  - Growth and retention - Increasing and sustaining player participation
  - Raising standards – creating a safe and positive environment
  - Running the Game – leading and governing the game efficiently including playing a leading role in developing the annual County Delivery Plan.
  - Better players – developing better players with a focus on the 5-11 age group.
  - Workforce – developing and delivering a robust workforce plan for coaches, referees, young leaders, referees, welfare officers and volunteers
  - Facilities and investment – working with the Football Foundation and other investment partners to support priority applications for capital and revenue funding.

You need to be passionate about and committed to the development of football at a local level. You must be able to work under pressure, handle multiple priorities and meet deadlines. In addition you must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to positively influence at all levels, have a proven track record of managing staff. You will also need to have a current driving licence and be able to work evenings and weekends.

This post is a fixed term contract until 30 June 2013 with a view to it being extended to 30 June 2015. For further information on the role please call David Pugh, Chief Executive Officer on 0151 5234488. Please visit www.liverpoolfa.com for details of the job description and person specification.

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter with details of your current salary and your salary expectation for the role marked ‘Private and Confidential’ to: David Pugh at david.pugh@liverpoolfa.com or send your application in the post marked private and confidential to:- David Pugh, Chief Executive Officer, Liverpool County FA, Liverpool Soccer Centre, Walton Hall Park, Liverpool, L4 9XP.

Closing date for applications:- 12noon, 28 October 2011. Interviews will take place on 11 November 2011.
**£8m G Casino opens in Stockton**

Grosvenor G Casino has officially unveiled its latest property in Stockton-on-Tees, which follows an £8m investment and is the second Rank Group venue in the area.

Sited next to Rank’s Mecca Bingo venue, the 21,000sq ft (1,951sq m) casino will provide 13 gaming tables; 26 electronic gaming terminals; and jackpot slot machines.

The new casino also features a 100-seat poker room, which can be used for private functions and conferences, along with a 56-seat restaurant called The Gallery and The Lounge bar area.

Grosvenor G Casino Stockton general manager Cate Rodden said: “The Grosvenor G Casino brand is all about providing people with all the makings for a great night out, including great value food and drink and regular live entertainment, and the new Stockton Grosvenor G Casino does just that.”

**Isle of Man plans hotel and casino complex**

Firms interested in working on a new five-star hotel and casino complex on the Isle of Man (IoM) have been invited to come forward by the island’s government.

It follows the announcement that a second casino licence had been granted and aims to help the government diversify the island’s economy, while meeting market demand.

A hotel and casino with leisure facilities is mooted, while the lack of duty of ‘terrestrial casinos’ and no limits on slot machine numbers is set to appeal to potential partners.

**Anglesey forest plans announced**

Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) has confirmed plans to transform Newborough Forest on Anglesey, North Wales, into a “major asset” that contributes to the island’s economy.

A number of recreation facilities are being proposed for the area under the new plans, which have been drawn up following consultation with stakeholders.

FCW is planning a £600,000 development to include catering and beach goods retail outlets, along with a bicycle hire facility and the establishment of a pony trekking business.

Plans submitted to Isle of Anglesey County Council also comprise 29.6 km (18.4 miles) of waymarked horse riding routes and 17.7 km (11 miles) of family-graded cycle routes.

FCW local area manager Tim Gordon-Roberts said: “The proposal will provide at least five days’ worth of all-weather, outdoor family-based opportunities across the forest, beach, warren and the iconic Ynys Llanddwyn.”

Funding for the project has been received from the Countryside Council for Wales-run Communities and Nature Fund, as well as the Welsh Assembly Government.