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Subject:

North Dorset CIL - Prelim Draft Charging Schedule Sept 2015

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Community Infrastructure Levy

Sport England supports use of planning obligations (s106)/community infrastructure levy (CIL) as a way of securing the provision of new or enhanced places for sport and a contribution towards their future maintenance, to meet the needs arising from new development. This does need to be based on a robust NPPF evidence base for sport and recreation. This includes indoor sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls, etc) as well as playing fields and multi use games courts.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012 (replacing PPS12 & PPG17) states:

Paragraph 73 – Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on up-to-date assessment of the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

Sport England's view is that, in order to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (formerly PPS12 and PPG17), 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.

We raise concern that there does not appear to be a robust and up to date evidence base for sport and recreation in North Dorset to inform the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and / or CIL

It is crucial that the Council have an up-to-date and robust evidence base in order to plan for the provision of sport both playing fields and built facilities. We provide comprehensive guidance on how to undertake both pieces of work:

Playing Pitch Strategy

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

This guidance document provides a recommended step by step approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy (PPS). It covers both natural and artificial grass pitches. Sport England believes that to ensure there is a good supply of high quality playing pitches and playing fields to meet the sporting needs of local communities, all local authorities should have an up to date PPS. By providing valuable evidence and direction a PPS can be of significant benefit to a

wide variety of parties and agendas.

Assessing needs and opportunity for sports provision (Indoor and Outdoor)
<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/assessing-needs-and-opportunities-guidance/>

This guide is complimentary with the PPS guidance providing the recommended approach for assessing the need for pitch provision. Sport England believes that providing the right facilities in the right place is central to enabling people to play sport and maintain and grow participation. An assessment of need will provide a clear understanding of what is required in an area, providing a sound basis on which to develop policy, and make informed decisions for sports development and investment in facilities.

The evidence base for sport and recreation should directly link into the development of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan and planning obligations.

Action – Commission and complete the sport and recreation evidence base and devise a strategy for the delivery of sport and recreational land and buildings as per the NPPF.

All new dwellings in North Dorset in the plan period should provide for new or enhance existing sport and recreation facilities to help create opportunities for physical activity whilst having a major positive impact on health and mental wellbeing.

‘Sporting and recreation facilities’ are included within the definition of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) infrastructure in the 2008 Planning Act (section 216) which means money raised can be used to fund new or enhanced sports facilities.

For sport and recreation, Sport England would advise that generally it may be more effective if the contributions are sought through planning obligations rather than CIL, unless there is a specific project identified. If such a project is deliverable, then it may be more appropriate to fund through CIL and consequentially should be on the Regulation 123 List.

In removing ‘playing fields’ from the Regulation 123 List and focussing on the use of Section 106 Agreements the Council should be aware that after April 2015, no more than five planning obligations can be used to pool funds for any one piece of infrastructure/project. Therefore the Council will need to think quite strategically and plan effectively for sports infrastructure delivery in the future linking development sites with specific projects to meet identified sporting needs. This will enable the Council to take a proactive approach and ensure the most effective use of planning obligations and CIL together to help deliver this/meet the needs of the population.

Any planning obligations must also pass the following tests as set out in paragraph 204 of the NPPF:

- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- directly related to the development; and
- fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

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Sport England



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