

Rossendale Local Plan Examination

MATTERS, ISSUES AND QUESTIONS (MIQs)



Matter 17 – Leisure and Tourism

Issue – are the leisure and tourism policies positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

[Policies LT1 – LT6]

- 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?**

17.1 An up to date assessment has not yet been carried out. However, paragraph 35 and Appendix 2 of the Duty to Cooperate and Draft Statement of Common Ground ([SD008](#)) sets out the agreement between RBC and Sport England that this work will be undertaken within 12-24 months of Plan adoption. It is considered that this addresses their concerns.

- b) Should development proposals be required to meet all the criteria in Policy LT2 to justify the change of use from or loss of a community facility?**

17.2 The Council considers that the criteria are justified but acknowledge that it may not be necessary for development proposals to meet all the criteria in the policy to justify change of use from or loss of a community facility. A more appropriate approach may be for the policy to require a proposal to address each of the criteria which would allow Development Management to determine if this provides sufficient justification. If the Inspector deems it appropriate, the Council suggest the following amendment to the policy wording:

Development proposing the change of use or loss of any premises, or land currently or last used as a community facility (including public houses, post offices, community centres, village and church halls, places of worship, children’s centres, libraries, cultural facilities, theatres, parks and open spaces and health facilities) will be permitted where it is demonstrated that this is acceptable, based on addressing the criteria listed below. This will be assessed by the Council on a case by case basis. The proposal does not have to meet all the criteria but it is expected that these will be addressed by the applicant to the satisfaction of the Council:

- a) The facility no longer serves the local needs of the community in which it is located;

- b) Adequate alternative provision has been made, or is already available, in the settlement or local area;
- c) The use is no longer financially viable;
- d) The facility is in an isolated location remote from public transport routes;
- e) There is an amenity or environmental reason why the facility is no longer acceptable.

c) Do Policies LT5 and LT6 appropriately consider ecological impacts?

17.3 Consideration of potential ecological impacts would be addressed through Policy ENV4 and the Development Management process. It is intended that the Local Plan is read as a whole. As is the case with other policies in the Plan, it is not considered to be necessary to refer to ecological impacts in every policy where this may be a consideration as it will be covered through other policies and mechanisms.