

CHAPTER 11 – 2: THE CURRENT PROVISION FOR ACTIVE LEISURE

Text between pages 140 and 143, answers to questions on page 143 of the text book.

1) Outline the basic features of the public provision of sport in the UK. 3 marks

Answer

Funding of public provision of sport:

- Funding through the **normal taxation** process, with **national taxation** allocated as part of the budget and **local taxation** via the council tax.
- Councils contribute to their own projects, such as local sport and leisure centres and school facilities.
- Funding through the **National Lottery**, with one sixth of the National Lottery 'Good Causes' contribution is to Sport.

Features of public provision of sport:

- **Affordable**.
- **Subsidised** by the taxpayer.
- Satisfy a local need, **service to the local community**.
- **Open to all** irrespective of income.

2) Explain the similarities and differences between the private and voluntary sectors of sport provision in Britain. 3 marks

Answer

Similarities:

- Provision of **high quality** coaching.
- And high quality officiating or organising.

Differences:

- Private sector is **commercial** and therefore **profit making** for the owners.
- Volunteer sector may own facilities, but are **non-profit making**, any excess cash goes back into the club or association.
- Private sector tends to have **lavish facilities** (stadia, pitches, training facilities, golf courses).
- Volunteer sector tends to use **public facilities** (sometimes basic) with low cost to the user.
- Private sector utilises high value **membership subscription** (golf, fitness centres, squash and tennis clubs) and is therefore **exclusive**.
- Volunteer sector has low value subscriptions or fees which cover the cost of hiring or using public facilities.
- Private sector has extensive **medical support** to players or team members.
- Volunteer sector relies on NHS or subscriptions from club members for injury support.
- Private sector has funds from **spectatorship**, TV funding or sponsorship.
- Hence employs full time **professional coaching staff** or management.
- Volunteer sector relies on subscription from club members and a little bit of National Lottery and sometimes sponsorship.
- Hence has **no employed staff** - all coaches and team managers are volunteers (sometimes clubs pay **expenses**).

3) a) How do public and private funding of sport in the UK differ? 4 marks

Answer

Public funding of sport:

- Funding through the **normal taxation** process.
- **National taxation** allocated as part of the budget, which involves Government contributions to major projects, like the 2012 London Olympics.
- **Local taxation** via the council tax to local councils, which contribute to their own projects, such as local sport and leisure centres and school facilities.
- Funding through the **National Lottery**, one sixth of the National Lottery 'Good Causes' contribution is to Sport.

Private funding of sport:

- **Commercial companies** sponsor sports or clubs with big exposure to the media or publicity, sports with wide participation.
- **TV companies** buy rights to view games.
- High value **membership subscription** (golf, fitness centres, squash and tennis clubs).

- 3) b) What are the main advantages and disadvantages of private funding of sport in Britain? 4 marks

Answer

Advantages of private funding of sport:

- Provision of **high quality facilities**.
- **Without cost** to the general taxpayer.
- Extensive **professional support** to players or athletes (coaching, medical, training facilities).

Disadvantages of private funding of sport:

- Facilities are **exclusive** to paying members.
- Hence general public cannot use however talented, therefore **less accessible**.
- Talented performers outside the private clubs have **no access to professional** coaches or medical support.

- 4) a) Explain and outline the basic features of the Best Value system applied to recreational and sport provision by councils in the UK. 3 marks

Answer

Best Value:

- All providers of public services must consider the best **value for money** of what is planned.
- Initiates reports on councils as to the **efficiency of their provision** according to a range of best performance indicators.
- **Challenge**, in which a council must attempt to improve its own performance to that of the best performing councils.
- **Consult**, in which local communities and customers must be consulted as to provision.
- **Compare**, in which a council must compare its performance with National Guidelines.
- **Compete**, the council would have to show that its services compete favourably in terms of cost with private organisations.

Expected outcomes:

- Improved health, education and social inclusion.
- Reduced crime and improved community safety.
- Economic and environmental regeneration.
- Improved employment opportunities.

- b) How did the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) help provision of sport facilities in the UK? 3 marks

Answer

Private Finance Initiative:

- Provides **private money** for major public infrastructure projects (schools, hospitals, council offices).
- Council land is **sold** to private company.
- Who **build school** on the land.
- The private company then **leases** the school back to the council.
- The **company owns the facility**, and arranges its use in evenings and weekends as well as day time, for a profit.

- c) Why do the present government (2011) feel that PFI (Private Finance Initiative) may not be the answer to public provision of facilities. 3 marks

Answer

Private Finance Initiative:

- Provides facilities now with **payment spread over a period of time** (instead of council having to provide cost of building now).
- This means that there is a **large debt** spread over the future - increasing the financial deficit.
- The eventual **total cost** will be substantially more than if the government (councils) had built and therefore owned the facilities.

- 5) Outline the elements for funding of London 2012. 4 marks

Answer

London2012:

- Initial funds to start up the project provided by government from **taxes**.
- **Companies sponsor** the Games in exchange for exposure during the events themselves.
- Special **Lottery Game** - Dream Number - 2006 to 2011.
- Some facilities **sold off** after the Games.
- Much of this is now going to be dealt with by **lease**, for example the Olympic Stadium to West Ham Football Club.
- Some or all of the **housing** (used as athlete accommodation) sold off after the Games.