

Comment

Consultee	Dave McGuire (1164473)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Company / Organisation	Sport England (North East)
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Sport England (North East) (Dave McGuire - 1164473)
Comment ID	DBLPPS527
Response Date	16/09/20 08:20
Consultation Point	Darlington Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Submission Local Plan August 2020 (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.5
Question 1b	

Do you consider that the Local Plan sound? Yes

Question 2

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

Question 3a

Your Comments

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

Sport England's aim in working with the planning system is to help provide active environments that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active.

We do this by helping Local Authorities understand and plan for the formal sporting needs of their existing and planned communities, whilst assisting them to create environments that encourage walking and cycling.

We have developed planning tools and methodologies to help local authorities understand their communities need for playing pitches and built sports facilities and the adequacy of provision against that demand. The same tools can help local authorities understand whether sports facility provision will be adequate in the light of the growth and development detailed in their Local Plans. Sport England considers it imperative that Local Authorities have up-to-date Playing Pitch and Built Sports Facility Strategy in order for their Local Plans to be sound.

Darlington's Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy dates from 2015 and is out of date in respect of playing pitches. Work had started on the refresh and replacement of both strategies but has stalled due to the pandemic.

Question 6

Do you request to be notified that the Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination under section 22(3) of the regulations and to be notified of the adoption of the Local Plan?

Yes, I request to be notified

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Sport England (North East) (Dave McGuire - 1164473)
Comment ID	DBLPPS536
Response Date	16/09/20 08:42
Consultation Point	Specific Aims and Objectives (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.2
Question 1b	

Do you consider that the Local Plan sound? Yes

Question 2

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

Question 3a

Your Comments

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

Turning now to the detail of the submitted Plan, Sport England wishes to support the Plan's Aim (number 4) of Darlington being a healthy community, along with objectives F,H, and J that underpin the aim.

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Sport England (North East) (Dave McGuire - 1164473)
Comment ID	DBLPPS537
Response Date	16/09/20 09:05
Consultation Point	Policy DC 3 Health and Wellbeing (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.4
Question 1b	

Do you consider that the Local Plan sound? Yes

Question 2

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

Question 3a

Your Comments

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

We also wish to support Policy DC3 as it is consistent with the aims and objectives of our design guide 'Active Design' (see para 5.3.8)

Question 6

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Sport England (North East) (Dave McGuire - 1164473)
Comment ID	DBLPPS538
Response Date	16/09/20 09:08
Consultation Point	Policy ENV 4 Green and Blue Infrastructure (Strategic Policy) (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.5
Question 2	

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

Question 3a

Your Comments

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

Sport England is keen to see playing fields and other sport and recreational facilities protected in Local Plans in accordance with para 97 of the NPPF. Policy ENV 4 largely achieves this albeit in a somewhat confusing fashion. Para 9.4.3 clarifies the land to which the policy is intended to apply. Within the policy section G sets out a presumption against loss of existing greenspace, and Giii then relates specifically to development involving the loss of playing field. The relationship between the respective parts of section G are confusing. Sport England has assumed that playing field is covered by all parts of section G, but that Giii relates only to playing field. In order to fully accord with NPPF para 97, point should clarify that a surplus (of provision) is identified through an assessment. These concerns as the clarity of the policy amount to an objection.

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Sport England (North East) (Dave McGuire - 1164473)
Comment ID	DBLPPS539
Response Date	16/09/20 09:15
Consultation Point	Policy ENV 5 Green Infrastructure Standards (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.7

Question 2

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

Question 3a

Your Comments

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

In principle Sport England supports Policy ENV5's aim of ensuring that new green infrastructure is provided by new development. In all but the largest residential developments it will be impractical to seek on-site provision of playing pitches as single pitch sites are of limited benefit to clubs and are different to service in terms of parking and changing.

Question 4

Changes Sought

Please Note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage. There is the opportunity to attach Word or PDF files before submitting your comment.

After this stage, further submissions will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues identified for examination.

Please set out what change(s) to the Local Plan you consider necessary to make it legally compliant or sound. You will need to say why this change will make the Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording for any policy or text.

We strongly recommend that there should be a cross reference here to the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy in respect of new provision.

Question 6

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Sport England (North East) (Dave McGuire - 1164473)
Comment ID	DBLPPS540
Response Date	16/09/20 09:19
Consultation Point	Policy ENV 9 Outdoor Sports Facilities (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.6
Question 2	

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

Question 3a

Your Comments

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

We fully support Policy ENV9 but urge the Council to complete the update it details at 9.7.7

Question 4

Changes Sought

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Please set out what change(s) to the Local Plan you consider necessary to make it legally compliant or sound. You will need to say why this change will make the Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording for any policy or text.

We fully support Policy ENV9 but urge the Council to complete the update it details at 9.7.7

Question 6

Do you request to be notified that the Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination under section 22(3) of the regulations and to be notified of the adoption of the Local Plan?

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Sport England (North East) (Dave McGuire - 1164473)
Comment ID	DBLPPS541
Response Date	16/09/20 09:21
Consultation Point	Policy IN 10 Supporting the Delivery of Community and Social Infrastructure (Strategic Policy) (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.5
Question 2	

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

Question 3a

Your Comments

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

Finally we support the inclusion of 'built' sports facilities within Policy IN10 and the policy's general thrust. There doesn't appear however to be an acknowledged link to the Sports Facility Strategy and its recommendations around facility needs.

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