

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for consulting Sport England prior to the consultation on the preferred options version of 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 below email, Sport England would like to make the following comments:

Eastfields Policy EP E4 Land Use, High Path Policy EP H4 Land Use and Ravensbury EP R4 Land Use

Objection

These policies should specifically mention indoor and outdoor sports facilities and be in line with Objective 3 of Sport England's Land Use Planning Policy Statement 'Planning for Sport Aims and Objectives', 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.

Eastfields Policy EP E5 Open Space, High Path Policy EP H5 Open Space and Ravensbury Policy EP R5 Open Space

Objection

These policies should specifically mention outdoor sports facilities and playing pitches and be in line with Objective 3 of Sport England's Land Use Planning Policy Statement 'Planning for Sport Aims and Objectives', 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.

OBJECTION – Local Plan & Evidence Base

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires each local planning authority to produce a Local Plan for its area. Local Plans should address the spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change. Local Plans should be based on an adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence base. In addition, paragraph 73 of the NPPF requires that:

“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessment should identify specific needs and quantitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.”

Paragraph 175 of the NPPF states:

“Where practical, Community Infrastructure Levy charges should be worked up and tested alongside the Local Plan.”

Sport England advocates that new developments should contribute to the sporting and recreational needs of the locality made necessary by their development.

Sport England is not aware of a robust evidence base for playing pitches and indoor sports facilities for Merton. It is not clear how this lack of evidence base has been/will be taken into account to develop this document.

Sport England would be happy to provide further advice on how local authorities can strategically plan for sports facilities. There are a number of tools and guidance documents available, which can be found on Sport England's website at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/forward-planning/>. In addition Sport England has a web based toolkit which aims to assist local authorities in delivering tailor-made approaches to strategic planning for sport. This can be found on Sport England's website at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/previous-guidance/>. The toolkit focuses on built facilities for sport and recreation, setting out how planners can make the best use of sport-specific planning tools in determining local facility needs. Information regarding planning obligations for sport can be found on Sport England's website at:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/planning_contributions.aspx.

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

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