

Submission to the Chancellor's March Budget 2020

Community Leisure UK care about public leisure and culture services, and their effective and efficient delivery for communities. We work cross-party and with organisations which care about the future of public services. Our members, who are all non-profit-distributing, are place-based contributors and support cross-policy and agendas.

As the members' association that specialises in representing charities, societies and community interest companies delivering public leisure and culture services across the UK, we have four key asks of the Chancellor's March Budget.

1. Support for local government

We ask the Chancellor to prioritise increased core government funding for local authorities, which will ensure local authorities can plan their services, delivery and partnerships, through confirmed and long-term resourcing. This will ensure that local authorities can make decisions and allocate their resources based on local community and strategic need, whilst helping to ensure that their decisions are not forced to be based on cheapest cost or highest bid.

2. Value and prioritise social value in procurement

To grasp the opportunity to lead by example and truly include, embed and prioritise social value within government procurement of public service contracts. This would help ensure a level playing field for social enterprises and charities delivering public services with both

central and local government. There would be a thriving array of sustainable civil society public service providers who prioritise building resilient communities, involve people, contribute to the local economy, and truly support service integration across the locality.

3. Support for town and city redevelopment

To support and enact recommendations 3 and 4 from the *Grimsey Review 2*, relating to the need to repopulate and re-fashion town centres as community hubs: to include housing, health and leisure, entertainment, education, arts, business/office space and some shops, and to embed libraries and public spaces at the heart of each community as digital and health hubs that embrace smart technology. This will drive revenue through to central and local government, and importantly provide accessible and inclusive spaces for everyone in the community.

4. Support the protection of charitable reliefs

To ensure that the review of business rates in England will protect existing charitable reliefs, and that they are obtained only by genuine charities, and not afforded to those that are part of a private sector-controlled group structure.