

Name: Raakhee Patel

Reference

128

Organisation

Sports England

On Behalf Of

Type of Consultee

Government/Public Body

maryott, kyle

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2016 14:17
To: policy, planning
Subject: Medway Council Local Plan_Issues and Options (2012-2035)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above named document.

Sport England has an established role within the planning system which includes providing advice and guidance on all relevant areas of national, regional and local policy as well as supporting local authorities in developing the evidence base for sport. The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear about the role that sport plays in delivering sustainable communities through promoting health and well-being. As such, Sport England wishes to see local planning policies that seek to protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need in accordance with paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF.

Sound policy can only be developed in the context of objectively assessed needs, in turn used to inform the development of a strategy for sport and recreation. Policies which protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities should reflect this work, and be the basis for consistent application through development management. Sport England is not prescriptive on the precise form and wording of policies, but advises that a stronger plan will result from attention to taking a clearly justified and positive approach to planning for sport. In this way, planning authorities will be able to demonstrate that their plan has been positively prepared (based on objectively assessed needs in accordance with paragraph 73 of the NPPF), is consistent with national policy (reflecting the NPPF), is justified (having considered alternatives) and effective (being deliverable). Without such attention there is a risk that a local plan or other policy document could be considered unsound.

For more information on how to forward plan for sport please see: Sport England's Planning for Sport Forward Planning Guidance - <http://www.sportengland.org/media/351266/planning-for-sport-forward-planning-guide-july-2014-.pdf>

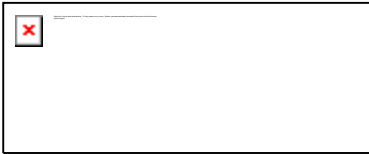
Additionally, please note that Sport England along with Public Health England have recently launched our revised guidance 'Active Design' which has considerable synergy with Policy D20: Green Infrastructure and D21: Community and Cultural Facilities. It may therefore be useful to provide a cross-reference (and perhaps a hyperlink) to www.sportengland.org/activedesign. Sport England believes that being active should be an intrinsic part of everyone's life pattern. As such, Sport England would expect to see the principles on Active Design embedded in any subsequent Local Plan policy.

Lastly, as you may be aware, Sport England will oppose development resulting in the loss of playing field land or formal built sports facilities unless its loss is justified by a robust and up-to-date assessment of need. Any loss of sports provision should be incorporated into formal policy such that it may be considered through the policy making process and scrutinised at Examination in Public. As such, should any policy seek to allocate any existing playing field land or formal built sports facilities for redevelopment, we would strongly urge the Council to discuss this directly with Sport England.

If you would like to discuss any of the above comments further or require any additional information or advice please contact me via the details below.

Yours sincerely,

Raakhee Patel
Interim Planning Manager



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