

**From:** Dave McGuire [<mailto:Dave.McGuire@sportengland.org>]  
**Sent:** 04 October 2017 11:20  
**To:** Matthew King  
**Subject:** RE: Hartlepool Local Plan - Examination in Public Matters Regarding Playing Pitch Strategy

Good morning Matthew

Thank you for your email.

Sport England scrutinises Local Plans at a range of levels, with the first being whether they have an appropriate evidence base for sport.

We appreciate that sport is only one of a myriad of matters that the Plan has to cover and getting synergy between all the respective studies and strategies and the progression of the Local Plan is an extremely difficult task. In an ideal world Hartlepool's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) would be freshly adopted as the Plan was progressed, but we realise this isn't always possible. In such circumstances, Sport England's stance on this issue is informed by matters such as;

- Whether work is on-going with a new Playing Pitch Strategy
- Whether there was a previous PPS, and if so, how out of date was it
- Whether Playing Fields are allocated for development

Hartlepool compares well against these matters. Work is progressing well on the new PPS as you describe below, and there are playing field sites allocated for development. Sport England's representation on this matter is always intended to prompt action from Local Authorities to 'get on' and prepare their PPS and we are content that our objection has served its purpose in this respect. As such we would be happy for the Inspector to consider that our concern that the Plan did not have an appropriate evidence base for sport is being addressed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again if you require further clarification on our position.

Kind Regards

**Dave McGuire** Planning Manager **T:** 020 7273 1692 **M:** 07795 283218  
**From:** Matthew King [<mailto:Matthew.King@hartlepool.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 22 September 2017 11:41  
**To:** Dave McGuire <[Dave.McGuire@sportengland.org](mailto:Dave.McGuire@sportengland.org)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Cowley <[Ryan.Cowley@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Ryan.Cowley@hartlepool.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Hartlepool Local Plan - Examination in Public Matters Regarding Playing Pitch Strategy  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning Dave,

I am writing in relation to the Local Plan Examination in Public and the Matters Papers which we are currently dealing with.

At the Publication Stage consultation Sport England made a representation objecting to the plan as it was considered the Playing Pitch Strategy was out of date as it had been in place since 2012.

As you are aware, the Council has commissioned Neil Allen Associates to prepare a new Playing Pitch Strategy and an Indoor Sports Facilities Study. Work has been ongoing over the past ten months or so and has involved Sport England from the outset to help guide the work. The Playing Pitch Strategy is now at an advanced stage and will hopefully be completed shortly. The Planning Inspector has asked as one of his MIQ's "Is the evidence on playing pitches up-to-date? Has the 2012 strategy been updated?" Given the advanced stage we are at with the production of the new Playing Pitch Strategy could you please confirm whether Sport England are in a position where they would be happy to withdraw their objection to the Hartlepool Local Plan?

Kind Regards

**Matthew King** | Planning Policy Team Leader

**Hartlepool Borough Council**

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