

Christmas boost for local clubs

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Posted On: December 22, 2011



350 local community sports groups are celebrating today after being offered a total of £17.4 million in Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's *Inspired Facilities* Fund.

The fund is part of the £135 million *Places People Play* National Lottery-funded legacy programme that is bringing the magic of a home Olympic and Paralympic Games into communities across England. All 350 facilities will carry the London 2012 Inspire mark – celebrating the link to the Games.

Sport England's Chair, Richard Lewis, said: "For hundreds of clubs and tens of thousands of people, 2012 will be the year their local sports facilities got better.

"We've had unprecedented demand for this fund, which has really hit the mark with sports clubs. It shows we're offering the sporting legacy that people want."

The investments announced today will breathe new life into tired facilities that can be unattractive to sports participants, difficult to maintain and run. Grants have also been offered to convert existing buildings into venues that are suitable for grassroots sport and to allow local clubs to buy the facilities they use

- 350 community sports projects across England benefit from *Inspired Facilities* Olympic legacy fund

- Sport England announces £17.4 million will be spent improving local facilities

Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson MP, said: "We want to use the Olympic and Paralympics next summer to inspire a generation to get involved in sport across the country. This is why as part of the £135 million *Places People Play* legacy programme we invited community sports clubs to apply for funding to upgrade their facilities."

LOCOG Chair, Seb Coe, said: "This is a fantastic funding project that will deliver a real legacy from the London 2012 Games. It will provide a whole range of sporting opportunities for young people through improved facilities and will I hope inspire them to take up sport."

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