

MAKING THE NATION FIT FOR THE FUTURE: A MANIFESTO FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

The forthcoming General Election on 12 December is an opportunity for the next government to mark a radical change in direction and put sport and recreation at the heart of its policy agenda.

Since our last manifesto in 2017, it is clear we now face national crises on many fronts: childhood inactivity and obesity is ruining our children's life chances, our NHS is under immense strain, our young people face the daily threat of knife crime and our communities are divided.

Sport and recreation provides a solution to these challenges – it improves our physical and mental wellbeing, saves the NHS money, helps tackle crime and brings our communities together.

While some progress has been made in the last few years, it is time to make a step change. Sport and recreation must be put front and centre of government decision-making and be funded properly so that we can change more lives and transform more communities for the better.

We call on the next government to:

- 1. Extend the ring-fenced sugar tax funding for school sport to make sure our children are active every day and commit additional funding to open up school sports facilities for community use outside of school hours and in school holidays.**
- 2. Make it mandatory for local authorities to invest in sport and physical activity in their communities, supporting them to do this through dedicated central government funding. This should include reversal of the £700m real terms cut to the public health grant since 2015 with this money targeted towards investment in sport and physical activity for prevention.**
- 3. Secure the long-term sustainability of the sector beyond Brexit by boosting sport's share of the National Lottery good causes income to 25% and introducing a sports betting levy which would return a proportion of the profits from gambling to sport, including the grassroots.**
- 4. Undertake a nationwide audit of sport and recreation facilities – including green and blue space – backed by a long-term investment plan so that everyone has access to modern, high quality facilities and spaces to be active in their local community.**
- 5. Build on this year's outstanding British sporting achievements and promote the UK's 'soft power' globally by continuing to invest in hosting major events and elite sporting success.**