



Creating sporting opportunities in every community

Planning Policy Team,
Rutland County Council,
Catmose
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6HP

Email: Localplan@Rutland.gov.uk
2 December 2024

Letter by email only to Localplan@Rutland.gov.uk

Dear Planning Policy Team,

Rutland's Local Plan – Pre-submission consultation

Sport England notes that the Council has requested responses to be made through the online consultation portal. Given the nature of the comments that Sport England would like to make, we have adjusted the format slightly and we hope that this is acceptable to the Council.

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.

Sport England's role is focused exclusively on sport, although it is recognised that sport can, and does, play an important part in achieving wider social, community and economic benefits (most notably in the context of health). Sport England recognises the vital role that the planning system can play in assisting with the delivery of our strategy. In addition, the development of sport within a local area can provide sufficient benefits to assist local authorities with the implementation of Local Plans and Frameworks. In this, well designed



**SPORT
ENGLAND**

Creating sporting opportunities in every community

and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to deliver broader Government objectives.

Sport England's response to the consultation is outlined in the attached table.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on the detail listed below.

Yours sincerely,

Sharron Wilkinson, MRTPI

Planning Manager, Planning & Active Environments

Tel: 0207 273 1685

e-mail: sharron.wilkinson@sportengland.org

Policy:	Comment
<p>Policy SS4 Future Opportunity Areas</p>	<p>St George’s Barracks at North Luffenham contains sports facilities including playing fields which should not be built on as laid out in paragraph 103 of the NPPF (2023). There is a need to protect these existing sports facilities including playing fields as part of the wording in this policy.</p>
<p>Policy SS5 – Use of military bases and other secure residential establishments for operational or other purposes</p>	<p>Kendrew Barracks at Cottesmore and HMP Stocken all contain sports facilities including playing fields which should not be built on as laid out in paragraph 103 of the NPPF (2023). Community use of the sports facilities at Kendrew Barracks are included in Rutland’s Playing Pitch Strategy (2024) along with the need for their protection. Wording should be inserted into one of the exceptions listed in Policy SS5 on the need to protect these existing sports facilities including playing fields as part of any redevelopment scheme planned.</p>

<p>Housing Allocations</p> <p>Policy H1.2 Land at Officer's Mess, Edith Weston</p> <p>Policy H2 – Cross-boundary development opportunity – Stamford North</p> <p>Policy SC5 – Designing Safer and Healthier</p>	<p>This site contains sports facilities which would either need to be retained or replaced as part of any redevelopment proposal. The retention of the sports facility may impact on the number of dwellings that could be constructed at the site.</p> <p>Sport England welcomes the inclusion of the criteria under m) which requires new playing pitch provision and the use of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator.</p> <p>Sport England welcomes the text in this policy that supports inclusive and accessible places and ensures that development layouts support mental and physical well-being of residents and encourage healthy, safe and active lifestyles.</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Communities	<p>Reference to Sport England’s Active Design Guidance (2023) is also welcomed. An Active Design Checklist has also been produced to assist the local authority when assessing development proposals against the ten principles of Active Design - https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design. Application submissions should be encouraged to submit a completed Active Design Checklist for their proposal.</p>
Policy SC7 – Creation of New Open Space	<p>As raised in Sport England’s Regulation 18 response, this section is headed “Protecting Open Space for healthy and sustainable communities.” The wording also states that this policy seeks to protect and create new high quality open spaces to meet the new needs of the current and future population of Rutland. However, Policy SC7 only relates to the provision of new open space.</p> <p>It is accepted that the justification text includes reference to paragraph 103 of the NPPF which establishes that existing open space, sport and recreational buildings and playing fields should not be built on is the national policy, However, one of the purposes of Policy SC7 is the protection of open space and so the wording should clearly set out how open space will protected in accordance with the NPPF.</p> <p>A definition of open space as taken from the NPPF is given in the text. The NPPF also contains a definition of playing field which is separate from the open space definition. As the policy relates</p>

<p>Policy ENV7: Green and Blue Infrastructure</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Open Space Standards</p>	<p>to the protection and creation of playing field then for clarity the playing field definition should also be included: <i>“The whole of the site which encompasses at least one playing pitch as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.”</i></p> <p>There is a need for the following text (included in red) to be inserted at the end of the paragraph in the Policy which starts with “The precise type of on-site provision will depend have regard to the most up to date Open Space Assessment and/or Playing Pitch Strategy.”</p> <p>Sport England welcomes the inclusion of all playing fields and sports facilities in the list provided. Reference is made to Paragraph 98 of the NPPF which is now paragraph 102 in the 2023 version of the NPPF.</p> <p>Rutland County Council has updated its Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) as part of its evidence base for the Local Plan Review. As mentioned in the text in Appendix 3 (Open Space Standards) the adoption of an up-to-date Playing Pitch Strategy allows the use of the Sport England playing pitch calculator. The calculator uses key data from the PPS to estimate what the additional demand generated from specific housing developments for the different pitch sport types is likely to be. Any increase in demand should be informed by the PPS to direct where capacity</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



**SPORT
ENGLAND**

Creating sporting opportunities in every community

	should be created i.e., improvements to existing sites within the locality or new provision supported by appropriate infrastructure.