

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

Hearing Statement Prepared by Sport England

Matter 9

Issue 9 : Has the Plan been positively prepared and is it justified, effective and consistent with national policy in respect of its policies and proposals for Huncoat Garden Village?

Policy SP2 Huncoat Garden Village

- 7. The Policy requires provision to be made for an extension to Huncoat Primary School. Is this requirement appropriate and justified?***
- 8. Should the policy be more flexible to make provision for a new school on the site should changing circumstances suggest this is required? Where could a new school be located within the site? Is the policy and /or supporting text, effective in outlining how this would be achieved?***

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 fields, 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 SP2 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.

Sport England would be happy to work with the Council to agree potential modifications to the Plan to address this matter.