

MIQ response from Sport England 5158 re Matter 17

From: Janet Belfield

Sent: 23 August 2019 18:29

To: Tony Blackburn

Subject: Rossendale Local Plan Inspectors MIQs - Matter 17 Leisure and Tourism (Sport England Ref SP/19/00000965)

Dear Sir/Madam,

MATTER 17 – LEISURE AND TOURISM

The following email provides Sport England's response to the Inspectors Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs):

Question a) Is Policy LT1 based on an up to date assessment of need for all types of open space, sports and recreational facilities? Have the concerns of Sport England been addressed?

No Policy LT1 is not based on an up to date assessment for all types of open space, sports and recreational facilities.

Sport England's representation of October 2018 requested that the following statement form part of the supporting text to policy LT1 "*Given the important role indoor sports facilities play in promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community, the Council will work closely with Sport England and other partners to ensure that any future decision on the provision of all sports facilities is based on a robust and up-to-date evidence base. To assist with this, it is the intention of the Council to produce an Indoor Sports Strategy during the next 12 -24 months to help underpin effective policy application*".

Sport England note that the Council state in the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) that it will be included with policy LT1 subject to the inspector agreeing. The SoCG confirms that the Council is committed to undertaking a Built Facilities Strategy within the next 12 -24 months which will provide an up to date evidence base on which to make decisions.

Sport England sought to advise the Council on the needs for the Local Plan to be based on sound and up to date needs assessments in both its Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies. The policy provides for this but the Council will need to undertake and to keep those evidence bases up to date otherwise it will not have a sound basis on which to make planning decisions. Sport England would welcome confirmation from the Council of the progress made on a Built Facilities Strategy.

Sport England would welcome the changes suggested (in *italics* above) being included in the supporting text to Policy LT1 of the Local Plan to address our concerns about soundness.

Kind regards,

Janet Belfield

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E:

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