



**Business In Sport and  
Leisure Limited**

17a Chartfield Avenue  
Putney  
London SW15 6DX

Tel: 020 87802377

Fax: 020 8788 2277

e-mail: [Brigid.simmonds@btconnect.com](mailto:Brigid.simmonds@btconnect.com)

**Lyons Inquiry into Local Government  
Promoting Economic Prosperity: considering the implications of  
Eddington, Barker and Leitch  
A Response by Business In Sport and Leisure**

**Introduction**

**Business In Sport and Leisure (BISL)** is an umbrella organisation for over 100 companies in the private sector sport and leisure industry and many consultants who specialise in this field. Members of BISL listed on the London Stock Exchange have a combined market capitalisation in excess of £40 billion. BISL has a long established working group on property and land-use planning. We respond on a regular basis to consultations on such issues as Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs), Upward Only Rent Reviews; Business Rates Revaluation; Transitional Relief, Planning Obligations etc.

BISL welcomes the opportunity to respond to the extended stakeholder consultation for the Lyons Inquiry.

**General Questions**

**- Are there any other aspects of these reviews relevant to local authorities and to their place-shaping role that I have not identified?**

BISL would like to emphasise the role that we feel leisure and particularly sport have to play in place-shaping for different areas. In this context we particularly welcome the recommendation in the Barker Review to remove the assessment of need. This is a particular issue for health and fitness clubs, which are listed as a town centre use by PPS 6 (Town Centres). As a result multi-sport developments with a small element of health and fitness cannot find suitable sites in the town centre to develop – it is difficult to fit tennis courts on the high street. The relaxation of need will give greater freedom to developers and local authorities to shape places in response to public and community interests rather than perceived needs.

**Eddington**

**- Funding**

BISL feels that it is important that local transport schemes are able to benefit from revenue raised through local road pricing and congestion charging. In particular, we feel that it would be appropriate for such funds to be ring-fenced for investment in sustainable travel, in particular cycle routes and pathways for walking and running. Such schemes are best decided locally and would



**Business In Sport and  
Leisure Limited**

17a Chartfield Avenue  
Putney  
London SW15 6DX

Tel: 020 87802377

Fax: 020 8788 2277

e-mail: [Brigid.simmonds@btconnect.com](mailto:Brigid.simmonds@btconnect.com)

contribute not only to sustainability identified by Eddington (and Stern) but also Government targets on physical activity and obesity.

However, we also feel that the freedom for local authorities to collect revenues from transport pricing schemes should be restricted to avoid penalising those businesses, particularly in leisure and retail, which are reliant on deliveries.

**Barker**

**- Governance**

BISL believes that some form of financial incentive could be introduced to encourage owners of brownfield or derelict land to redevelop thus easing the pressures for new development. However, recognising that these pressures do exist alongside a need to provide communities with a range of services, we believe that greenbelt land could, in the right circumstances, be utilised to provide sporting and healthy leisure facilities. Such developments would be more appropriate as they would be less intrusive in the greenbelt. Local authorities should make decisions on this type of development as part of an overall requirement to assess community sporting and leisure provision.

**- Funding**

As Government moves ahead with its plans for a Planning Gain Supplement, it would seem sensible for a significant proportion of the revenues raised to be available to the local authority areas where they are raised. This, alongside an improved system of section 106 agreements, will act as an incentive for supporting appropriate growth. However, it is crucial that revenue gain is not treated as the sole reason for approving planning under any new schemes, especially as leisure and sporting developments are unlikely to generate significant value uplift but, as noted, can play a key role in place-shaping for local communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further details.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brigid Simmonds'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light-colored, slightly textured background.

**Brigid Simmonds OBE**

Chief Executive

Business In Sport and Leisure