



*Spatial Planning for Sport
and Active Recreation*

**Sport and Recreation in
Area Action Plans**

Spring 2009

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1. Background

The Core Strategy of a Local Development Framework sets out a vision and spatial objectives, strategic policies, and the monitoring and implementation frameworks for a suite of Development Plan Documents (DPDs). Area Action Plans (AAPs) are DPDs which develop the aspirations of the Core Strategy by setting out the site-specific implications of policies and proposals. AAPs can deal with sport and recreation issues, to greater or lesser degrees, from being part of a general consideration of development issues such as the protection of open space, to the specific consideration of the delivery of sport and recreation facilities in a particular area.

2. Purpose and scope of AAPs

Area Action Plans provide the planning framework for areas where significant change or conservation is needed¹. Their remit includes:

- helping to deliver planned growth areas;
- stimulating regeneration;
- protecting areas particularly sensitive to change;
- resolving conflicting objectives in areas subject to development pressures; or
- focusing the delivery of area based regeneration initiatives.

In practice, this means that AAPs are applied to situations such as town centre redevelopment, urban expansion, regeneration and conservation areas. There are opportunities for the consideration of sport and recreation in all these circumstances, either through the provision of new facilities and/or the enhancement of existing ones. This is of particular interest to Sport England, whose remit is to develop facility provision such that there is equality of access to a range of good quality opportunities for sport and active recreation for all.

3. The AAP preparation process

The government no longer regulates the precise detail of how a council should prepare a plan. Councils have the opportunity to tailor the process of plan preparation to the task in question. However, AAPs are subject to independent examination and therefore a relatively high degree of scrutiny. Their preparation needs to be underpinned by a sound evidence base, there needs to be demonstrable development and selection of options, with public consultation at specific stages of the process. The specific considerations associated with producing an AAP include the opportunity to:

- Undertake an overview of issues, natural resources, needs and constraints facing the area action plan area, and how these relate to the wider spatial strategy for the local planning authority area as a whole.
- Develop a spatial vision and spatial objectives for the area.
- Consider linkages with policies in the regional spatial strategy.
- Consider linkages with policies in other development plan documents, establishing the chain of conformity with these.
- Consider linkages and fit with other local strategies and initiatives including the community strategy, strategies for regeneration area and the local transport plan.
- Set out details of the locations, type, allocations and quantum of proposed development.

¹ ODPM (2008) **PPS12: Local Spatial Planning** para 5.4

- Summarise the proposed strategy, including options for development which may include:
 - The quantum and locations of development including sites;
 - Proposed improvements to community infrastructure (education, health, leisure etc.) to meet additional needs resulting from development;
 - Outline details of planning obligations that will be sought, and any other criteria for development (e.g. accessibility standards); and
 - An outline strategy for maximising positive impacts (e.g. training initiatives) and mitigating negative impacts.
- Set out details of the implementation framework.
- Set out details of the monitoring framework, including relevant targets and indicators.
- Explain consultation arrangements.

4. AAPs where sport and recreation issues have been, or are likely to be, of note

Whilst the rationale behind the development of AAPs is broadly associated with areas of change or conservation, different types of AAP which have particular relevance to sport and recreation can be identified. These can broadly be classified according to their geographical focus and sport and recreation issues will vary considerably between them.

Examples of AAP types range from the use of sport and recreation as a complement to other land uses within a specific setting such as a town centre or regeneration area, or opportunities within more expansive circumstances such as urban extensions or the urban fringe. These are joined by more ad-hoc opportunities to make better use of the way in which facilities are connected as networks and clusters to enhance access generally and resident and visitor choice. Each will offer opportunities to enhance existing opportunities and/or develop new facilities ideally in a way which responds to identified needs, whether this be for better access to what already exists, enhancing the quality of provision, or addressing deficiencies in provision. Five types of AAP, identified from current practice and set out in **Table 1**, can be identified.

Table 1 The focus of AAPs and typical sport and recreation issues

Focus (and example)	Typical sport and recreation issues
Town centre (e.g. Chelmsford)	Improvement/enhancement of existing facilities through town centre regeneration opportunities
Urban regeneration (e.g. Walker Riverside, Longbridge)	Improvement/enhancement of existing facilities, additional provision as part of area-wide regeneration activity
Urban extensions/new settlements (e.g. Northstowe, Cambridge East; North Plymstock)	Provision of sport and recreation facilities matched to the needs of a new community
Urban fringe (e.g. Cambridge Southern Fringe)	New and enhanced provision of recreational opportunities, linked to formal and informal provision
Ad hoc opportunities (e.g. Harrogate; South Shields)	Enhancement of access to facilities through the networking and clustering of facility provision, and capitalising on existing assets

a. Sport and active recreation in town centre improvements

AAPs are being widely used to guide the redevelopment of town centres, often using masterplanning to help to rejuvenate and develop a sense of coherence to what can be a fragmentation of both form and function. Typically, there will be sport and active recreation facilities of some form, but these might require attention in terms of rationalisation or upgrading to meet contemporary needs and standards. **Box 1** presents the example of Chelmsford Town Centre where extensive remodelling of land uses is being undertaken to capitalise upon a range of opportunities to improve existing sports facilities.

Box 1: Sport and town centre improvements: Chelmsford Town Centre AAP

As part of a comprehensive town centre regeneration exercise, the opportunity to improve the quality of sports facility provision in Chelmsford is being explored. Proposals include:

- Improvement of existing facilities, notably Essex County Cricket Ground, using riverside residential and commercial development;
- Relocation of the Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre, using the site for mixed use and riverfront commercial activity;
- Enhancement of facilities on Central Park; and
- As part of a new Waterside development, promotion of the use of waterborne sport and recreation will be promoted.

These proposals are in part a response to the recommendations of an indoor sports and recreation facilities assessment carried out as part of the development of the evidence base for the Core Strategy. The study found that:

- in general terms the quality and provision of indoor facilities in the Borough is good;
- there was recognition that the most-well used facility – Riverside - is in need of investment to upgrade;
- there was a need for improvements to existing sports halls and provision of specialist sports halls;
- there is demand for an indoor tennis facility;
- there is a lack of publicly accessible squash courts; and
- there is a need for higher quality indoor cricket facilities.

Also material to the development of the AAP proposals was an Open Space Assessment which sets out standards for travel times for access to specific kinds of facility. For outdoor facilities, for example, a catchment area of 4-6km or drive time of 10-15 minutes is recommended. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the AAP recommends that these standards are adopted within the AAP. The SA also cites the East of England Plan for Sport and recommends that SA objectives are tailored to promote aspirations in this document for locally based sports facilities which seek to promote healthy lifestyles through increased participation.

www.chelmsford.gov.uk > planning & building control > Chelmsford area action plan

b. The contribution of sport to urban regeneration

Akin to town centre enhancements, the regeneration of a neighbourhood through the use of an AAP brings it with significant opportunities for paying particular attention to sport and active recreation as part of the planning response. This can involve introducing new opportunities or enhancing those which already exist through refurbishment and/or extension.

Box 2: Sport in urban regeneration: Walker Riverside Area Action Plan

Walker Riverside is an area of comprehensive regeneration on the banks of the River Tyne. Covering 3.5km², Walker Ward is the most deprived in Newcastle, with significant opportunities to enhance provision of sport and recreation facilities to complement the wider regeneration effort. As part of the development of the

AAP, the anticipated needs for sport and active recreation were established as a starting point for agreeing the development levy. The tariff for developer contributions has been set at £1,000 per house for indoor sports facilities (generating some £3m for refurbishment of the Lightfoot centre [pictured] and/or new build) and £3,000 per house (generating £6.5m) for investment in parks and greenspace. Sport England became involved with the AAP prior to the issues and options stage, meeting City Council and sports centre staff to discuss options for facility development.



Photo: © Newcastle City Council

Despite the absence of a city-wide PPG17 assessment of facilities (and an associated strategy), the direct apportionment of a development tariff to secure new facilities in this housing market renewal area represents a significant advance in securing direct benefits for sport as opposed to sport competing with other claims on planning contributions.

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_contributions/examples.aspx

Box 3: Sport, recreation and quality of life enhancement: Longbridge Area Action Plan

The comprehensive regeneration of 140ha of the former MG Rover plant at Longbridge has offered a range of opportunities, through options development and detailed masterplanning, to incorporate sport and active recreation into the principles for development across the site. Whilst a comprehensive PPG17 has yet to be prepared, the evidence base for the AAP reviewed standards of provision in the immediate area and discussions were held with Sport England prior to the issue of the Preferred Options document. Particular attention will be paid to:

- ensuring accessible provision of both formal and informal sport and recreational opportunities for the community as a whole;
- matching community and business needs through the development of shared use facilities using community use agreements;
- infusing opportunities for recreational activity into everyday life through the provision of green infrastructure and other facilities which encourage more active lifestyles;
- using s.106 negotiations to ensure that the interests of sport and active recreation are well represented; and
- ensuring that consideration is given to encouraging sport and active recreation through the design of buildings (e.g. the provision of showers and cycle storage facilities at office developments).

There is considerable reliance on exemplary urban design, and Sport England's Active Design Guidance will be drawn on extensively.

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/longbridgeaap.bcc>

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/active_design.aspx

c. The role of sport and recreation provision in urban extensions and new settlements

Planning new settlements, communities and neighbourhoods from scratch offers the chance (and challenge) of getting the provision of facilities right first time. Where such opportunities do occur, the provision of essential community infrastructure such as sport and recreation facilities should lie at the heart of the planning process, using a sound evidence base to determine likely

community needs, whilst taking advantage of masterplanning exercises to create wider opportunities to both participate in sport and make activity part of everyday life.

Box 4: Sport and recreation provision in new settlements: AAPs in South Cambridgeshire

Two AAPs have been developed as frameworks to guide significant development planned for South Cambridgeshire: the new settlement of Northstowe and the urban extension of Cambridge East. Both AAPs have established that a strategy for sports provision be prepared and set out detailed policy guidelines regarding the expectations for access to sport and recreation opportunities. For Northstowe, the specific objectives set for the aspiration of meeting recreational needs (D11) are to:

- Provide adequate sports facilities;
- To ensure adequate public open space for play and informal leisure;
- To create a town park to serve as a focus for the town's outdoor activities; and
- To provide opportunities to access and enjoy the surrounding countryside.

Sport England supported the policy because of the requirement for the preparation of a strategy to assess the facility needs of the new community; accessibility of those facilities to the whole community; and the early phasing of facility development. A key aspect of the sport and recreation facility provision is the development of dual-use facilities, centred on a main facility at the proposed secondary school, identified through a Formal Sports Strategy. Standards of distance to facilities, open space and play areas have been set (e.g. 1000m [10/15min walk time] for formal facilities), along with the development of a network of green infrastructure (green corridors) that serves as a multifunctional resource for informal recreational opportunities, landscaping and biodiversity. The importance of good accessibility to informal and formal facilities is emphasised: "*Northstowe's residents should be able to find that their sport, leisure and recreational needs are met locally so that they can lead a healthy lifestyle and enjoy a high quality of life and leisure time. Whilst some higher order and commercial leisure activities can only be met in Cambridge as the sub-regional centre, every opportunity should be taken to allow people from Northstowe and the surrounding villages to meet as many of their needs as possible without the need to travel further afield*" (para D11.1).

www.scambs.gov.uk > environment & planning > south Cambridgeshire LDF > past consultation documents > submission documents

Planning contributions associated with new development present an opportunity to fund the provision of sport and recreation facilities, based on identified need. **Box 5** sets out an example of the development of a policy framework which specifies the expectations associated with delivery of a significant new mixed use community, adjoining the urban area.

Box 5: Policy for the provision of sport and recreation in North Plymstock AAP

Proposal NP01 Plymstock Quarry

Land at the former Plymstock Quarry will be developed as a sustainable new neighbourhood that is mainly residential but should include a mix of uses, to meet the daily needs of the community in a high quality environment. The development will include:

- In the region of 1,500 homes of a variety of tenures and house types, of which at least 450 are to be affordable and 300 built to Lifetime homes standard
- In the region of 3.5 hectares, providing in the region of 21,000 square metres gross floor area of B1 (Use Classes Order) employment land
- An "extended" primary school
- A mixed-use local centre, to include a supermarket in the region of 2,000 square metres gross and a complementary range of small shops and other services to meet the needs of new residents.

In particular, the development should provide for the following:

Sport and Leisure

- The provision of an appropriate level of publicly accessible outdoor playing pitches and associated facilities to meet the sports and recreation needs arising from the development. An appropriate contribution towards the provision of such off-site facilities shall be made in lieu of any shortfall in on-site provision.
- An appropriate contribution towards the provision of a swimming pool in a location that meets the needs of occupiers of the development.
- An appropriate contribution from the development towards the proposed strategic sports and cultural centre at the Life Centre in Central Park, and proportional to the strategic and cultural needs of occupiers from the development.
- The provision of an appropriate level of indoor sports facilities to meet the needs arising from the development. This

should be provided on site wherever possible as part of the extended school and be of an appropriate design to accommodate community use in addition to the primary school requirements. An appropriate contribution towards the provision of off-site facilities should be made in lieu of any shortfall in on-site provision.

http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/north_plymstock_chapter_4.pdf

d. Sport and recreation in the urban fringe

Urban expansion puts pressure on the urban fringe to accommodate sport and recreation facilities with a danger that their provision does not fully meet the needs of new and existing residents. Preparation of an AAP offers the opportunity to refine facility provision through specifying preferred locations for both informal and formal uses. **Box 6** illustrates how this is being proposed to the south of Cambridge in association with a major development site.

Box 6: Planned sport and recreation facility provision in Cambridge's southern fringe

The AAP addresses the provision of both formal and informal recreation opportunities. To support facility development there is a commitment (Policy CSF17 and para D9.4) to the preparation of "a Strategy for Formal Sport [which] will enable comprehensive planning of facilities at Cambridge Southern Fringe. The Strategy will be completed in partnership with Cambridgeshire Horizons along with other partner organisations and professional bodies such as Sport England and the Governing Bodies of Sport. It must also include an assessment of local and national sporting trends. A Major Sports Facilities Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-Region is being prepared by Cambridgeshire Horizons. The Strategy for Formal Sport must consider the implications of this Strategy for the Cambridge Southern Fringe." Complementing this is the recognition (para D9.12) that "opportunities for enabling greater access to the countryside through the creation of new or improved public rights of way should be identified". To enable this, "A strategy will be developed with reference to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan to link Trumpington West to the wider countryside through an enhanced network of rights of way including footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways, the provision of which will be funded by planning obligations on the development."

e. Using ad hoc opportunities to secure better facility provision

Over time, the provision of sports facilities can become fragmented and fail to meet the changing demands of local residents and visitors. In these circumstances, rationalisation could be appropriate, seizing opportunities to re-plan discrete areas such that the range and quality of facilities is maintained or increased. **Box 7** sets out an example from Harrogate of how such rationalisation is being planned.

Box 7: Rationalisation of facilities: Harrogate Community Sports Regeneration AAP

The subject of this AAP is an area characterised by a cluster of sports facilities: Harrogate Rugby Football Club; Harrogate High School (Sports College status) and a significant area of playing fields (part used by a hockey club). In addition, Harrogate Town Football Club is seeking re-location, and a need for additional tennis facilities has been identified. In sum, "*the area presents an opportunity to plan for significant and integrated improvements to the sporting facilities in the area*" (Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, July 2006). The emerging Core Strategy promotes the principles of a major combined sports facility in the town. The SA Scoping Report prepared for the AAP highlights a number of key issues to be taken into account:

- Proposals for sports facilities which will accommodate large numbers of spectators or which will function as a facility for community-based sports should be located in areas with good access to public transport.
- Increase participation in sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups.
- Promote the efficient use of land.
- Have due regard to the need to protect and where possible enhance biodiversity.
- Improve the health and well-being of the District's population.
- Address any shortfall in playing pitches.

www.harrogate.gov.uk > environment & planning > planning > local development framework > community sports regeneration area AAP

Proposals for the improvement of recreational opportunities can be also be bolder in their intention, as illustrated by the aspirations for South Shield's Town Centre and Waterfront (**Box 8**). Here the assets of the area are being capitalised upon to improve and extend recreational opportunities through a range of means.

Box 8: South Shields Town Centre & Waterfront AAP**Policy SS10 Recreational Opportunities in South Shields**

The quality of the public realm and the provision of publicly-accessible recreational open spaces throughout the South Shields town centre, riverside and foreshore areas will be improved by:

- A) requiring riverside developments to facilitate the integrated creation of public realm spaces along the river frontage as part of a continuous riverfront walkway/cycleway;
- B) requiring mixed-used developments within the town centre and riverside areas to include high quality landscaping with a variety of public open spaces, in accordance with our adopted standards;
- C) protecting and enhancing the recreational open spaces and playing fields in the foreshore area, in accordance with our adopted standards and other proposals in this Area Action Plan;
- D) supporting proposals for the restoration and enhancement of the designated historic parks – North Marine Park, South Marine Park and Bents Park – including the provision and improvement of associated visitor facilities (by 2008);
- E) encouraging proposals that maintain and enhance the recreational viability of the seafront beaches;
- F) creating a sheltered watersports area at Littlehaven by enhancing existing facilities in the area to better cater for current demand, including the provision of an improved or additional public launch ramp (by 2021); and
- G) supporting proposals for other outdoor sport, recreation and leisure uses and ancillary development associated with the River Tyne and coastal area, where they do not compromise the safety and operation of commercial river-related uses or other recreational pursuits, or adversely impact on the natural and built assets of the area.

http://www.southtyneside.info/search/tempDocuments/tmp_51096.pdf

5. Summary of key principles, opportunities and checklist of actions

In most cases, the consideration of sport and recreation issues should be an important facet of AAPs, and a building block in the provision of community facilities. This can manifest itself in a variety of ways, from the protection of existing facilities, their enhancement through refurbishment and investment, to the promotion and ensuring equality of access. All contribute to successful place-making – the essence of an AAP – through the creation of opportunities for infusing sport and active recreation into everyday life (a key aspect of Sport England’s and the Government’s agenda). In doing so, there are direct connections to be made to wider tasks such as regeneration and health improvement, and support for initiatives such as green infrastructure planning.

Where appropriate, sport can be put into the heart of communities through schemes such as sport facilities within a neighbourhood centre or a dual-use facility which serves business, education and local community needs, for example. Proposals in AAPs should provide a firm basis for assessing how facilities can be funded (both in capital and revenue terms), and what potential there is for the negotiation of planning obligations, particularly where there is the opportunity to undertake comprehensive masterplanning.

A checklist of actions to encourage the inclusion of sport issues in AAPs is set out in **Box 9**.

Box 9: Checklist - accounting for sport and recreation issues in AAPs

The following checklist of actions can be used to help ensure that sport and active recreation issues are properly accounted for as part of the development of an AAP, both from a statutory (i.e. playing fields) and non-statutory (i.e. promoting equality of access to facilities for sport and active recreation) perspective. The principal considerations can be divided into those concerned with fulfilling procedural demands and those concerned with content.

PROCEDURAL ISSUES

- In all cases, are policies and proposals based on a comprehensive assessment of need, using data from an up-to-date PPG17 assessment, other relevant sport and recreation strategies and any area-specific studies conducted as part of the preparation of the evidence base for the AAP and associated SA/SEA?

- Has sport and recreation been considered at each stage of preparation of the AAP, namely development of the vision, assembly of the evidence base, option generation, and preferred option selection?
- Have appropriate bodies and organisations been identified in the implementation of the place and engaged in the process to ensure delivery?
- How might the detailed provision of new and enhanced sport and recreation resources be accounted for in negotiations over planning obligations?

CONTENT ISSUES

- Has the protection and enhancement of facilities and/or opportunities for new provision where new development is planned been considered?
- Can sport and recreation help to act as a catalyst for the inclusion of wider enhancements to quality of life in the receiving area, particularly in respect of enhancing access to a wider range of better quality facilities?
- Through masterplanning and/or development briefs for parts of the AAP area, are the opportunities for building activity into the grain of the community being taken, using resources such as Sport England's Active Design guidance?².
- Have longer-term management arrangements and revenue funding requirements for new and/or enhanced facilities been adequately considered to ensure that the benefits of regeneration are secured?

In addressing the establishment and enhancement of facilities and other resources which serve both existing and new demands, it is possible to establish standards of provision (based on a sound evidence base), and ensure that there is a balance of provision, both geographically and by need. Where a direct policy steer on sport and recreation can be taken from a core strategy, this will add weight to location-specific responses which can draw on, and develop, local standards of provision. In all cases, the opportunity to include the consideration of sport and recreation issues as part of the application of the Tests of Soundness which steer the production and examination of a DPD (see **Appendix**), should be taken.

6. Conclusions

The role of sport and recreation in AAPs is potentially a significant one, either as a document which focuses specifically on the provision of facilities, or as part of a wider consideration of enhancing quality of life in communities. Its role is complementary to the principal drivers of land use change such as housing and commercial development, helping to create properly functioning places which in turn fulfil a wide range of objectives, from economic regeneration to health improvement.

The potential surrounding the contribution of sport and recreation centres on anticipating how its interests are best served. This can, in the case of AAPs, be strongly related to managing spatial change and the imperative of establishing appropriate community infrastructure which contributes to making distinctive places where people want to live. The importance of developing a sound evidence base, starting with a PPG17 assessment, informed by use of facility planning tools developed by Sport England, cannot be over-emphasised.

² http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/active_design.aspx

APPENDIX: TESTS OF SOUNDNESS FOR A DPD

Test	Potential Sport-Related Aspects
<p>Justified</p> <p>PPS12 provides that to be 'justified' a DPD needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area - research/fact finding – the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts • the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives 	
<p>Participation</p>	
<p>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</p>	<p>Inclusion of Sport England as a statutory consultee on developments affecting playing fields and informal consultee on policy development and other development control matters.</p>
<p>Research/Fact-finding</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the content of the development plan document justified by the evidence? • What is the source of the evidence? • How up to date and convincing is it? 	<p>Development and application of a robust evidence base through a PPG17 Assessment of the supply of, and need for, recreational facilities.</p> <p>Use of regional and local strategies which assist with the consideration of alternatives, including local sport and recreation strategies, sustainable community strategies and cultural strategies.</p>
<p>What assumptions had to be made in preparing the development plan document?</p> <p>Are the assumptions reasonable and justified?</p>	<p>Character of evidence presented – in particular reliance on out-dated evidence e.g. continued use of NPFA standards.</p>
<p>Alternatives</p>	
<p>Can it be shown that the council's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives?</p> <p>Have realistic alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred strategy/approach was arrived at?</p> <p>Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives is it clear how and why these decisions were made?</p>	<p>Responses made to representations made throughout the preparation of the plan.</p>
<p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the development plan document from the start?</p>	<p>Specific comment probably not required..</p>
<p>Does the development plan document adequately expand upon regional guidance rather than simply duplicate it?</p> <p>Does the strategy take forward the regional context reflecting the local issues and objectives?</p>	<p>Specific comment probably not required.</p>
<p>Effective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverable – embracing: • Sound infrastructure delivery planning • Having no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery 	

Test	Potential Sport-Related Aspects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery partners who are signed up to it • Coherence with the strategies of neighbouring authorities • Flexible • Able to be monitored 	
Deliverable	
<p>Has the council clearly identified what the issues are that the development plan document is seeking to address?</p> <p>Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the development plan document is seeking to achieve?</p>	Reference to the needs and potential of provision for sport and recreation, specifically through evidence gathered through a PPG17-assessment.
Are there any cross-boundary issues that should be addressed and, if so, have they been adequately addressed?	Potential consideration of cross-boundary facility issues.
Does the development plan document contain clear objectives?	Sport and recreation represented in the objectives as a foundation for policy.
<p>Are the objectives specific to the place; as opposed to being general and applicable to anywhere?</p> <p>Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues and the objectives?</p>	Development of a policy response to identified local needs.
<p>Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives?</p> <p>Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, with regard to the objectives of the development plan document?</p>	Use of evidence in policy, and policies which respond to that evidence.
Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?	Specific comment probably not required.
Are the policies internally consistent?	Specific comment probably not required.
<p>Does the development plan document contain material which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is already in another plan • should be logically be in a different plan • should not be in a plan at all? 	Specific comment probably not required.
Does the development plan document explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?	Specific comment probably not required.
If there are development management policies, are they supportive of the strategy and objectives?	Specific comment probably not required.
Have the infrastructure implications of the strategy/policies clearly been identified?	Recognition of the needs of sport and recreation.
Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified?	Specific comment probably not required.
Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the strategy/policies?	Specific comment probably not required.
<p>Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the strategy/development plan document?</p> <p>Where actions required to implement policy are outside the direct control of the council, is there evidence of commitment from the relevant organisation to implement the policies?</p>	Specific comment probably not required.
<p>Does the development plan document reflect the concept of spatial planning?</p> <p>Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together – and integrating – policies for development, and the use of land, with other policies and programmes from a variety of organisations that</p>	Connections made between sport and quality of life/healthy, sustainable communities.

Test	Potential Sport-Related Aspects
influence the nature of places and how they function?	
Does the development plan document take into account matters which may be imposed by circumstance, notwithstanding the council's views about the matter?	Specific comment probably not required.
Flexible	
Is the development plan document flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances?	Specific comment probably not required.
Is the development plan document sufficiently flexible to deal with any changes to, for example, housing figures from an emerging regional special strategy?	Specific comment probably not required.
Does the development plan document include the remedial actions that will be taken if the strategies/policies are failing?	Specific comment probably not required.
Monitoring	
Does the development plan document contain targets and milestones that relate to the delivery of the policies, including housing trajectories where the plan contains housing allocations?	Inclusion of indicators relating to the provision of sports facilities.
Is it clear how these are to be measured and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report?	Inclusion of indicators relating to the provision of sports facilities.
Are suitable targets and indicators present (by when, how and by whom)?	Inclusion of indicators relating to the provision of sports facilities.
National Policy The DPD should be consistent with national policy. Where there is a departure, LPAs must provide clear and convincing reasoning to justify their approach.	Conformity with PPG17
Does the development plan document contain any policies or proposals that are not consistent with national planning policy? If yes, is there a local justification?	Specific comment probably not required.
Does the development plan document contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have they been included?	Specific comment probably not required.