

# OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS PROVISION

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)  
Consultation Statement  
December 2024



1.1 Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out that a consultation statement must be prepared prior to adoption by the Local Planning Authority. This should include:

- (i) the persons the local planning authority consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document;
- (ii) a summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and
- (iii) how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document.

1.2 The Draft SPD was shared internally with officers from the Planning, Green Spaces and Communities teams. To facilitate the consultation questions were embedded within the document. The comments received in general agreed with this approach to calculate planning requirements and contributions for open space and sports facilities from new major residential schemes.

1.3 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 9 September 2024 agreed consultation to be undertaken on the Draft SPD. In line with the Regulations for preparing SPDs, consultation must be undertaken with statutory consultees and other stakeholders. This consultation was undertaken alongside the Affordable Housing SPD and was advertised on the Council's website, social media and to everyone listed on the Local Plan Consultation Database which comprises local residents, developers and landowners and others with an interest in planning policy in Rossendale.

1.4 The SPD was consulted on for 4-weeks from 24 September to 22 October 2024. Comments were received from 7 consultees, plus one that arrived after the consultation closed. In the main, the draft was well received with support expressed from the Environment Agency and Natural England, which proposed minor additions, which will be taken on board, such as referencing rain gardens. National Highways, the Coal Authority and Historic England had no comments to make.

1.5 United Utilities requested expanding the reference to water management in line with Local Plan Policy ENV9 and provided proposed wording, which was inserted into the SPD:

*“Choosing the location and detailed design of open space, is a critical consideration of any layout. Open spaces have an important role in surface water management which should be considered early in the design process as required by Policy ENV9. We request that the layout of proposals, including the location of open space, is informed by a hydrological assessment of a site which considers (amongst other things) site topography, naturally occurring flow paths, exceedance paths from existing*

*and proposed drainage systems, ephemeral watercourses and any low-lying areas where water naturally accumulates. The resultant layout and location of open space must take account of such circumstances to ensure that water is most appropriately managed and integrated as part of a multi-functional approach to open space and sustainable drainage. Any changes in levels, landscaping or biodiversity mitigation / enhancement will also need to be considered alongside any restrictions associated with existing utility services.”*

1.6 Sport England also recommended a number of modifications, most of which have been undertaken as listed below:

<b>Sport England Comment</b>	<b>RBC response</b>
Sports Facility Demand: The SPD should signpost to the studies not summarise.	Change made
Playing Field Protection: The SPD could set out that its requirements in terms of the demand for sports facilities 'is in addition to' any requirements to meet the Exceptions of the Playing Field Policy and the NPPF	Change made
The document title is misleading, it is not a Playing Pitch Strategy, nor a Built Facilities Strategy	Renamed <i>the Open Space and Sports Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</i>
Paragraph 3.3 is premature as there is a current Stage E PPOSS assessment/review being undertaken.	Amended
Current BSF (2018) is not an up-to-date assessment of any future population requirements. Any evidence from this document should be signposted instead of summarised.	Undertaken
Appendix 1 and 2 should be removed.	Appendices removed
Design: if new or improved sports facilities are proposed they should be fit for purpose and design according to Sport England guidance notes: <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/">http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/</a>	(This echoes O&S committee comments – see above)  Add reference in the Design Principles and Stewardship section.
Q1 - No, Sport England does not support the use of standards approach for the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities	Make it clearer that the standards approach is only applied to open space provision and not to playing pitches and sports facilities provision
Q2 - Sport England would encourage the application of the principles of Active Design in public open space and children's play space	(This echoes O&S committee comments – see above) Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship
Q3 -No comment if only relating to POS. Separate diagram to be provided for sports facilities	Make it clearer the current diagram only applies to public open space

Sport England Comment	RBC response
	and not to sports facilities. Create a separate diagram for sports facilities.
Q4 - Same as above	See above
Q5 -Encourage application of Active Design guidance	See Q2
Q6 - No question posed (same as Q5)	No action
Q7 - Yes but Sport England would support a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4	No action
Q8 - Yes. Sport England also provide calculation for tennis and bowls. Would support a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4	No action
Q9 - Opportunity to introduce reference to Sport England's Active Design Guidance	Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship
Q10 - As above	Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship

1.7 One response was received after the consultation closed from the Campaign for the Rural Protection of England (CPRE). A minor change is being proposed as a result of this response. It is considered that many of the issues raised are or would be addressed in other planning policies or guidance.