

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

Hearing Statement Prepared by Sport England

Matter 6

Issue 6 : Has the Plan been positively prepared and is it justified, effective and consistent with national policy in respect of its policies and proposals for transport and infrastructure?

Community Infrastructure

Policy SP8 Open Space Provision.

11. Is the policy justified, effective and consistent with national planning policy?

Statement

1. Sport England refer the Inspector to our previous comments provided at Regulation 19 local plan consultation stage and the suggested amendments.
2. Sport England consider that the reliance on Policy DM21 is flawed and will not provide sufficient protection of playing field land in accordance with the criteria of the Framework.
3. Sport England would be happy to work with the Council to agree potential modifications to the Plan to address our concerns and to ensure that the plan provides a clear and robust approach to securing adequate protection for outdoor sports facilities.

Cont.

12. Bearing in mind the longevity of the policy, and the fact that the Framework has been and will be revised in the future, is reference to a particular paragraph of the Framework appropriate in the policy?

Statement

Sport England would agree that reference to Framework paragraph numbers is not necessarily helpful as these may be subject to future amendment.

13. Part b) of the policy references Policy DM21 of the Development Management DPD. Is part 1f) of Policy DM21 consistent with the Framework and Policy SP8 in particular. Should SP8 be modified to make the expectations of the policy clear?

Statement

1. Sport England refer the Inspector to our previous comments provided at Regulation 19 local plan consultation stage and the suggested amendments.
2. Sport England consider that the reliance on Policy DM21 is flawed and will not provide sufficient protection of playing field land in accordance with the criteria of the Framework.
3. Sport England would be happy to work with the Council to agree potential modifications to the Plan to address our concerns and to ensure that the plan provides a clear and robust approach to securing provision for outdoor sports facilities.

14. Are all the open space designations shown on the Policies Map appropriate and justified?

Statement

Sport England would seek the protection of existing playing field sites and support new sites based on the latest needs based evidence. Sport England is concerned that when sites are identified on a proposals, there is scope for some to be inadvertently missed and this would have the potential to introduce misunderstandings in the interpretation of the protection offered to those sites and a mis application of policy.

Cont.

Policy SP9 Provision of Community Facilities

15. Is the policy justified, effective and consistent with the Framework? Should reference be made to the possible loss of the facility through change of use not just redevelopment in part 2 of the policy in the interest of effectiveness?

Statement

Sport England would support an additional change to this effect.

16. Policy SP9 includes reference to sport and recreational facilities as well as playing pitches. Is this appropriate and effective? Does the Policy give sufficient protection to these uses in line with paragraph 99 of the Framework? Would playing fields and sport and recreation facilities be more appropriately considered under Policy SP8?

Statement

Sport England refer the Inspector to our previous comments provided at Regulation 19 local plan consultation stage and the suggested amendments.

SP3 Planning Obligations

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

21. Is the Policy effectively worded to address individual scheme infrastructure requirements which may not be included in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan?

Statement

Sport England refer the Inspector to our previous comments provided, in addition would like to add the following:

1. New residential development will generate demand for sporting provision. The existing provision within an area may not be able to accommodate this increased demand without exacerbating existing and/or predicted future deficiencies. Therefore, Sport England considers that new developments should contribute towards meeting the demand that they generate through the provision of on-site facilities and/or providing additional capacity off-site. Sport England therefore considers that it is important to

ensure that the Local Plan provides a clear and robust approach to securing investment into outdoor sports provision.

2. Policy SP3 does not currently set out a clear and justified approach to securing investment into outdoor sports facilities to address demand arising from new development. Our regulation 19 representation recommended the inclusion of the reference to sports facilities, which meets the requirements of NPPF, is added to Policy SP3. It would also be helpful to set out how requirements for outdoor sports provision would be calculated and secured.
3. Sport England would be happy to work with the Council to agree potential modifications to the Plan to address our concerns and to ensure that the plan provides a clear and robust approach to securing provision for outdoor sports facilities.