

West Oxfordshire District Council

By email only

27.09.2024

Dear Planning Policy Team,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the West Oxfordshire District Council Community Infrastructure Levy – Draft Charging Schedule.

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 has an established role within the planning system which includes providing advice and guidance on all relevant areas of national and local policy as well as supporting Local Authorities in planning for sport and physical activity facilities. Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport by enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need for all levels of sport and for all sectors of the community. To achieve this aim Sport England's planning objectives are to PROTECT sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment, ENHANCE existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management and to PROVIDE new facilities that are fit for purpose and meet demands for participation now and in the future. You will also be aware that Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields. Further detail on Sport England's role and objectives within the planning system can be found at <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>.

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, 2023).
- Sport England's Planning for Sport webpages (2023).

Local Plan & Evidence Base

The National Planning Policy Framework (2023) states:

102. 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.

Sport England noted that West Oxfordshire District Council produced an updated Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy in 2022 and would recommend that an annual meeting takes place with the steering group to ensure that up to date information is provided to use as evidence for the protection and enhancement of sport and physical activity provision in the district.

Sport England's Position

Sport England have reviewed the CIL Draft Charging Schedule and are satisfied that on page 7 it notes that all other non-residential development will not have any CIL charges applied. This will ensure that facilities for sport and those that encourage physical activity in the area are not required to pay a levy. Sport England therefore support the Draft Charging Schedule as it has been delivered.

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

Yours sincerely,

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