

Hyndburn 2040: Local Plan (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations)

Hearing Statement Prepared by Sport England

Matter 2 - The Vision and Spatial Development Strategy

Issue 2.1: Is the Plan's overall vision and strategy positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in enabling the delivery of sustainable development.

Vision and Strategic objectives

- 1. Are the vision and strategic objectives justified by the evidence and do they reflect the issues and challenges facing the Borough?***

Statement

Sport England are particularly supportive of the Strategic Objectives 2, 3 & 5 and refer to our previous comments provided.

Policy SP1

- 5. Is the Policy consistent with the Framework, is it justified, and would it be effective?***

Statement

Sport England is particularly supportive of SP1:7) and refer to our previous comments provided.

Cont.

The Local Plan Areas

Issue 2.2 : Has the Plan been positively prepared and is it justified, effective and consistent with national policy in respect of its policies and proposals for individual local plan areas in Hyndburn?

Policy SP29 Huncoat

- 3. Is the requirement in part 2 of the policy to ‘adhere’ to the Huncoat Garden Village Masterplan and Design Code too restrictive. Should development ‘have regard’ to these non-statutory documents?**

Statement

1. The Masterplan will be expected to meet the requirements of Sport England’s Playing Field Policy and Guidance and NPPF paragraph 104 in relation to any impact on playing field land. Sport England provided a broad comment with regard to this Policy through the Regulation 19 stage of the local plan consultation, but has now viewed the Hyndburn BC response to Inspectors Question ‘IQ11a’.
2. Sport England notes the comment made with regard to the use of existing playing field land to reprovide any that will be lost due to the expansion of Huncoat Primary School. This is not considered to be policy or NPPF compliant and Sport England would not support the re-use of existing playing field to meet the policy exceptions of our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance nor NPPF paragraph 104.
3. Paragraph 104 of the NPPF requires that sport and recreational buildings and land, including playing field, should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the buildings or land to be surplus to requirements or the loss is proposed to be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.

Conclusion

4. Sport England considers that a modification is required to Policy SP29 and supporting text to ensure that any future development proposals for the site meet the requirements of paragraph 104 of the NPPF either through providing an up-to-date assessment which demonstrates that the playing field to be used is surplus to requirements or through the provision of a replacement area of playing field which is equivalent or better in terms of quantity and quality and in a suitable location.
5. Sport England would be happy to work with the Council to agree potential modifications to the Plan to address this matter.