

**CRYSTAL PALACE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP BRIEFING NOTE 1:**  
**UPDATE ON NSC CONSULATION (10/11/2014)**

**The Crystal Palace Sports Partnership supports a mixed-use sports and leisure centre at Crystal Palace - a sustainable facility that is shared by the local community, schools, clubs and aspiring athletes at all levels. It should be a resource that caters for the needs of recreational users as much as it provides for and supports the development of the next generation of Olympic athletes.**

We believe that, within the wider vision of the park and masterplan considerations, the NSC can be modernised and made more successful, more efficient. and provide a long term sustainable future, shared by the local community, schools, clubs and aspiring athletes at all levels for generations to come.

We are very concerned that the current GLA proposals for a repurposed National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace will not deliver this outcome:

- **The consultation has been inadequate:** current NSC usage for sports supply and demand in the area and region, and **current** sports and health benefits to local community, schools, clubs, event organisers, let alone its role in supporting a regional sports performance pathway as part of London Olympic legacy training, have not been appropriately assessed.
- **The GLA have already decided to downgrade:** the GLA told our members that the “Regional Sports Centre” concept is not being carried forward into the GLA’s proposals for Crystal Palace. Instead they are considering a more local facility with a “sub regional” requirement as a possibility for a couple of sports.
- **Track and field use may disappear:** the possible loss of the outdoor track, and no relocation of an indoor track will have a catastrophic impact on sporting events and track and field training locally and regionally. No other sports centre in South London has such a range of facilities coupled with South London’s best and most sustainable transport connections in the region. Top level coaches based there, along with dozens of athletes, have already made it clear there is no suitable alternative venue within their grasp.
- **Diving may disappear:** the proposed modification to the diving pool to install a movable floor will have a devastating impact on diving as it will render the pool too shallow. The loss of the large dedicated dive gym and specialist equipment will mean the end of the apprentice and training schemes that serves thousands of divers and hundreds of schools, and continually develops medal winning internationals divers.
- **The external pitches, multifunctional areas and large gymnastics areas may go:** there is no commitment from GLA to maintain these areas going forward; the detail of these uses will only be developed at a later date. This means that the next appointed partner (when GLL’s tenure expires in 2016) could have free reign to repurpose the spaces to suit their own most profitable configuration. This could mean losing the full size multi-use hall, and the

outdoor synthetic multi-use pitches, plus the dedicated space for gymnastics, multi sport training and regional events.

**We believe the current proposals will leave South London exposed and, unless a long term strategy for the NSC is put in place which assesses the NSC as a viable and sustainable Regional multi-Sports and Leisure Centre, this will remain the case.**

**The CPSP seeks to provide the GLA with evidence on the actual current sports usage and value for NSC (indoors and outdoors) for all clubs/users/schools. The GLA needs this information and the consultation survey form does not clearly allow for the quantification of this evidence.**

CPSP asks all user groups and local stakeholders to:

- Provide the GLA with information on how you use the NSC and why it is of value.
- Sign the Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/the-greater-london-authority-save-athletics-and-sport-at-crystal-palace>
- Respond to the Consultation. It is open to until midnight of 16<sup>th</sup> November at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/media/mayor-press-releases/2014/10/mayor-launches-public-consultation-on-plans-to-transform-crystal>

The CPSP are seeking from the GLA:

- full disclosure of the GLA commissioned reports that justified the proposed options: we do not know exactly why the GLA considers this option is the only sustainable one; without that information it is impossible to work with the GLA to generate a sustainable future for the NSC.
- Ongoing stakeholder group meetings: to support the consultation process and to discuss future viable NSC options.
- involvement of the stakeholder group in the decision making process: participation in a detailed and shared appraisal of the future options and to allow an open and fair assessment of the “free text” survey question responses received.

Please contact CPSP at the email address below for further information, and to copy your reports to the GLA so the CPSP can assist in assessing the overall usage and benefits of the NSC.

**JOHN V. POWELL MBE**  
**Chairman, Crystal Palace Sports Partnership**

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