
From: Mark Furnish <Mark.Furnish@sportengland.org>
Sent: 25 August 2023 19:10
To: localplanconsultations
Subject: Local Plan Part 1 Proposed Main Modifications Consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Green category

Dear Local Plan Team,

LOCAL PLAN PART 1 PROPOSED MAIN MODIFICATIONS

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above.

As I am sure you are aware, Sport England has an established role within the planning system which includes providing advice and guidance on all relevant areas of National and Local Planning Policy as well as supporting Local Authorities in developing their evidence base for sport.

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport and creating opportunities for physical activity by enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for all levels of sport and for all sectors of the community. To achieve this aim our planning objectives are to PROTECT sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment, ENHANCE existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management and to PROVIDE new facilities that are fit for purpose and meet demands for sport participation and physical activity now and into the future. You will also be aware that Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields. Further detail on Sport England's role and objectives within the planning system can be found at <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport>

Sport England has the following comments on the proposed main modifications:

- Sport England welcome the various references to introducing 15 minute neighbourhoods in the modifications. Introducing such neighbourhoods is likely to encourage communities to be more physically active and aligns with many of the principles of *Active Design*. More detail regarding *Active Design* can be found at <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design>
- MM97 – Sport England is concerned that there is considerable focus on marketing when considering the loss of community facilities. In relation to sport facilities, this would be

contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 99, that only accepts losses if an assessment has been undertaken that indicates a site is surplus. This assessment should be based on local needs which is more than demonstrating a marketing exercise.

- MM101 – Sport England welcomes the focus on waterways for recreation to promote health and wellbeing as this would provide further opportunities for communities to engage in physical activity.
- MM12 – It is disappointing that the Council are now only requiring major applications to address the *Active Design* principles. Non-major schemes could cumulatively have an impact on activity levels of communities therefore it is recommended that this modification is reconsidered.
- MM155 – Sport England welcome that planning applications which seek the net loss of sports facilities would be refused. This stance particularly aligns with the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy, that seeks, amongst other actions, to protect existing playing fields.

Sport England trusts that these comments are taken into consideration. If you have any questions or would like any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact Sport England.

Yours Faithfully

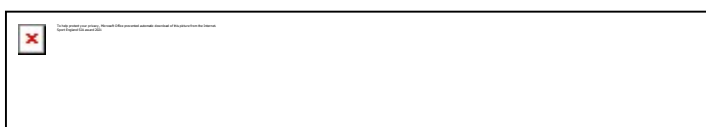
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