

From:
Sent: 11 January 2023 14:50
To: Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
Subject: **consultation: Community Infrastructure Levy**

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above Local Plan document. We are supportive of its aims for development contributing to community sport and recreation facilities.

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 priorities. You will also be aware that Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields.

Sport England Strategy 'Uniting The Movement' (2022-32) identifies key changes in the delivery of the strategy:

- A 10 year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.
- We believe sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all.
- Our five big issues are where we see the greatest potential for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:
 - Recover and reinvent
 - Connecting communities
 - Positive experiences for children and young people
 - Connecting with health and wellbeing
 - Active environments

Sport England has assessed this consultation in the light of Sport England's **Planning for Sport: Forward Planning** guidance [link here](#)

The overall thrust of the statement is that a planned approach to the provision of facilities and opportunities for sport is necessary, new sports facilities should be fit for purpose, and they should be available for community sport. To achieve this, our objectives are to:

PROTECT sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment

ENHANCE existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management

PROVIDE new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.

Sport England believes that sport has an important role in modern society and in creating sustainable and healthy communities. Sport and physical activity is high on the Government's national agenda as it cuts across a number of current topics that include health, social inclusion, regeneration and anti social behaviour. The importance of sport should be recognised as a key component of development plans, and not considered in isolation.

The following comments are provided within the context of:

- The National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2021).
- Sport England's Planning for Sport webpages (2023).

1. Local Plan & Evidence Base

The National Planning Policy Framework (2021) states:

98. Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

Sport England's view is that, in order to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), this should include a strategy (supply and demand analysis with qualitative issues included) covering the need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities, including playing pitches.

We note the Council's current work on their Playing Pitch Strategy to provide an evidence base for pitches and tennis courts. We have not endorsed a recent and compliant Built Facilities Strategy.

We recommend that by up to date Sport England means undertaken within the last 3 years for a Playing Pitch Strategy, and within the last 5 years for a Built Facilities Strategy.

We would expect work as set out in the methodology to be undertaken annually before the work is reviewed and completely re-started after 3/5 years. Sport England are more than happy to advise the Council on what and when things need to be reviewed.

2. Planning Obligations/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to Sport

Sport England supports use of planning obligations (s106)/community infrastructure levy (CIL) as a way of securing the provision of new or enhanced places for sport and a contribution towards their future maintenance, to meet the needs arising from new development. This does need to be based on a robust NPPF evidence base. This includes indoor sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls, etc) as well as playing fields and multi use games courts.

All new dwellings in Exeter in the plan period should provide for new or enhance existing sport and recreation facilities to help create opportunities for physical activity whilst having a major positive impact on health and mental wellbeing.

The evidence base as mentioned in (1) above should inform the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and / or CIL and any future changes to CIL/s106.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below.

Gary Parsons MSc MRTPI
Planning Manager

We have updated our Privacy Statement to reflect the recent changes to data protection law but rest assured, we will continue looking after your personal data just as carefully as we always have. Our Privacy Statement is published on our [website](#), and our Data Protection Officer can be contacted by emailing [Gaile Walters](#)

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