

SPORT+ RECREATION ALLIANCE

Election round-up – week commencing 15 May 2017

A weekly summary of the key announcements from the campaign trail

It was another jammed packed week on the election trail, with the publication of three manifestos over three consecutive days. Labour hit the ground running and published [For the Many, Not the Few](#) on Tuesday. This was followed by the Liberal Democrats on Wednesday with the launch of their manifesto, [Change Britain's Future](#), with the Conservatives publishing [Forward, together](#) on Thursday.

Conservative Party Manifesto - Forward, Together - 18/05/17

Commenting on the Conservative Party [Manifesto](#), **Leigh Thompson, Policy Manager at the Sport and Recreation Alliance** said:

“Overall it is disappointing to see so few references to sport and recreation in the Conservative Party manifesto. There is no recognition of the preventative role sport and recreation plays in tackling the major public health challenges we face, such as obesity and mental health problems. Similarly, the manifesto overlooks the importance of physical literacy as a key building block in children’s education and it’s a shame that there is no commitment to putting it on an equal footing with academic literacy and numeracy, which we called for in our [manifesto](#).”

“Nonetheless, it is good to see that the Conservatives have responded to two of our specific manifesto asks by committing to a doubling of support for sport in primary schools and the publication of a 25-Year Environment Plan, which we hope will support opportunities for everyone to be active outdoors.

“Ultimately, we believe that sport and recreation is at the heart of a healthy and prosperous nation and we look forward to working constructively with the next Government, whoever that may be, to make sure that sport and recreation is recognised for the wide-ranging benefits it brings.”

Liberal Democrat Manifesto – Change Britain’s Future - 17/05/2017

In the party’s [Manifesto](#), the Liberal Democrats announced plans to protect sports funding via the National Lottery. Commenting on the recent announcement **Chantel Scherer, Director of Marketing, Communications and Member Engagement at the Sport and Recreation Alliance** said:

“The National Lottery is an essential part of the wider sports funding landscape and helps to make physical activity accessible in local communities right through to supporting high-performance programmes. We support the Liberal Democrats' commitment to protect sport and recreation funding via the National Lottery and want to see all parties recognising this as an incredibly important tool that must be maintained. We look forward to working with the future Government to make sure that sustained investment in grassroots sport results in a truly active nation.”

Commenting on the Liberal Democrat Manifesto's specific policy to make sure children 'participate in a truly rounded curriculum including the arts, sport and culture', **Hannah Dobbin, Policy Adviser of the Sport and Recreation Alliance** said:

"The Liberal Democrats belief that children should participate in a 'rounded curriculum' which includes sport is a positive step from the Party. But, what we want is for the next Government to put physical literacy on the same footing as academic literacy and numeracy and make sure that all children and young people have access to high quality PE. The Liberal Democrats should also have gone further and committed to funding physical education and school sport from the Soft Drinks Levy for the lifetime of the next Parliament, as we set out in in our [manifesto](#)."

Labour Party Manifesto, *For The Many, Not the Few* – 16/05/17

Commenting on the Labour Party [Manifesto](#), **Leigh Thompson, Policy Manager at the Sport and Recreation Alliance** said: "The commitment Labour has shown to sport and recreation in the manifesto is needed but the Party could have gone further to maximise the role of sport and recreation, particularly the preventative and cost saving role it can play in tackling major health problems such as obesity and mental health.

"We would also like to have seen Labour extend the commitment to fund physical education and school sport from the Soft Drinks Levy to cover the lifetime of the next Parliament, as we set out in in our manifesto, and it is disappointing that this is not a feature of today's announcement.

"Positively, the Labour Party has recognised the need for change in the secondary ticketing market. A lack of compliance with the law is an issue that effects a range of our members and we would urge any future Government to make sure that we have robust secondary ticketing measures which produces fairness for organisations and sports fans.

"While the manifesto sets out some constructive proposals, this is not the last word and we look forward to working with the future Government to make sure that the views of our members and the sector are heard and listened to."

