



# Comprehensive Spending Review 2010

## Possible Impact on Cricket Clubs

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Broad principles have been announced and detail is being added almost daily as the various government departments decide how they will make savings.

The main areas of concern will be.....

- **Sport England funding for Grant Aid**
  - Capital funding for Clubs and County Boards will be cut by 40%. More difficult to obtain grants for projects.
- **Local Authorities faced with serious cuts and efficiency savings.**
  - It is expected that Local Authorities will look to sell off some of their assets which they can't afford to maintain eg sports pitches, parks.
  - Ground maintenance schedules are likely to be cut eg fields mown less frequently, pitches not prepared.
  - LA owned Leisure Centres, Sports Halls and school facilities are likely to face reduced opening hours which will have implications for nets and evening fixtures.
- **Education: School-Sport partnerships to end, curriculum changes will reduce sport to non-statutory**
  - Specific funding for schools to spend on coaching will cease.
  - Club/school links at risk.
  - Reduction of mandatory sport in schools, less time to develop cricketers.
  - Schools more autonomous. Funding for specialist sports colleges will be returned to the main school budget for them to spend where they wish.

It is clear that the government is pursuing a policy of de-centralisation. Local authorities will be given a reduced grant and will have to make their own choices of where they will make the cuts. Solutions will vary considerably and the facilities which survive will be determined by those who make the best case. Much the same will apply with schools.

### What should clubs do?

Don't despair completely. Some funding streams are being protected.

The ECB interest free loan scheme is not government funded and will still be available. Sportsmatch funding is secure for 2 more years.

Overall cuts are ranging from 15% to 30% - we need to make sure that Cricket and our Clubs get at least their fair share of the remaining budgets.

The future is Local not National. Make contact with Local Authorities, Leisure Centres and Schools which you work with and find out their plans. Offer to help out with maintenance/pitch marking etc. Ask the Cricket Board for support in making your case. Doing nothing is a bad option.

In general, cricket is better placed to survive the cuts than most sports. It has a strong infrastructure. Because participation has been increasing by 15-20% per year for the last 3 years, Sport England like Cricket because we help them to meet their own targets. (Cricket currently receives more funding from Sport England than any other sport and ticks more boxes!)

The situation should improve following the Olympics when the government will inject funding to ensure that there will be a legacy after 2012 which will harness the nation's increased interest in sport.

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