

## **Inspectors Q42**

In the light of the representation (1468) from Sport England to the effect that the Council has yet to adopt a Playing Pitch Strategy or Built Sport Facilities Strategy, the inspector would welcome the Council's observations on the compliance of the submitted plan with government policy set out in paragraphs 73 and paragraph 70, bullet 1 of the NPPF and on the justification for requirements for sports facilities included within the details of site allocations.

## **AVDC Response**

NPPF Para 70 bullet 1 sets out the need to plan positively for the provision and use of shared space and community facilities including sports venues to enhance sustainability of communities' and residents' environments. NPPF Para 73 sets out that planning policies should be based on a robust and up to date assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation. This should identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the area.

AVDC considers it has met the NPPF requirements at both paragraphs in the published 'Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale' (March 2017) and its addendum on RAF Halton (CD/SLB/001 and 002). These studies identify for both indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities and green infrastructure – existing need, provision standards and future need requirements including from the VALP growth including commitments.

The Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale has been taken account of in the VALP in the following ways:

- Policy I1 requiring development proposals to demonstrate green infrastructure is provided for in accordance with the standards in the 'Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale'
- Policy I2 in proposals for new sports and recreation facilities to address existing deficiencies which are identified in the 'Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale'
- VALP site allocations
- The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (CD/INF/001) Chapter 10 on Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities

The last Playing Pitch Strategy in the Vale was completed in 2010

<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/leisure-audits>. Since the publication of the 2017 needs assessment evidence reports informing the VALP, AVDC has decided to undertake a new Playing Pitch Strategy and also a new Built Facilities Strategy. Both of these are just underway. An inception meeting has taken place on the Playing Pitch Strategy and a consultant appointed. The timetable to adopt the Playing Pitch

Strategy is March 2019. The Built Facilities Strategy (BFS) is underway and the overall timetable is the same as the Playing Pitch Strategy. Sport England have been contacted and are aware of this work. A steering group will be fully involved in this work including Sport England and it is planned there will be steering group meetings every 2 months during four stages of the project. The Playing Pitch Strategy will follow the Sport England latest 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'.

The VALP at para 11.15 sets out that a new 'Aylesbury Vale Sports Facilities Strategy' is being prepared, for the avoidance of doubt that is what is referred to here as the 'Built Facilities Strategy'. The Built Facilities Strategy will cover Swimming Pools, Sports Halls, Community Halls Health and Fitness/Gyms, Athletics, Gymnasiums, Indoor Tennis, Indoor Bowls, Squash Courts, Multi Sport Leisure Complex/Sports Villages, Gymnastic Centres. The Built Facilities Strategy will cover the period 2018-2033 (the same end period as the VALP).

The Strategy will be produced with the following partners: Sport England, Leap (Bucks and Milton Keynes County Sport Partnership), Bucks NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, National Governing Bodies of key sports, Parish and Town Councils, Site Operators, Wheelpower. There will also be a full public consultation. It is considered that this meets the requirements of paragraphs 70 and 73 of the NPPF given the current status of the relevant assessments.

The BFS Strategy will follow the principles of 'Protect, Enhance and Provide' in the Sport England Guidance 'Planning for Sport, Forward Planning 2014',

AVDC considers if the Inspector is so minded, an additional reference could be added into para 11.15 of the VALP to preparation of the new Playing Pitch Strategy.

Regarding the site allocations, the Sports Facilities required in the VALP site allocations and their open space requirements are in some cases derived from commitments i.e. planning applications where the Council has resolved to approve subject to completion of a Section 106 agreement. Otherwise the information on where contributions would be required is set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (CD/INF/001 and 001a).