

Representor: Sport England

Participant: Owen Neal, Planning Manager

Representor ID: 49965

Matter 12: Infrastructure policies

Issue: Whether the Plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in relation to the infrastructure, highways and parking, public realm, communications and community and leisure policies in Chapter 10 of the Plan.

This issue includes detailed consideration of policies PLP47 to PLP49, and PLP51 and PLP52.

PLP52: New and Existing Community and Leisure Facilities

9) Is Part 2 of the policy justified and consistent with paragraph 104 of the Framework?

Sport England: Sport England considers that Part 2 of the policy is inconsistent with paragraph 104 of the Framework. Paragraph 104 of the NPPF does not make the distinction between commercial community run facilities and publicly or community run facilities. Sport England considers that Paragraph 104 of the Framework applies to all sports and leisure facilities, irrespective of their ownership and management arrangements. Commercially run sports and recreation provision can play an important role in meeting the needs of community sport. Paragraph 104 does not introduce a viability test to support the loss of sports facilities where it can be demonstrated that the facilities are unviable or unpractical. Sport England therefore objects to Part 2 (a) and (b) of the policy as we consider it is inconsistent with paragraph 104 of the Framework.