

E. Jane Saleh
Head of Planning Strategy
Growing Places Division
Communications and Regeneration Directorate
Blackpool Council
Planning Strategy Team,
PO Box 17, Corporation St.,
Blackpool FY1 1LZ

16th September 2021

Dear Jane

Re: Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies

Sport England has worked proactively with Blackpool Council since the commencement of work on the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 in 2017 and in particular over the last 2 years in finalising the Blackpool Playing Pitch Strategy update published April 2021, the relevant sports evidence base to support Local Plan policies. The attached document (Reference SD009c) contains the changes agreed between the Council and Sport England with respect to the Playing Pitch Strategy and housing allocations HSA1.2; HSA1.5 and HSA1.13 in Schedule 1 to the Local Plan Part 2.

Site Allocations HSA1.2, HSA1.5 and HSA1.13

Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing fields and there was a need to ensure the emerging Local Plan policy and associated evidence base did not compromise that position. Sport England's Playing Fields Policy¹ reflects the content of paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Sport England assesses relevant planning applications against the criteria of paragraph 99 of NPPF and the exceptions to the Sport England policy. It was essential that the wording of any sport related Local Plan policy seeks to reflect local circumstances whilst conforming to the national position. Sport England is satisfied that the proposed wording set out in document [EL1.002b Part 2 Main Modifications](#) MM26, MM27 and MM29 on pages 16-18 achieves that.

Sport England provides an advisory non-statutory role to Local Authorities in the determination of applications affecting sports facilities that fall outside of the playing field definition. Paragraph 99 of NPPF, in addition to relevant Local Plan policies, assists that determination.

¹ https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

Evidence Base

Paragraph 98 of NPPF requires the Council to base local plan policies on robust and up to date assessments of need and opportunities. The relevant assessments that identify the existing and future demand and supply of indoor and outdoor sports facilities are the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Indoor Sports Facilities Review 2020.

Sport England and the main pitch sport national governing bodies of sport (NGB) have assisted the Council with the preparation of the PPS and subsequent reviews and continue to do so to ensure It remains up to date and robust. The methodology used is set out in Sport England's PPS guidance (October 2013). The PPS provides a site specific action plan that can be used in tandem with Local Plan policies including Policy HSA1, in particular, to help determine planning applications.

Sport England will continue to work with the Council to ensure both sport evidence base documents remain up to date and robust throughout the lifetime of the Local Plan.

Conclusion

Sport England considers the proposed wording to be included in Local Plan Part 2 Schedule 1 HSA1.2, HSA1.5 and HSA1.13 as detailed in document EL.002b Main Modifications is sufficient to address Sport England's previous representations. In light of the above, Sport England wish to withdraw the representations made to the Local Plan Part 2 Publication Version (Proposed Submission) Regulation 19.

If you have any queries in relation to these comments, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



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