

Dear Sir/Madam

Merton's Draft Estates Local Plan consultation – Stage 2

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above document. Sport England is the Government agency responsible for delivering the Government's sporting objectives. Maximising the investment into sport and recreation through the land use planning system is one of our national and regional priorities. You will also be aware that Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields.

In response to the consultation, Sport England would like to make the following comment on the consultation documents:

03 Analysis and planning policies – Eastfields issues and opportunities – Opportunities summary – Reconfiguration of open space to create functional open spaces, paragraph 3.47, site Specific policies – Policy EP E4 Land Use and Policy EP E5 Open Space

This section should therefore be revised to reflect Sport England's Land Use Planning Policy Statement 'Planning for Sport Aims and Objectives' (http://www.sportengland.org/media/162412/planning-for-sport_aims-objectives-june-2013.pdf), which is in line with the NPPF. The statement details Sport England's three objectives in its involvement in planning matters;

- 1) To prevent the loss of sports facilities and land along with access to natural resources used for sport.
- 2) To ensure that the best use is made of existing facilities in order to maintain and provide greater opportunities for participation and to ensure that facilities are sustainable.
- 3) To ensure that new sports facilities are planned for and provided in a positive and integrated way and that opportunities for new facilities are identified to meet current and future demands for sporting participation.

Furthermore, this section should be in line with Paragraph 74 of the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>).

04 Design codes

Sport England would recommend that Sport England's Active Design Guidance (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/active-design/>) is referenced within this section.

We hope these comments can be given full consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or would like to discuss the response.

Kind regards

Dale Greetham
Planning Manager

T: 0207 273 1642

M: 07787 582 803

F: 020 7273 1513

E: Dale.Greetham@sportengland.org