

**Q111** I am largely satisfied with the response to my Q42 but I note that whereas policy I1 makes reference to the Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale (2017) (the Assessment) as the touchstone by which to judge compliance with that policy, by contrast, policy I2 does not even though, as I understand the Council's response, it would be used in the same way. I also note that the Council's response cites the Infrastructure Delivery Plan as an example of the way the Assessment has been taken account of in VALP. But the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, like the Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan on which policies T1 and T3 rely, does not form part of the Development Plan and so, unless its provisions are translated into VALP, I am not convinced that they can be relied upon to show that VALP is comprehensively compliant with the NPPF and therefore sound. I would appreciate it if the Council would give further consideration to these points which can be discussed further in hearing session 43 (matter 13). I do not recommend the introduction of any additional reference to the forthcoming Playing Pitch Strategy or Built Facilities Strategy because the soundness of VALP has to rely on existing evidence. Reference to the future production of a new evidence document may imply unsoundness of the existing evidence base of the document which is before me, whereas I understand the Council to be telling me that the plan, based on the Assessment is sound as it is.

### **AVDC Response**

Policy I2 refers back to the 2017 Open Space Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment (OSSRNA) as an evidence base for this policy at para 11.14 of the VALP. The OSSRNA identifies a baseline provision of sports and recreation facilities, deficiencies and the future need and standards for provision. Chapter 6 of OSSRNA 'summary of recommended standards' sets out accessibility, quantitative and qualitative standards to be applied on planning applications. This is existing evidence on which the VALP is based.

The Council refers at para 11.15 of the VALP to the existing 'Sport and Leisure Facilities SPG Companion Document: Ready Reckoner'. This 'ready reckoner' identifies for planning applications the circumstances where on-site off site provision of open space and/or sports and leisure facilities would need to be provided and sets out the calculation formula of the financial contribution towards the provision of off-site community and leisure facilities to be made by each new development.

An updated Ready Reckoner is not evidence to support the policy but is a *mechanism for the policy to be carried out* following the adoption of the VALP. AVDC's response to Q42 sets out what the Built Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy will achieve and when they will be completed. The Ready Reckoner update would be carried out from summer 2018 and be completed in early 2018. There is an existing Ready Reckoner and

Playing Pitch Strategy which are being used in the meantime. This is perfectly acceptable as an approach.

In addition to AVDC's response on Q42, we consider an SPD on Sports and Leisure Facilities should also be referred to as this will be prepared (from summer 2018 to be completed early 2019) to replace the existing 2004 SPG on Sports and Leisure Facilities. The 2004 SPG is linked to the 2004 Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan which would cease to exist on adoption of the VALP. Therefore a new SPD is needed to provide the context for an updated Ready Reckoner. The new SPD should be referred to in para 11.15 of the VALP - which is suggested to be redrafted as follows:

"A new Sports and Leisure Facilities SPD and new Ready Reckoner are in preparation to be completed in early 2019 once the VALP has been adopted. These documents will further detail how Policy I2 is to be implemented on individual planning applications, provide advice on on-site and off-site provision and explain when financial contributions would be sought. These documents will replace the 2004 Sports and Leisure Facilities SPG and 2005 Ready Reckoner, providing details on what developments should provide. The documents will be developed utilising the standards in Chapter 6 of the *2017 Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale (CD/SLB/001)*. In addition, an Aylesbury Vale Built Facilities Strategy is being prepared for completion in early 2019". As explained in the first paragraph of this answer, the fact that this additional work is in the pipeline does not mean that the VALP is insufficiently evidenced.