

Subject:	Adoption of the Open Space and Sports Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	20 November 2024
Report of:	Head of Planning	Lead Member:	Planning
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Anne Storah / Nat Davies	Telephone:	01706 252418 / 252415
Email:	annestorah@rossendalebc.gov.uk ; nathaeledavies@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To approve the Adoption of the Open Space and Sports Provision SPD (SPD) for Development Control purposes
- 1.2 Minor amendments, including formatting changes, to the SPD and updates to ensure contributions remain in line with inflation to be delegated to the Head of Planning and Lead Member.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council adopted the Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD in September 2008. This includes contributions to playing pitches and is used to calculate developer contributions, with costs updated annually in line with inflation.
- 2.2 Policy HS6 of the adopted Local Plan commits the Council to updating this SPD, in line with the recommendations of the most recent Open Space Study to “establish a mechanism for calculating site specific open space requirements (on and off-site including maintenance) and open space design principles”. Similarly Policy HS7 requires contributions to improve existing playing pitches and provision of an all-weather pitch “where there is an identified local need or Borough wide importance”. Policy LT1 notes the Council’s intention to produce an Indoor Sports Strategy to ensure “any future decision on the provision of all sports facilities are based on robust and up-to-date evidence base”.
- 2.3 The Council commissioned consultants to undertake a number of studies. The Open Space Study was required by the Local Plan Inspectors. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Study (approved by 2022) and the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities (published in September 2024) were undertaken alongside the Open Space Study. All these studies inform this SPD.
- 2.4 This SPD proposes a new approach to set out planning requirements for major residential schemes to provide or contribute to the provision of open space and sports facilities in the Borough;
 - For open spaces, a site by site approach is proposed based on local quantity, accessibility and quality information using the [Open Space Study \(2021\)](#), rather than the current Borough-wide approach).
 - New requirements for indoor and built sport facilities are proposed to be introduced;
 - To calculate contributions towards sport facilities the use of Sport England’s calculators is proposed.

- 2.5 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 9 September agreed consultation to be undertaken on the Draft SPD in line with the Regulations. The consultation started on 24 September, ending on 22 October. In total 7 responses were received, two supporting the SPD and an additional two recommending modifications, plus one response that was received after the consultation closed.
- 2.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised a number of queries, which are addressed later in this Report. They also noted the contents of the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Assessment and Strategy, undertaken by KKP, for publication.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council adopted the Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD in 2008. This also includes contributions to playing pitches. It is still used to calculate developer contributions, albeit costs have been updated in line with inflation. During the Local Plan Examination, the Planning Inspectors requested additional evidence specifically regarding the Borough's open space, playing pitches and indoor built sport facilities provision.
- 3.2 The Council commissioned Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP) to undertake these studies. The Open Space Study was prioritised to inform the site allocations and published as part of the Local Plan examination library 8. Sport England noted to the Planning Inspectors that the other two studies were proceeding well and "will be robust documents that inform and help deliver Local Plan policies". Please note these were based on the old ward boundaries and it is not possible to update the Reports at this stage.
- 3.3 A statement of common ground between Sport England and Rossendale Borough Council (EL8.017.1), acknowledges a need to prepare an assessment of indoor built sports facilities but not to delay the progress of the Local Plan. At Sport England's request wording was added to Policy LT1 for the Council to produce an Indoor Sports Strategy to ensure "any future decision on the provision of all sports facilities are based on robust and up-to-date evidence base". As a result the Local Plan Examination continued without finalising these studies.
- 3.4 The Playing Pitch Study was adopted and published on the Council's website in 2022. Publication of the study focussing on indoor built sport facilities was delayed until September 2024 in order to accompany the Draft SPD and explain how deficiencies would be addressed. It is now available on the Council's website. The gaps in provision identified in the study and the importance of maintaining existing facilities justifies the introduction of indoor recreation facilities in the updated SPD.
- 3.5 Policies HS6 and HS7 of the Local Plan commit the Council to update a supplementary planning document to set out the requirements for open space and playing pitch provision in the Borough. Policy SD3 sets out that, where developments will create additional pressure on services or facilities such as sports and recreation facilities, the Council may seek a contribution to address this. It is intended to update the existing Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD (2008) using the findings and recommendations from these studies. As Sport England advises not to use local quantity standards for identifying the requirement for playing pitches and recreation facilities, the SPD proposes to use the Sport England calculators to estimate the additional pressure on these facilities from a proposed development and then to calculate developer contributions to ease this by either maintaining or improving existing facilities or to pool resources to provide new facilities. A Stage E assessment is currently underway covering pitch sports, which will update the calculator.
- 3.6 The SPD proposes to rely on the use of local quantity standards from the Open Space Study as well as on information regarding the quality and accessibility to these open spaces to

calculate local planning requirements. There is an option to set out different standards upon which to base planning requirements (for example the Fields In Trust national guidance), however, a different approach would need to be justified. The SPD also sets out a methodology to seek either new provision on-site (e.g. amenity greenspace) or a financial contribution to maintain and improve existing spaces or to pool resources towards the creation of a new open space (e.g. allotments), depending on the scale of the development.

4 DETAILS

- 4.1 The SPD aims to update the earlier document, adopted in 2008, in order to incorporate the findings of the recent studies undertaken which assessed the provision for open space, playing pitches and indoor and built sport facilities in the Borough.
- 4.2 The SPD proposes a new methodology to calculate **open space requirements** for major residential schemes (10 dwellings or more) where:
- there is an existing quantity shortfall in the local area (based on local quantity standards derived from the Open Space Study),
 - or if the development is located outside of an accessibility catchment,
 - or there are poor quality open spaces within the accessibility catchment.
- 4.3 The local quantity standards for each category of open space (e.g. amenity green space, children play area, allotments, natural & semi natural space) are expressed in surface area per 1,000 inhabitants. To calculate the amount of open space needed for a new development, the quantity standards will be expressed in surface area per the extra population generated by the development (using average 2.3 person per household in Rossendale).
- 4.3 If the type of open space cannot be provided on-site, a planning contribution will be sought, to improve or maintain open space in the catchment/local area or to pool resources to create a new open space. The financial off-site contribution is calculated applying average costs for the creation or improvement of existing open spaces based on various sources described in Appendix 4 of the SPD.
- 4.4 Regarding **playing pitches and indoor sport facilities planning requirements**, in accordance with Sport England's advice, the SPD will not use local quantity standards but instead the contributions will be calculated using the Sport England calculators, which will be populated with the latest information on the number of sports teams in Rossendale.
- 4.5 The SPD introduces the voluntary Urban Greening Factor index developed by Natural England to encourage green covering in urban areas. An Urban Greening Factor of 0.4 is recommended for residential areas and of 0.3 for commercial sites.

Internal Consultation

- 4.6 The Draft SPD was shared with officers from the Planning, Green Spaces and Communities teams. To facilitate the consultation questions were embedded within the document. The comments received in general agreed with this approach to calculate planning requirements and contributions for open space and sports facilities from new major residential schemes.
- 4.7 There were mixed views over the different options regarding the setting of local quantity standards for open spaces using either the Open Space study (Option A), the Fields In Trust Guidance (Option B) or the highest of the two (Option C). As these local quantity standards need to be fully justified, it is considered to use the standards developed by the recent Open Space Study, therefore, only Option A was retained for the wider external consultation.

- 4.8 This SPD was considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (on 9 September 2024). They sought clarification on a number of matters, explained below:
- The Playing Pitch Calculator helps local authorities estimate the demand that may be generated for the use of playing pitches by a new population. It requires data to be entered from the Borough's local assessment of need (identified through the Playing Pitch needs assessments) to generate results.
 - The Sports Facility Calculator can also help quantify the additional demand for key community sports facilities. It is designed to estimate the demand for sports facilities created by a new community as part of a residential development and the costs to meet new demand. The SFC uses information on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations are sensitive to the needs of the people who live there.
 - Links have been inserted to Sport England publications relating to accessibility and safe and secure use for all, and the Make Space for Girls website. [Active Design | Sport England](#); <https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk/what-does-better-look-like>; and [Accessible and inclusive sports facilities - Part A Essential reading](#)
 - The Report refers to 4 pools at two sites with each having 1x 4-lane swimming pool and 1 x learner/teaching pool. This was the position at the time of writing. It is important to ensure that these studies and assessments are kept up-to-date and inform strategies. This will be fed back to the officer group looking at leisure facilities.

External consultation

- 4.9 In line with the Regulations for preparing SPDs, consultation must be undertaken with statutory consultees and other stakeholders. This consultation was undertaken alongside the Affordable Housing SPD and was advertised on the Council's website, social media and to everyone listed on the Local Plan Consultation Database which comprises local residents, developers and landowners and others with an interest in planning policy in Rossendale.
- 4.10 Comments were received from 7 consultees, plus one that arrived after the consultation closed. In the main, the draft was well received with support expressed from Natural England and the Environment Agency, which proposed minor additions, which will be taken on board, such as referencing rain gardens. National Highways, the Coal Authority and Historic England had no comments to make.
- 4.11 United Utilities requested expanding the reference to water management in line with Local Plan Policy ENV9 and provided proposed wording, which will be inserted into the SPD:

“Choosing the location and detailed design of open space, is a critical consideration of any layout. Open spaces have an important role in surface water management which should be considered early in the design process as required by Policy ENV9. We request that the layout of proposals, including the location of open space, is informed by a hydrological assessment of a site which considers (amongst other things) site topography, naturally occurring flow paths, exceedance paths from existing and proposed drainage systems, ephemeral watercourses and any low-lying areas where water naturally accumulates. The resultant layout and location of open space must take account of such circumstances to ensure that water is most appropriately managed and integrated as part of a multi-functional approach to open space and sustainable drainage. Any changes in levels, landscaping or biodiversity mitigation / enhancement will also need to be considered alongside any restrictions associated with existing utility services.”

- 4.12 The comments are listed below together with proposed actions:

Sport England Comment	RBC response
-----------------------	--------------

Sports Facility Demand: The SPD should signpost to the studies not summarise.	Change made
Playing Field Protection: The SPD could set out that its requirements in terms of the demand for sports facilities 'is in addition to' any requirements to meet the Exceptions of the Playing Field Policy and the NPPF	Change made
The document title is misleading, it is not a Playing Pitch Strategy, nor a Built Facilities Strategy	Renamed <i>the Open Space and Sports Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</i>
Paragraph 3.3 is premature as there is a current Stage E PPOSS assessment/review being undertaken.	Amended
Current BSF (2018) is not an up-to-date assessment of any future population requirements. Any evidence from this document should be signposted instead of summarised.	Undertaken
Appendix 1 and 2 should be removed.	Appendices removed
Design: if new or improved sports facilities are proposed they should be fit for purpose and design according to Sport England guidance notes: http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/	(This echoes O&S committee comments – see above) Add reference in the Design Principles and Stewardship section.
Q1 - No, Sport England does not support the use of standards approach for the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities	Make it clearer that the standards approach is only applied to open space provision and not to playing pitches and sports facilities provision
Q2 - Sport England would encourage the application of the principles of Active Design in public open space and children's play space	(This echoes O&S committee comments – see above) Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship
Q3 -No comment if only relating to POS. Separate diagram to be provided for sports facilities	Make it clearer the current diagram only applies to public open space and not to sports facilities. Create a separate diagram for sports facilities.
Q4 - Same as above	See above
Q5 -Encourage application of Active Design guidance	See Q2
Q6 - No question posed (same as Q5)	No action
Q7 - Yes but Sport England would support a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4	No action
Q8 - Yes. Sport England also provide calculation for tennis and bowls. Would support a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4	No action
Q9 - Opportunity to introduce reference to Sport England's Active Design Guidance	Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship
Q10 - As above	Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship

4.13 One response was received after the consultation closed from the Campaign for the Rural Protection of England (CPRE). No changes are being proposed as a result of this response. It is considered that many of the issues raised are or would be addressed in other planning policies or guidance.

Viability

Version Number:	1	Page:	5 of 7
-----------------	---	-------	--------

4.14 The Local Plan economic viability assessment update (2021) considered the open space and playing pitch contributions based on a cost of £1,800 per dwelling for open space and £750 per dwelling for playing pitches (a total of £2,550). The draft SPD suggests a cost of £1,277 per dwelling where the development falls within a historic ward with a deficiency in the quantity of all categories of open space or where it is located outside of all catchment areas for open spaces or if the open spaces within the catchment are of poor quality. In addition, a contribution for playing pitches will be sought (£803 per dwelling in March 2024 as well as for indoor and built sport facilities (e.g. £504 for swimming pool contributions as of March 2024 and £460 for sports halls provision as of March 2024). As such the maximum amount that could be requested would be £3,044 which is slightly above the costs tested in the viability assessment of £2,550 and the current commuted sum payments being sought of £2,414 per dwelling¹ (based on the 2008 SPD index-linked costs).

4.15 In their report on the Local Plan Examination, the Inspectors note that Policy HS6 was sufficiently flexible as it made clear that “any planning obligations will take account of development viability”. This SPD is thus considered to provide reasonable and viable planning requirements to reduce pressure from new developments on open spaces and sport facilities.

5. RISK

5.1 By not approving the SPD, the Council could miss out on opportunities to justify and seek developer contributions or to prioritise investment for indoor sports facilities in the Borough.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Approving the recommendations in this report does not create any additional financial implications for the Council and will help to secure financial contributions to assist the Council deliver open space and sports provision and maintenance in the Borough.

7 LEGAL

7.1 Legal implications are covered in the body of the report. Statutory consultation was required for a period of at least four weeks prior to adoption of the SPD.

8 POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 No policy implications.

8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. This shows no adverse impacts.

8.2 A public consultation was undertaken on the draft SPD, with all responses published.

8.3 Any equality implications related to this report will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

9 REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 This will enable the Council in the justification of planning contributions from developers to enhance existing provision or create new provision meet the needs of the local community.

9.2 Approval of the Open Space and Sports Provision SPD will enable the Council to request specific planning requirements for open spaces based on the context of the local area for major residential schemes in the Borough. Also, the SPD will allow the Council to seek planning obligations for indoor sport facilities in addition to contributions for playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

¹ Note on Commuted Sum Payments for Open Space and Playing Pitch Planning Contributions (April 2024). Available at: <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18021/note-on-updated-commuted-sum-payments-for-open-space-and-playing-pitch-planning-contributions-april-2024->

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Open Space and Sports Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Attached
Draft Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (including questions for public consultation)	Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), Masterplans and other guidance Rossendale Borough Council
Comments received on the draft SPD	Attached
Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD (2008)	Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions Rossendale Borough Council
Open Space Study (2021)	
Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy – Assessment and Action Plan (March 2022)	
Indoor & Built Sports Facilities - Needs Assessment	Indoor & Built Sports Facilities Rossendale Borough Council
Indoor & Built Sports Facilities - Strategy	
Equality Impact Assessment	Attached

OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS PROVISION

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
November 2024



If you have any queries regarding this SPD, please contact the Forward Planning Department using the below details.

E-mail:

forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Telephone:

01706 252418 / 252415 / 252412

Post to:

**Forward Planning Department,
Rosendale Borough Council,
The Business Centre,
Futures Park,
Bacup,
OL13 0BB**

OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS PROVISION

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Contents

1. Introduction	pg. 4
2. Policy and Legal Context	pg. 5
National Policy	pg. 5
Local Policies in Rossendale	pg. 5
3. Evidence Base of Open Space and Sports Provision in Rossendale	pg. 7
Open Space Study	pg. 7
Playing pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, Assessment and Action Plan	pg. 10
Indoor and Built Sport Facilities Assessment and Strategy	pg. 10
4. Determining Open Space and Sports Provision from New Residential Development	pg. 11
Open Space Study	pg. 11
Playing Pitches	pg. 14
Indoor and Built Sports Facilities	pg. 14
5. Design Principles and Stewardship	pg. 16
Designing Places for Nature	pg. 16
Designing Places for People	pg. 17
Stewardship	pg. 17
6. Monitoring	pg. 17
Appendix 1 – Current open space provision against local standards	pg. 18
Appendix 2 - Schedule of Costs	pg. 18

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The provision of good quality and easily accessible open space, children's play facilities, outdoor and indoor sport facilities is paramount to the establishment of sustainable communities. Such spaces and facilities contribute to a good quality of life, enhancing the health and well-being of the local community by providing opportunities to be physically active and socialise. Open spaces in particular, can also enhance the quality of the natural environment, including biodiversity, and are important for a place to adapt to and mitigate further climate change. In addition, open spaces also have an important role in the character of a place, providing a setting to the built environment and in particular heritage assets.
- 1.2 New housing development can generate additional need for open spaces, outdoors and indoor sports facilities in the borough. The planning system has tools to enable those additional needs to be met by requesting additional provision on development site or by securing planning contributions to deliver new provision off-site or to improve the quality of existing spaces or facilities.
- 1.3 This document aims to:
- Introduce the national and local planning policy context for open space and sports provision;
 - Signpost to findings in terms of open space and outdoor and indoor sport facilities supply and demand in the Borough from three evidence base studies: the **Open Space Assessment Report (2021)**, the **Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Assessment Report (2020)**, followed by the **Strategy and Action Plan(2021)** and the **Indoor & Built Sport Facilities Assessment (2020)** and **Strategy (2020)**;
 - Set out a methodology for the implementation of policies HS6 (open spaces provision), HS7 (playing pitches provision) and SD3 (sports and recreational facilities provision) of the **Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036**, including the calculation of planning contributions;
 - Provide design guidelines for new or improved open spaces and sports provision.



2. Policy and Legal Context

2.1 This section outlines the national and local policy context at the time of writing, including the current framework for seeking planning contributions.

2.2 National Policy

2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) (NPPF) states in paragraph 96 that Local Planning Authorities should make policies and decisions that encourage and contribute to healthy lifestyles. This includes the provision of green infrastructure such as open spaces, as well as recreational and sport facilities.

2.2.2 Provision of such infrastructure is important to meet the social and recreational needs of local communities and therefore contribute to the retention and creation of sustainable places and communities, as outlined in paragraph 97. In addition, paragraph 102 expands on the importance of open spaces, not only in terms of the benefit to health and well-being, but also for the positive impacts on nature, and to help adapt to climate change and mitigate future worsening of climate change.

2.2.3 Existing open spaces and sports facilities (including playing pitches) are protected from being built on as set out in paragraph 103 of December 2023 NPPF. In addition, any development affecting playing fields will be assessed against **Sport England's Playing fields policy and guidance**. This is separate from the framework to provide open space and sports provision arising from new developments.

2.3 Local Policies in Rossendale

2.3.1 Our Place, Our Plan

The Council Valley Plan 2021-2025 (Our Place, Our Plan) for Rossendale Borough Council identifies four strategic priority areas:



Thriving Local Economy
Our Future



High Quality Environment
Our Valley



Healthy and Proud Communities
Our People



Effective and Efficient Council
Our Hearts

2.3.2 The Plan sets out that the delivery of a high quality environment includes outcomes such as ensuring clean and attractive green spaces, creating a new Rossendale Forest and improving parks that local people are proud to visit. In addition, achieving healthy and proud communities will be delivered by providing better access to and encouraging the take-up of health and wellbeing activities including improving leisure facilities.

2.3.3 Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036

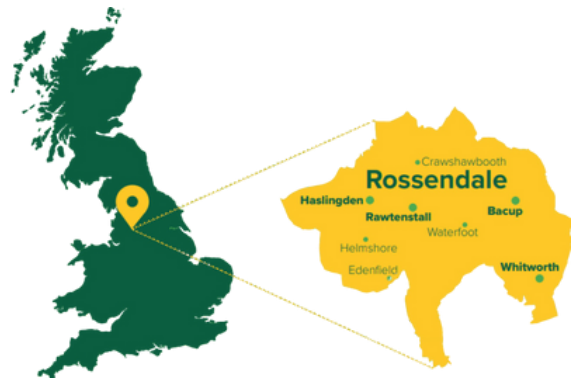
The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 adopted in December 2021 designates land and buildings for future uses to meet the Borough's needs and sets out how new development should look like and how it should fit with its surrounding. Policy SD3 in particular, outlines the need for planning obligations/contributions where developments will create additional demand for infrastructure or will exacerbate shortfalls in existing provision. Such contributions may include public open space, sports and recreation facilities and should be sought in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy 2010 regulations (as amended) or any updated regulations.

2.3.4 In addition, Policy HS6 and Policy HS7 set out the requirement for new residential developments to ensure an appropriate level of open space and playing pitch provision in the Borough. This apply to housing developments of 10 or more dwellings (0.5 hectare or part thereof) that should provide or contribute to the provision of new open spaces and playing pitches or that should contribute to the improvement of existing ones. In particular, on-site open space provision will be required where there is a local deficiency in the quantity of open space and/or where a proposed residential scheme has not good access to existing open spaces, unless it is demonstrated that it is not appropriate or feasible to do so. In those instances, financial compensation will be sought for either a new open-space off-site or to improve the quality of existing open spaces nearby.

2.3.5 Evidence on the quantity of open spaces, as well as on their quality and accessibility is provided in the **Open Space Study (2021)**. Likewise, the **Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan (approved in 2022)** draw findings on the current outdoor sports provision, identify any gaps in meeting current and future demand and set out specific recommendations. Also, the **Indoor & Built Sports Facilities Needs Assessment Report and Strategy** (prepared in 2020) provide key facts on the current provision of such facilities in the Borough. The findings of these studies are signpost in section 3 and have informed the process to require additional provision or contributions to new or existing provision set out in this document.

2.3.6 Our Place, Our Facilities, Our Plan

This **strategy** agreed during the Council's meeting of December 2022 sets out a long term vision to have three enhanced local activity hubs: Marl Pits in Rawtenstall, the Adrenaline Centre at Haslingden and another hub in the east of the Borough. This strategy is currently being reviewed and therefore could change in the near future.



2.3.7 Our Place, Our Wellbeing, Our Plan

Prepared by Rossendale Connected, a partnership of community groups and health partners, this **strategy** identifies “physical activity and healthy weight” as a priority for the Borough.

2.3.8 Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Regulation 122(2) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) sets out limitations on the use of planning obligations that can be sought when a planning permission is being granted. These limitations are that planning obligations should be:

- “(a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms”; If the proposed development is likely to create additional demand for open spaces, outdoor or indoor sport facilities or exacerbate existing deficiencies then it is considered reasonable to request planning obligations to compensate for these impacts on the local community.

- “(b) directly related to the development; and”; Planning contributions will be sought if future residents of the new development will not have access to an appropriate amount and quality of open spaces, outdoor and indoor sport facilities as identified in the most recent evidence base studies.
- “(c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development”; Planning contributions will be sought for major residential developments and the amount required will be based on the number of dwellings proposed. It will therefore be proportionate to the scale of development.

3. Evidence Base of Open Space and Sports Provision in Rossendale

3.1 In this section, the findings of the latest studies at the time of writing will be drawn upon, including information about the level and quality of existing provision, any deficiencies in meeting current demand and likely shortfalls in meeting future demand based on the housing growth in the Local Plan.

3.2 Open Space Study

3.2.1 The 2021 Open Space Study (OSS) assessed the quantity, quality and accessibility of public open spaces within the Borough. The study categorised open spaces into eight typologies:

Parks and gardens - Urban parks and formal gardens open to the public;

Natural and semi-natural greenspaces - Local Nature Reserve and other sites supporting wildlife or environmental education including expansive sites and reservoirs;

Urban greenspaces - Amenity grassland as well as urban woodland areas;

Provision for children and young people - Local Area of Play (LAP), Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP), Neighbourly Equipped Area of Play (NEAP), Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), skate parks;

Allotments - Areas to grow vegetables and fruits;

Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds - Which also provides a place of quiet contemplation and supports biodiversity;

Civic space - Civic and market square and other spaces which provides a setting to buildings and place for public gatherings and community events;

Green corridors - Routes providing walking, cycling or horse riding opportunities which can also provide corridors for wildlife in the urban environment.

3.2.2 Based on these typologies, the study provided an assessment of the existing provision across the Borough, per analysis area and to some extent for each ward. In a first instance, the quantity assessment (i.e. the surface area of public open spaces available per 1,000 inhabitants) enables the identification of the current level of provision across the borough, and feeds into the setting of local standards. Once the local standard are set, this enables the identification of areas where deficiencies or surpluses exist. In a second instance, the quality assessment of the spaces, including their value for the local community, enables the identification of those sites that are in need of further investment. And in a third instance, gaps identification in terms of accessibility to green spaces, using maps showing areas not located within standard accessible distances defined in guidance from the Field in Trust or Natural England, can assist in the planning decision-making process. It is to be noted that a local area might have a sufficient quantity of public open spaces per population, but if all are concentrated in one or few locations then there could still be accessibility gaps where a new residential development is being proposed.

3.2.3 In total, 260 open spaces were assessed covering 580 ha, most of these are categorised as natural or semi-natural greenspace (368 ha). The study also revealed that 51% of the sites achieved a high quality score, with 84% achieving a good value score reflecting their importance for the local community.

3.2.4 The study defines local standards in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility for public open spaces in the Borough (reported in Table 1). This is the baseline against which requirements for open space provision from new residential developments will be assessed. Please note that the requirements for sports provision (playing pitches and indoor sports facilities) will be assessed differently using Sport England’s calculators (see further sections 3.3, 4.3, 3.4, and 4.4).

Table 1 - Rossendale Local Standards for Public Open Space taken from Open Space Study (2020) and comparison with Field in Trust Quantity Standard. *Quality local standards open spaces per dwelling are based on 2.3 people per household in Rossendale (Census 2021 Household Size Data).

Open Spaces	Quantity Local Standards (hectares per 1,000 population)	Quantity Local Standards (square meters per dwelling)	Accessibility Local Standards	Quantity Local Standards	Field in Trust guidance (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks and Garden	0.44	10	710m (9 min walk)	High	0.8
Natural and Semi-Natural	5.19	120	Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (please see paragraph 3.2.5)	High	1.8
Urban Greenspace	2.10	48	480m (6 min walk)	High	0.6
Provision for children and young people	0.07	2	LAP - 100m (1 min walk) LEAP - 400m (5 min walk) NEAP - 1,000m (12 1/2 min walk) Other provision (MUGA, Skate Park - 400m 9min walk)	High	0.25
Allotments	0.06	1	N/A	High	National Allotment Society: 20 plots (of 250sqm) or 0.5

3.2.5 The Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard used in the study are defined as follows:

- An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 min walk) from home;
- At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres from home;
- One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home;
- One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home

3.2.6 In addition, the provision for children and young people has been assessed in more details looking at:

Local Area of Play (LAP)

Usually a small landscaped area designed for young children;

Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)

Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users, with various equipment types;

Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)

Caters for all age group and can include MUGA, skate parks, pump track etc.

3.2.7 In 2020, the study identified the provision in open spaces in six analysis areas of the Borough which is reported below.

Bacup and Stacksteads area

Significant shortfall of natural and semi-natural spaces and some accessibility gaps for parks and gardens to the east. The majority of urban greenspaces have a low quality value. The study recommends the area to focus on improving the quality of parks, urban greenspace and play provision with the potential to rationalise some poor quality provision of urban greenspaces in areas of sufficient coverage.

Eden area

Significant shortfall in parks and gardens but a sufficient level of accessibility and quality. It is the only area without any allotments provision. The study recommends to focus on enhancing the quality of natural and urban greenspaces in this area.

Haslingden area

There is a shortfall in urban greenspace and to a lesser extent in parks and gardens. There are no major gaps in accessibility except in the south east for access to parks and gardens. The focus of the area should be on enhancing the quality of urban greenspaces and play provision.

Rawtenstall area

There is a significant shortfall in urban greenspaces. There are also some gaps in terms of accessibility to urban greenspaces and parks and gardens. The area should focus on enhancing the quality of urban greenspaces and play provision. The rationalisation of some poor urban greenspace provision in areas with a good coverage could be explored.

Waterfoot area

There is a shortfall in natural and semi-natural spaces. There is also an accessibility gap to parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspaces and play provision. To some extent urban greenspaces can help fill these gaps but many are of low quality. The focus should be on enhancing the quality of urban greenspaces, exploring opportunities for enhancement so that they can help meet gaps in other types of provision.

Whitworth area

There is a shortfall in natural and semi-natural spaces as well as in parks and gardens. There are also gaps in accessibility for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspaces and play provision. Opportunities to enhance urban greenspaces so that they can help meet shortfall and accessibility gaps in other types of provision should be explored.

3.2.8 Finally, the open space study makes three recommendations.

- **Recommendation 1** - Sites that help or have the potential to help meet accessibility gaps for other types of provision should be prioritised for enhancement. The study identifies 57 such sites. (See Table 12.5.1 of the Open Space Study)
- **Recommendation 2** - Low quality/value sites that can help meet gaps in accessibility should be prioritised for enhancement. The study identified 33 such sites. (See Table 12.5.2 of the Open Space Study)
- **Recommendation 3** - Recognise low quality and value sites and explore how they can meet other needs.

3.3 Playing pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, Assessment and Action Plan

3.3.1 The latest Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment at the time of writing was prepared in 2020 and approved by the Council in early 2022. The assessment reports shortfalls in football grass pitches for adult in the eastern part of the Borough and for youth in the western part of the Borough. In addition, it identifies shortfalls in the provision of third generation artificial football pitches in the western and eastern areas of the Borough, with provision in the central area at capacity. A shortfall in terms of senior rugby union facilities in the central area of the Borough is also identified. The quantitative headline findings are provided in Table 1.2 of the [Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy & Action Plan](#) (page 9-10).

3.3.2 The [Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Action Plan](#) sets out recommended actions for a number of sites. The ones that have been attributed a high priority are summarised in the 'Rossendale High Priority Sport Recommendation' (page 49-50) of the report.

3.3.3 The last stage of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Guidance (Stage E - Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date) is currently being undertaken for football playing fields at the time of writing this SPD.



3.4 Indoor and Built Sport Facilities Assessment and Strategy

3.4.1 The latest Indoor & Built Sports Facilities Needs Assessment Report and Strategy undertaken provide key facts on the level of provision for village and community halls, sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness suites, ski facilities, gymnastics, indoor bowls and squash in the Borough. The study assessed the supply and demand for these facilities and also undertook an audit of the facilities.

3.4.2 In 2020, it reports that two thirds of the population live further away than 800m from a village hall. Also, there is a lack of provision for sports hall in Bacup and a shortfall of a six-lane 25m swimming pool in the Borough. The study notes the principal challenge for Rossendale "is to ensure that its stock of facilities continues to be fit for the future and viable". It should also continue to cater for its core market of people already undertaking activities but should expend to attract a more diverse and ageing population, including people living in areas of high deprivation. People living in rural areas and the east of the Borough should also be able to access sports facilities.



3.4.3 The study proposes the following vision for Rossendale: “To create and maintain high quality, sustainable leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and age issues and provide accessible, inclusive activities for Rossendale residents as part of an active lifestyle”.

4. Determining Open Space and Sports Provision from New Residential Development

4.1 In this section the process to assess whether provision for open space, playing pitches and/or indoor built sport facilities should be required for the proposed development is set out. This could take the form of providing or contributing to new provision (either on the development site or off-site) or contributing to the maintenance/improvement of existing sites/facilities.

4.2 Open Space Study

4.2.1 The approach to determine the requirement for open space from new major residential development comprises 5 steps and is set out below. Please note that the approach to determine outdoor and indoor sports provision requirement is different and is set out in Section 4.3 and 4.4.

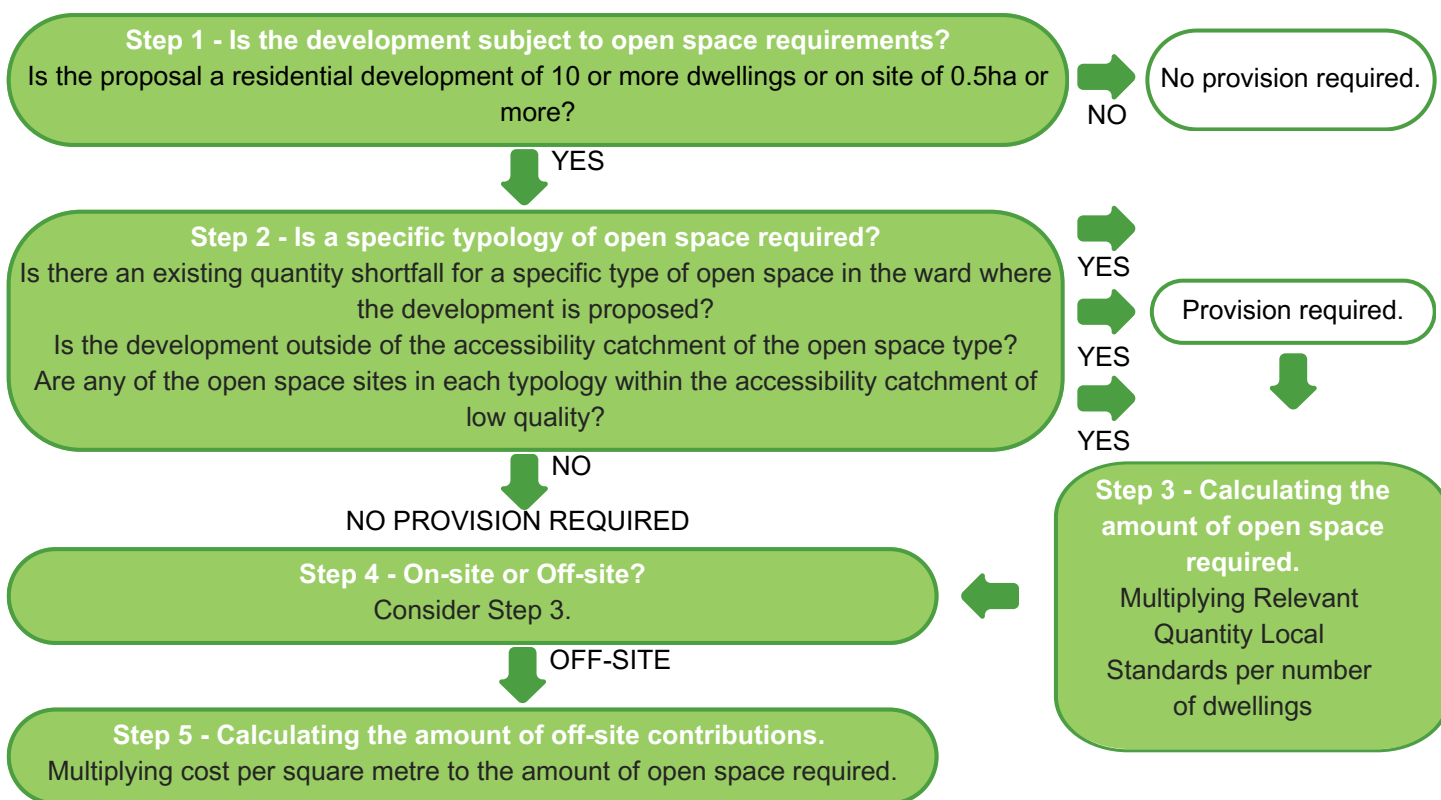


Figure 1 - Flow chart to Assess the Need and Determine the Level of Open Space Provision.

4.2.2 Step 1 - Is the provision required?

The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 requires development of 10 dwellings or more (0.50 hectares or part thereof) to provide open space provision for new residential development. This is set out in Policy HS6. Private gardens provided as part of new housing developments will not count towards the provision of public open space as these spaces will not be accessible to the public.

4.2.3 However, the Council encourages new residential development of less than 10 dwellings to provide amenity land within the red edge of the development according to the local standard of 48 sqm per dwelling. Such green space may also be able to contribute to the 10% biodiversity net gain requirement if managed as species-rich grassland, wetland or if planted with native tree species (including fruit tree) or shrub species.

4.2.4 Step 2 - What type of open space is required?

The type of open space required will be assessed on a site specific basis based on:

- Existing quantity provision at the ward level; the Open Space Study assessed the current provision in open spaces against local standards for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural spaces, urban greenspaces, allotments and play provision. The findings are provided in **Appendix 1**. Where there are existing shortfalls in quantity provision or when the future demand from the development will create a shortfall, open spaces provision will be required.
- Any gaps in accessibility according to the standards in Table 1 and; the Open Space Study has mapped the standard accessibility distance or catchment around existing open spaces. Where a development proposal falls within an existing gap, open space provision will be required.
- The quality of existing provision within the accessibility catchment; the Open Space study assessed the quality of each open space against a set of criteria and provided a scoring for the value of the space to the local community. If the proposal is within an accepted distance from an existing open space, contributions to maintain or improve the quality of existing spaces (in particular those of low quality) will be sought.

4.2.5 Step 3 - Calculating the amount of open space required.

The additional pressure on open spaces arising from demand from new development will be calculated according to the local quantity standards.

The amount of open space required for each typology should be calculated based on the local quantity standards (set out in Table 1):

Quantity local standard of the open space typology (square meters per dwelling) x no. of dwellings = amount of open space needed

For example, a development of 40 dwellings can require up to:

10 x 40 = 400 sqm of parks and gardens;

120 x 40 = 4,800 sqm of natural and semi-natural space;

48 x 40 = 1,920 sqm of urban greenspace;

2 x 40 = 80 sqm of provision for children and young people; and

1 x 40 = 40 sqm of allotments

4.2.6 Step 4 - On-site or Off-site?

The Council's requirements for children and young people provision on new residential development is set out in Table 2. These have been inspired from the Fields in Trust recommended quantity benchmark for equipped and designated play space but tailored to the local context based on the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 and guidance from its evidence base studies.

Open Space and Sports Provision

Scale of Development	Local Area for Play (LAP)	Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP), including Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
10-200 dwellings	On-site	On-site or Contribution	Contribution
201-500 dwellings	On-site	On-site	Contribution
501+ dwellings	On-site	On-site	Contribution

Table 2 - Rossendale Guidelines inspired from Fields in Trust for Equipped/Designated Play Space Requirements.

4.2.7 In terms of informal outdoor space, urban greenspace/amenity grassland will be required on-site for major residential development (based on the local standard of 48 sqm per dwelling). Urban greenspaces can include Sustainable Urban Drainage System such as rain gardens.

4.2.8 The Council will also seek planning contributions for other types of open spaces that are difficult to deliver on-site such as parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural spaces (e.g. wooded areas, wetlands) and allotments where necessary.

4.2.9 Development schemes for the elderly can be exempted from providing children play areas. However, contribution to other category of open spaces can be requested.

4.2.10 Step 5 - Calculating the amount of off-site contributions

It is considered that on-site provision of certain category of open space such as new parks and gardens or allotments is unlikely to be appropriate for most proposed residential schemes in Rossendale. For example, based on the local quantity standard for allotments, 1 sqm of such space is required per dwelling. This means that the need for a new allotment of 10 plots would arise from a 1,250 dwellings development (based on 125 sqm size allotment plot). As such any requirement for these typologies will be sought via planning contributions in order to maintain and improve the quality of existing provisions or to pool funding to create new provision. Please note that contributions for allotments in Rossendale are based on plots of 125 sqm.

4.2.11 In order to calculate off-site provision, average costs for each open space category have been provided per dwellings in Table 3. These costs are based on various sources including the costs of new children's provision built in Rossendale in the recent years, information from the Council's Capital Programme 2022/23– 2026/27 and Capital Strategy 2023/24, a Woodland Management Item at the Cabinet meeting on 18th October 2023. Further information about costs are set out in [Appendix 2](#).

4.2.12 These costs will be updated annually based on an inflation index.

Open Space Technology	Average cost per sqm	Cost per dwelling
Parks and Garden	£1.65	£16
Natural and Semi-Natural	£1.20	£144
Urban Greenspaces (based on a biodiverse modified grassland management for 30 years.)	£14	£672
Provision for Children and Young People	£214	LEAP: £476 NEAP: £380 Average: £428
Allotments	£16	£16
Total Open Space	£243.45	£1,277

Table 3 - Planning Contributions for Open Spaces

4.3 Playing Pitches

4.3.1 This draft SPD proposes the use of Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator to calculate planning contributions for playing pitches in accordance with Policy HS7 of the Local Plan. The calculator estimates the demand arising from a proposed development and calculates the costs of providing the required amount of pitches to meet the demand. It considers demand for football, rugby, hockey and cricket but excludes demand for tennis court and bowling greens. Using the data from the Playing Pitch Strategy (2020), the calculator estimates capital cost for grass and artificial pitches, lifecycle cost and ancillary facilities costs such as changing rooms. This would be a simpler approach which harvests the findings from the assessment report built onto the calculator and would not need to be reviewed yearly based on inflation due to the calculator being updated by Sport England based on their facility cost guidance.

Once a planning application is received, the demand based on the number of dwellings proposed will be entered into the calculator to estimate the level of contributions.

4.3.2 The new population arising from the proposed development will be estimated based on the number of dwellings proposed multiplied by the average of 2.3 person per dwelling.

4.3.3 For information, in March 2024, the calculator reported an average cost of £803 per dwelling (please see Table 4 for further information). There will be no need to review annually this figure for inflation as the calculator considers facility costs which are updated every quarter by Sport England.

Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator	Number of dwellings proposed	Estimated new population (2.3 per dwelling)	Total costs (grass and artificial pitches, lifecycle costs, changing rooms)	Total cost per dwelling
Example 1	10	23	£8,043	£804.30
Example 2	20	46	£15,993	£799.65
Example 3	30	69	£24,122	£804.07
Example 4	40	92	£32,115	£802.88
Example 5	50	115	£40,158	£803.16
Example 6	100	230	£80,334	£803.34
Average				£803

Table 4 - Example of Sport England Pitch Calculator (March 2024)

4.4 Indoor and Built Sports Facilities

4.4.1 The Sport England Built Sport Facilities Calculator will be used to calculate development contributions to either combined resources for the provision of a new swimming pool, or for the maintenance or improvements of existing facilities in the Borough. In addition, within Bacup and Britannia & Lee Mill wards the Sport England Calculator can also be used to calculate contributions for the improvements/maintenance of existing facilities in those wards or towards a new sports hall facility.

4.4.2 As for the Playing Pitch Calculator above, once a planning application is received, the new demand based on the number of dwellings proposed will be entered onto the calculator to estimate the contributions.

Open Space and Sports Provision

4.4.3 The new population is estimated based on the number of dwellings proposed multiplied by the average of 2.3 person per dwelling. As for the Playing Pitch Calculator, there will be no need to review annually this figure for inflation as the calculator considers facility costs which are updated every quarter by SportEngland.

4.4.4 For information, in March 2024, the calculator reported an average cost of £504 per dwelling for swimming pool contributions across the Borough (please see Table 5).

Sport England Built Sports and Facilities Calculator	Number of dwellings proposed	Estimated new population (2.3 per dwelling)	Swimming pool contributions	Total cost per dwelling
Example 1	10	23	£5,040	£504
Example 2	20	46	£10,080	£504
Example 3	30	69	£15,120	£504
Example 4	40	92	£20,160	£504
Example 5	50	115	£25,199	£504
Example 6	100	230	£50,399	£504
Average				£504

Table 5 - Sport England Built Sport Facilities for Swimming Pool (March 2024)

4.4.5 Within Bacup and Britannia & Lee Mill wards, an additional contribution will be sought to limit the exacerbation of the current shortfall in sports hall provision in this area. In March 2024, the estimated contribution for Sport Halls was an additional £460 per dwelling (Table 6). As such within those wards, the total contributions for indoor and built sport facilities amount to £964.

Sport England Built Sports and Facilities Calculator	Number of dwellings proposed	Estimated new population (2.3 per dwelling)	Sports Halls Cost	Total cost per dwelling
Example 1	10	23	£4,598	£460
Example 2	20	46	£9,195	£460
Example 3	30	69	£13,793	£460
Example 4	40	92	£18,391	£460
Example 5	50	115	£22,988	£460
Example 6	100	230	£45,977	£460
Average				£460

Table 6 - Sport England Sport Facilities Calculator for Sport Halls (March 2024)



5. Design Principles and Stewardship

5.1 Designing Places for Nature

5.1.1 The **National Design Guide** provides useful guidance on well-designed natural environment and public spaces. For example, it sets out that well-designed places for nature:

- Integrate existing, and incorporate new natural features into a multifunctional network that supports quality of place, biodiversity and water management, and addresses climate change mitigation and resilience;
- Prioritise nature so that diverse ecosystems can flourish to ensure a healthy natural environment that supports and enhances biodiversity;
- Provide attractive open spaces in locations that are easy to access, with activities for all to enjoy, such as play, food production, recreation and sport, so as to encourage physical activity and promote health, well-being and social inclusion.

5.1.2 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework includes a **Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide** with guidance on the building block of Green Infrastructure including green spaces and how to design these spaces to derive multiple functions or benefits and on how to apply the Green Infrastructure standards in various area types.

5.1.3 In addition, an Urban Greening Factor has also been developed by Natural England. This is a voluntary tool which aims to enhance the delivery of green infrastructure and improve the amount of greening in towns. The tool sets out a target score for a minimum proportion of greening for a particular site. In general a factor of 0.4 is recommended for residential sites and a factor of 0.3 is advised for commercial sites. The calculation attributes different weights to different types of surface cover.

5.1.4 **The UGF User Manual** provides further information on the description of certain types of surface cover and weight to be assigned to each one. The use of the UGF to demonstrate that a proposed development can achieve a factor of 0.4 (for major residential schemes) or a factor of 0.3 (for major commercial development) is supported by the Council.

$$\text{Urban Green Factor Score} = \frac{\text{Sum of each Service Area type (m}^2\text{)} \times \text{Factor A} + \text{Surface Area B} \times \text{Factor B, etc)}}{\text{Total Site Area (m}^2\text{)}}$$

5.1.5 In terms of water management, development proposals will be required to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and consider surface water management early in the design process. Applicants will need to consider what contribution landscaping proposals (hard and soft) can make to reducing surface water discharge. Development proposals will be expected to maximise the use of permeable surfaces / areas of soft landscaping, and the use of Green Infrastructure as potential sources of storage for surface water run-off. The proposed drainage measures should fully integrate with the design of the development and priority should be given to multi-functional sustainable drainage systems SuDS (as opposed to underground tanked storage systems), which contribute to amenity, biodiversity and water quality, as well as overall climate change mitigation

5.1.5 Choosing the location and detailed design of open space, is a critical consideration of any layout. Open spaces have an important role in surface water management which should be considered early in the design process as required by Policy ENV9. We request that the layout of proposals, including the location of open space, is informed by a hydrological assessment of a site which considers (amongst other things) site topography, naturally occurring flow paths, exceedance paths from existing and proposed drainage systems, ephemeral watercourses and any low-lying areas where water naturally accumulates. The resultant layout and location of open space must take account of such circumstances to ensure that water is most appropriately managed and integrated as part of a multi-functional approach to open space and sustainable drainage. Any changes in levels, landscaping or biodiversity mitigation / enhancement will also need to be considered alongside any restrictions associated with existing utility services

5.2 Designing Places for People

5.2.1 The National Design Guide sets out that well-designated public spaces:

- Include well-located public spaces that support a wide variety of activities and encourage social interaction, to promote health, well-being, social and civic inclusion;
- Have a hierarchy of spaces that range from large and strategic to small and local spaces, including parks, squares, greens and pocket parks;
- Have public spaces that feel safe, secure and attractive for all to use; and
- Have trees and other planting within public spaces for people to enjoy, whilst also providing shading, and air quality and climate change mitigation.

5.2.2 Design guidelines available on the **Make Space For Girls** website should also be taken into consideration to design open spaces and parks that are attractive and feel safe for teenage girls.

5.2.3 In order to encourage an active lifestyle, Sport England has published an **Active Design Guidance** for the built and natural environment centred around 10 principles. The Foundational Principle being “Activity for All” around which 9 other principles are grouped in 3 themes: “Supporting Active Travel”, “Active, High-Quality Places & Spaces” and “Creating & Maintaining Activity”. New development should have regards to this guidance to plan for and deliver active environments. In addition, **the Accessible and inclusive sports facilities (AISF)** guide from Sport England should be considered to create or maintain accessible and inclusive sports facilities and to help remove any barriers hindering access to sports.

5.3 Stewardship

5.3.1 New open spaces provided onsite should be maintained throughout their lifetime. The entity who will be maintaining the assets and its revenue sources should be identified at the earliest stage and agreed through a S106 Agreement. The Council will not be able to take on the maintenance of any new open spaces created. Long term maintenance and management plan can be requested where required as part of the planning application or alongside a S106 Agreement.

6. Monitoring

6.1 The monitoring of new open space and playing pitches provision and the financial contributions to existing open spaces and outdoor sports provision will be reported in the Infrastructure Funding Statements and Authority Monitoring Reports.

Appendix 1 – Current open space provision against local standards

Location (Wards within Analysis Area)	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural		Urban greenspace		Allotments		Play	
	Rossendale Local Standards (Hectares per 1000 population)									
	0.44		5.19		2.1		0.06		0.07	
	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (0.44)	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (5.19)	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (2.1)	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (0.06)	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (0.07)
Greensclough	1.51	1.07	0	-5.19	2.48	0.38	0.09	0.03	0.24	0.17
Irwell	0.01	-0.43	0.65	-4.54	1.99	-0.11	-	-0.06	0.04	-0.03
Stacksteads	0.19	-0.25	10.76	5.57	2.81	0.71	0.02	-0.04	0.06	-0.01
Bacup and Stacksteads		+		-		+		-		+
Eden	-	-0.44	28.84	23.65	2.06	-0.04	-	-0.06	0.12	0.05
Greenfield	0.77	0.33	-	-5.19	0.79	-1.31	-	-0.06	0.11	0.04
Helmshore	-	-0.44	21.25	16.06	3.22	1.12	0.15	0.09	0.02	-0.05
Worsley	0.13	-0.31	4.71	-0.48	1.21	-0.89	0.1	0.04	0.03	-0.04
Haslingden		-		+		-		+		-
Cribden	-	-0.44	-	-5.19	1.09	-1.01	0.04	-0.02	0.01	-0.06
Goodshaw	-	-0.44	-	-5.19	1.11	-0.99	0.13	0.07	0.12	0.05
Longholme	1.37	0.93	-	-5.19	0.53	-1.57	0.01	-0.05	0.05	-0.02
Rawtenstall		+		-		-		Level		-
Whitewell	0.78	0.34	6.67	1.54	1.64	-0.46	0.24	0.18	0.1	0.03
Hareholme	0.29	-0.15	-	-5.19	5.81	3.71	0.02	-0.04	0.04	-0.03
Waterfoot		+		-		+		+		Level

Appendix 2 - Schedule of Costs

Open Space Typology	Average Costs	Cost	Source
Children's Play Area	£116,042	£214 per sqm	Children's Play Areas improvements delivered in recent years (Green Spaces Team)
Allotments	£60,000 for 30 plots (plots of 125sqm)	£16 per sqm	Central Lancashire Authorities
Urban Greenspace (creation and maintenance of a biodiverse modified grassland for 30 years)		£14 per sqm	Biodiversity Net Gain Study (2024)
Park and Gardens (improvements)	£97,500	£1.65 per sqm	Parks Improvements in Council's Capital Programme
Natural & semi-natural (woodland management for 30 years)	£1,200,000	£1.2 per sqm	Woodland Management Item to 18th October Cabinet 2023

www.rossendale.gov.uk

Rosendale Borough Council,
The Business Centre,
Futures Park, Bacup,
OL13 0BB.



OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS PROVISION

Previously "Open Space, Playing Pitch
and Indoor Sport Facilities"

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Responses Received during the Consultation from 24 September 2024 to 22 October 2024



CONTENTS PAGE

Introduction.....	2
Comments received.....	3
National Highways.....	3
Natural England.....	4
The Coal Authority.....	6
Historic England.....	8
Environment Agency.....	10
Sport England.....	12
United Utilities.....	15
Comment received after the consultation concluded	
CPRE The countryside charity.....	17

INTRODUCTION

Rossendale Borough Council consulted on the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) between Tuesday 24th September 2024 and Tuesday 22nd October 2024.

This SPD once adopted will replace the existing Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD which was adopted in 2008. The new SPD draws on the findings of studies which have been undertaken to inform the Local Plan such as the Open Space, Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports and Built & Indoor Sports Facilities studies. It aims to provide a framework to assess requirements for such spaces and facilities arising from new major residential development in the Borough. It also sets out how financial contributions will be calculated and sought for off-site open space, outdoor and indoor sports facilities.

During the public consultation, 7 comments have been submitted from 7 statutory consultees. 3 consultees had no comments, 2 supported the SPD in particular regarding the provision of amenity greenspace to support biodiversity (including rain gardens) and the voluntary use of the Urban Green Factor for new developments and 2 consultees recommended modifications to the document. One comment was received after the consultation period concluded.

All comments received are enclosed in this document.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

From: Lindsay Alder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 25 September 2024 09:12
To: Forward Planning
Subject: FW: Rossendale Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD - ID: NH/24/08068 - Reply by 22.10.2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The Forward Planning Team

Thank you for consulting National Highways on the above consultation.

As this does not directly affect the Strategic Road Network, National Highways has no specific comments to make at this time.

Kind Regards

Lindsay

Lindsay Alder, PGCE,
Pronounced: Lind-say AI-der
Pronouns :She/Her/Hers
Spatial Planner
Network Development & Planning Team
OD EDI Lead
Equality Diversity and Inclusion NW Champion
Please note new email address. Please update your address book to include this;

National Highways | Piccadilly Gate | Store Street | Manchester | M1 2WD

Tel: [REDACTED] | **Mobile:** [REDACTED]

Web: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/>

GTN: 0300 470 5117



For information and guidance on on planning and the Strategic Road Network in England please visit:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/>

Date: 10 October 2024
Our ref: 489039



Forward Planning Team
Rossendale Borough Council
Business Centre
Futures Park
OL13 0BB

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning consultation: Rossendale Local Plan - Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) & Affordable Housing SPD

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England 24 September 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England have reviewed the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD and the Affordable Housing SPD and have the following comments to make:

Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD

Natural England welcome the reference to the Green Infrastructure Framework of Principles and Standards as part of the aim to provide design guidelines for new open spaces.

Q2: Yes, NE would support the provision of amenity greenspace on similar development. As stated, this can contribute to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements in line with the mitigation and biodiversity hierarchies which incentivise onsite BNG.

Q5: Natural England are in agreement with the proposals specified in Step 4. We particularly welcome reference to urban greenspace provision and incorporation of rain gardens and wetlands.

Q9 and Q10: Yes, Natural England encourage the use of a voluntary Urban Greening Factor for new developments and are willing to provide advice and support where relevant.

Affordable Housing SPD

Natural England has no comments to make on the Affordable Housing SPD.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) quoting the reference 489039.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Armstrong
Sustainable Development Higher Officer



The Coal
Authority

200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

T: [REDACTED] (Planning Enquiries)

E: [REDACTED]

W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Forward Planning Team

Rossendale Borough Council

[By email: forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk]

14th October 2024

Dear Forward Planning Team

Re: Rossendale Borough Council - Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD and Affordable Housing SPD

Thank you for your notification of the 24th September 2024 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

Our records indicate that within the Rossendale area there are recorded coal mining features present at surface and shallow depth including; mine entries, coal workings and reported surface hazards. These features may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

It is noted that this current consultation relates to SPDs on Affordable Housing and Open Space and Sports Facilities and I can confirm that the Planning team at the Coal Authority have no specific comments to make on these documents.

Yours faithfully

Melanie Lindsley

Melanie Lindsley BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI
Principal Planning & Development Manager





Forward Planning
Rossendale Borough Council
Forward Planning Team
Futures Park
OL13 0BB

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00797038

16 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Rossendale Council - Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Thank you for your email notifying Historic England of the intention to prepare an Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD. Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Hrycan
Historic Environment Planning Adviser (North West)



SUITES 3.3 AND 3.4 CANADA HOUSE 3 CHEPSTOW STREET MANCHESTER M1 5FW

Telephone 0161 242 1416
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England



SUITES 3.3 AND 3.4 CANADA HOUSE 3 CHEPSTOW STREET MANCHESTER M1 5FW

Telephone 0161 242 1416
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

Please provide your contact information:

Firstname and Surname

Dana Binns

Address or Postcode

Lutra House, Dodd Way Off Seedlee Road,
Walton Summit Centre, Bamber Bridge,
Preston PR5 8BX

Email address (if you would like to be added to the Planning Policy database and be informed of the adoption of the document)

██████████@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you would like to be added to the Planning Policy database and be informed of the adoption of the document please read and confirm you have read the privacy notice:

I confirm that I have read and understood the privacy notice

Please select the statement that best applies to you:

Statutory Consultee / Sport Governing Body

Q1. Do you agree on the use of local standards from the Open Space Study to set out requirements for open space provision?

Comment:
No comment

Q2. Policy HS6 only requires open space provision for site of 10 or more new dwellings (0.5 hectares of part thereof). Do you think it is suitable to encourage developers to provide amenity greenspace on smaller development? This could also contribute to the biodiversity net gain requirement if that green space is managed to enhance biodiversity.

Yes

Comment:
Any development that represents an opportunity that would contribute to the provision of biodiversity net gain, would be of benefit for the environment.

Q3. Do you have any comments on Step 2 of the approach to determine open space requirement?

No (please explain why below)

Q4. Do you have any comments on Step 3 of the approach to determine open space requirements? Some authorities have different requirements based on the number of bedrooms per new dwellings, do you think there is a need for this approach in Rossendale?

No (please expand below)

Q5. Do you agree with Table 2 (guidelines for on-site versus off-site provision)?

Comment:
No comment

Q6. Do you agree with Step 4 of the approach to determine open space requirements?

Comment:
No comment

Q7. Do you agree with the use of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator to estimate contributions for playing pitches?

If no, please explain why:
No comment

Q8. Do you agree with the use of Sport England's Sport Facility Calculator to estimate contributions for sport halls and swimming pools?

Comment:
No comment

Q9. Do you support the voluntary use of the Urban Greening Factor for new developments?

Yes

Q10. Do you have any comments regarding the stewardship for the maintenance of new public open space?

No (Please expand below)

Comment:
No comment

Q11. Do you agree with Appendix 4 (draft schedule of costs)?

Comment:
No comment

Q12. If there are any more comments you would like to make you can do so below. Please clearly state which part of the document you are referring to by using the document headings / page numbers / paragraph numbers.

No Response

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the Rossendale Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities SPD, our comments are set out below:-

OVERVIEW:

Government planning policy, within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), identifies how the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Encouraging communities to become more physically active through walking, cycling, informal recreation and formal sport plays an important part in this process. Providing enough sports facilities of the right quality and type in the right places is vital to achieving this aim. This means that positive planning for sport, protection from the unnecessary loss of sports facilities, along with an integrated approach to providing new housing and employment land with community facilities is important.

Sport England provides guidance on developing planning policy for sport and further information can be found via the link below. Vital to the development and implementation of planning policy is the evidence base on which it is founded.

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#planning_applications

The following offers advice in general terms in addition to direct response to the questions set out in the document.

GENERAL COMMENT:

Sports Facility Demand:

Any new housing developments will generate additional demand for sport. If existing sports facilities do not have the capacity to absorb the additional demand, then planning policies should look to ensure that new sports facilities, or improvements to existing sports facilities, are secured and delivered. Proposed actions to meet the demand should accord with any approved local plan or neighbourhood plan policy for social infrastructure, along with priorities resulting from any assessment of need, or set out in any playing pitch or other indoor and/or outdoor sports facility strategy that the local authority has in place. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculators and sports facility planning tools are available to assist with this process and access can be provided on request. Sport England supports the general aim of the SPD in requiring appropriate levels of contributions from new development to provide for sports facilities.

- The first aim of the document should be to act as a 'signpost' to the Council's evidence base for sports facilities rather than attempt to summarise as this is likely to produce conflicting data.

Playing Field Protection:

The SPD does not refer to the loss of any existing provision, however it is essential that the SPD reflects and complies with national planning policy for sport as set out in the NPPF with particular reference to Pars 102 and 103. It is also important to be aware of Sport England's statutory consultee role in protecting playing fields and the presumption against the loss of playing field land. Sport England's playing fields policy is set out in our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document.

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

- The SPD could set out that its requirements in terms of the demand for sports facilities 'is in addition to' any requirement to meet the Exceptions of the Playing Field Policy and the NPPF.

Evidence Base:

Sport England works with local authorities to ensure their Local Plan is underpinned by robust and up to date evidence. In line with Paras 96 and 102 of the NPPF, this takes the form of assessments of need and strategies for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. It is noted that the document refers to this.

However it is considered that the document title is somewhat misleading – this is not a Playing Pitch Strategy, nor a Built Facilities Strategy.

- Sport England suggests that its status as a ‘signpost’ document to the Council’s evidence base should be defined better at 1.3.
- 3.3 is premature as there is a current Stage E PPOSS assessment/review being undertaken.
- 3.4 Sport England that the current BSF (2018) is not up to date as an assessment of any future population requirements. Again, as with the PPOSS, the BFS exists as a stand-alone evidence base document and the summary in this SPD, as it is out of date, would not stand up as evidence with the same weight as the BSF. It is suggested that this is omitted and ‘sign posted’ only.
- Appendix 1 – the PPOSS is a stand-alone piece of evidence base which conclusions are drawn from a specific methodology and assessment. The replication of the Action Plan ‘highlights’ is misplaced in this document. It is suggested that this is omitted and ‘sign posted’ only.
- Appendix 2 - Sport England is currently undertaking a Stage E engagement with RBC which has only just begun therefore the column showing a ‘2024 RBC Update’ is premature at best. It is advisable that Appendix 2 is removed from this SPD.

Design:

If new or improved sports facilities are proposed Sport England recommend you ensure they are fit for purpose and designed in accordance with our design guidance notes.

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/>

Active Design:

In line with the Government’s NPPF (including Section 8) and its Planning Practice Guidance (Health and wellbeing section), links below, consideration should also be given to how any new development, especially for new housing, will provide opportunities for people to lead healthy lifestyles and create healthy communities. Sport England’s Active Design guidance can be used to help with this when developing existing and proposed open space and sports facilities.

Active Design, which includes a model planning policy, provides ten principles to help ensure the design and layout of development encourages and promotes participation in sport and physical activity. The guidance, and its accompanying checklist, can be used in the document to inform the design and layout of any provision with the aim of enabling people to lead active lifestyles.

<https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design#activedesignguidancedraftconsultation-19692>

- Sport England suggest that an additional aim of the document should be to encourage active lifestyles and Active Design is a tool by which that can be achieved in new and existing open spaces and sports facilities.

QUESTION RESPONSES:

Q1 – No – Sport England does not support the use of a standards approach for the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities.

Q2 – Sport England does not comment on POS and children’s play space but would encourage the application of the principles of Active Design in any provision. HS6 does not refer to the provision of sports facilities.

Q3 – No comment, if only relating to POS. 4.2.1 Step 2/3 is unclear as to how sports facilities fit into this as it is using the generic ‘open space’ terminology and refers to a standards/ward based approach. This step diagram should specifically reference both playing pitches and sports facilities as separate from open space. Alternatively a separate diagram for sports facilities should be created.

Q4 - No comment, if only relating to POS. 4.2.1 Step 2/3 is unclear as to how sports facilities fit into this as it is using the generic ‘open space’ terminology and refers to a standards/ward based approach.

This step diagram should specifically reference both playing pitches and sports facilities as separate from open space. Alternatively a separate diagram for sports facilities should be created.

Q5 - Sport England does not comment on POS and children's play space but would encourage the application of the principles of Active Design in any provision. HS6 does not refer to the provision of sports facilities.

Q6 – *No question posed. 2 posed for Q5.*

Q7 – **Yes** – It should be noted that demand based on Sport England's calculators may require the need for 'new' sports pitches or facilities. HS7 refers only to existing playing pitches and new all-weather pitches. Sport England supports the use of the methodology in general terms as outlined at 4.3.2 but would use a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4.

Q8 - **Yes** - Sport England will also provide a calculation for tennis and bowls (4.3.1). Sport England supports the use of the methodology in general terms as outlined at 4.4.3 but would use a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4.

Q9 – Although Sport England does not comment on Urban Green Factor Scores such as that proposed, this is an ideal opportunity to introduce our reference to our Active Design Guidance. Active Design would be a welcome addition to this document to provide some added context and ambition in encouraging active lives and in particular to inform the SPD's aim to 'Provide design guidelines for new open spaces provision..'.
Q10 – As above.

HELPFUL LINKS:

NPPF Section 8: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities>

PPG Health and wellbeing section: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing>

Get Active: a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-active-a-strategy-for-the-future-of-sport-and-physical-activity/get-active-a-strategy-for-the-future-of-sport-and-physical-activity>

Sport England's Active Design Guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/activedesign>

(Please note: this response relates to Sport England's planning function only. It is not associated with our funding role or any grant application/award that may relate to the site.)

I hope the above is of assistance, I would be happy to discuss any matters arising from these comments if it is helpful. If you need any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact Sport England via planning.north@sportengland.org

Kind Regards

Pauline Shearer MSc BA Hons MRTPI

Planning Manager

From: Leyssens, Andrew
Sent: 22 October 2024 17:00
To: Anne Storah
Subject: Open Spaces SPD Consultation

Hi Anne

I hope you are well.

I have reviewed the two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that are currently out to consultation. I have one very minor observation on the draft Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities SPD.

I note Section 5 of the Open Space SPD, which includes Design Principles and Stewardship. Within this section we note the references to water management in paragraph 5.1.1, which states:

'Integrate existing, and incorporate new natural features into a multifunctional network that supports quality of place, biodiversity and water management, and addresses climate change mitigation and resilience;'

UWU would like to suggest that the reference to water management is expanded and strengthened to cross reference Policy ENV9 of the adopted local plan. This includes the following paragraph:

'Development proposals will be required to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and consider surface water management early in the design process. Applicants will need to consider what contribution landscaping proposals (hard and soft) can make to reducing surface water discharge. Development proposals will be expected to maximise the use of permeable surfaces / areas of soft landscaping, and the use of Green Infrastructure as potential sources of storage for surface water run-off. The proposed drainage measures should fully integrate with the design of the development and priority should be given to multi-functional sustainable drainage systems SuDS (as opposed to underground tanked storage systems), which contribute to amenity, biodiversity and water quality, as well as overall climate change mitigation.'

We suggest the following additional paragraph to strengthen the reference to water management in the SPD:

'Choosing the location and detailed design of open space, is a critical consideration of any layout. Open spaces have an important role in surface water management which should be considered early in the design process as required by Policy ENV9. We request that the layout of proposals, including the location of open space, is informed by a hydrological assessment of a site which considers (amongst other things) site topography, naturally occurring flow paths, exceedance paths from existing and proposed drainage systems, ephemeral watercourses and any low-lying areas where water naturally accumulates. The resultant layout and location of open space must take account of such circumstances to ensure that water is most appropriately managed and integrated as part of a multi-functional approach to open space and sustainable drainage. Any changes in levels, landscaping or biodiversity mitigation / enhancement will also need to be considered alongside any restrictions associated with existing utility services.'

Do let me know if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards – Andrew



Andrew Leysens MRTPI
Planning Manager
Planning, Landscape and Ecology
Asset Management
M:
unitedutilities.com

If you have received a great service today why not tell us?

Visit: unitedutilities.com/wow

The information contained in this e-mail is intended only for the individual to whom it is addressed. It may contain legally privileged or confidential information or otherwise be exempt from disclosure. If you have received this Message in error or there are any problems, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message from your computer. You must not use, disclose, copy or alter this message for any unauthorised purpose. Neither United Utilities Group PLC nor any of its subsidiaries will be liable for any direct, special, indirect or consequential damages as a result of any virus being passed on, or arising from the alteration of the contents of this message by a third party.

United Utilities Group PLC, Haweswater House, Lingley Mere
Business Park, Lingley Green Avenue, Great Sankey,
Warrington, WA5 3LP
Registered in England and Wales. Registered No 6559020

www.unitedutilities.com

www.unitedutilities.com/subsidiaries

Emailed to: forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Acres Brook, Sabden Road,
Higham, Lancashire, BB12 9BL

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: info@cprelancashire.org.uk
www.cprelancashire.org.uk

22nd October 2024

Dear Rossendale Planning Department

Group President
Nick Thompson
Group Chair
Debbie McConnell

OPEN SPACE, PLAYING PITCH AND INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES SPD CONSULTATION

1. I am writing a response to the consultation on the Affordable Housing SPD on behalf of the CPRE, The Countryside Charity in Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester.
2. CPRE focuses on six key tests when planning for rural places, which are relevant to all spatial levels. Below, I set out overarching comments concerning the six tests (promoted by the Better Planning Coalition).

1. Local Democracy and Community Engagement

While the document emphasises community well-being as a driving force behind open space planning (pp. 1,2), it doesn't explicitly detail community engagement processes beyond referencing existing local plans and strategies (pp. 3,6). There is mention of public access to spaces (p.7) and considering community value in quality assessments (pp. 8,9), but specific routes for community input throughout the planning process are not outlined. While the SPD reflects initial consultation, it lacks a clear framework for continuous community engagement, monitoring, and accountability post-approval which falls short of the standard of ongoing democratic participation which we expect in modern planning practices.

2. Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions

The document extensively addresses developer contributions for open space provision. It outlines a clear methodology for calculating contributions based on dwelling numbers and open space types (pp. 4, 10, 11, 12). It also proposes using Sport England calculators for playing pitches and indoor facilities, ensuring contributions reflect actual costs (pp. 13, 14, 15). This aligns with Test 2's focus on a transparent and effective system for developer contributions.

3. Climate and Sustainable Development

The document acknowledges the role of open spaces in climate change mitigation and adaptation (pp.1, 16). It encourages the use of the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) to promote green infrastructure in developments (pp. 17, 18), supporting a move towards sustainable design. However, it lacks specific details on how it will ensure developments meet broader sustainability goals beyond green space provision. While the SPD promotes sustainable development through green infrastructure, it does not address carbon reduction or climate adaptation with the rigor we would expect. Stronger commitments, such as zero-carbon standards, are needed to align with national climate goals.

4. Biodiversity and Nature's Recovery

The SPD robustly addresses biodiversity and nature recovery, aligning well with the expectations of the Six Tests by ensuring that developments contribute to both protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems. The document strongly emphasises the importance of open spaces for biodiversity and nature recovery (p.1). It encourages amenity land even in smaller developments to contribute to biodiversity net gain (p.19). It promotes natural and semi-natural green spaces (pp. 20, 21) and suggests enhancing existing low-quality sites for biodiversity (p.22).

5. Beauty and Heritage

While the document references the National Design Guide and promotes design principles for attractive and functional open spaces (pp. 23, 24), it doesn't directly address heritage conservation. The focus is primarily on the design of new spaces rather than protecting existing heritage assets. Although the SPD promotes good design, it lacks a detailed focus on heritage preservation and aesthetic quality.

6. Health Wellbeing, and Access to Natural Green Space

The SPD clearly aligns with the sixth test by prioritising health, wellbeing, and access to natural green spaces, making this a key strength of the SPD. The document consistently highlights the importance of open spaces for community health, well-being, and social interaction (pp. 1, 25). It sets accessibility standards for different open space types, ensuring equitable access for residents (pp. 8, 9, 26).

3. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Edward Taylor MRTPI, BA (Hons), MCD, Master Urban Design
Planning Director, Planning Manager for CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of Policy, Decision, Strategy, Service or Function, Other: (please indicate)	Draft Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities Supplementary Planning Document	
Lead Officer Name(s) & Job Title(s) :	Anne Storaah – Principal Planning Officer Nat Davies – Senior Planning Officer	
Department/Service Area:	Planning	
Telephone & E-mail Contact:	01706 252418 and 01706 252415	
Date Assessment:	Commenced: 22/01/2024	Completed: 21/05/2024

We carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices. The EIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process – before any decisions are made.

1. Overview

The main aims/objectives of this policy¹ are:
Setting out planning requirements for the provision of open space, playing pitches and indoor & built sport facilities to meet the demand generated from new major residential schemes or alleviate pressure on existing facilities. There is an existing Open Space & Playing Equipment supplementary planning document (SPD) adopted in 2008. A new approach is proposed to calculate the nature and amount of provision required using findings from the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor & Built Sport Facility studies.

(Refer to **EIA Guidance** for details)

Is the policy or decision under review (please tick)

New/proposed

Modified/adapted

Existing

INTERNAL ONLY

MANAGEMENT ACTION REQUIRED (to be completed by the relevant Head of Service following review by Management Team / Programme Board)

- Outcome of EIA agreed/approved by Management Team / Programme Board:
Yes No
- Is a full EIA required Yes No
- Referred back to Assessor for amendment : (date)
- Published/made publicly available on: (date)

Signed:..... (Head of Service / Director) Date:

Date of Review²:

[To be completed by Lead Officer]

¹ Policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery of service.

² This date will be set on an annual basis as default for review unless otherwise specified by you.

Responsible Section/Team		Version	
Responsible Author		Due for review	
Date last amended		Page 1 of 3	

2. Equality Impact

Using the table below please indicate whether the policy/strategy/decision has a positive, negative or no impact **from an equalities perspective** on any of the protected equality groups listed below. **Please also give consideration to wider equality of opportunity and community cohesion impacts within and between the groups identified. If you have identified any negative impact and mitigating actions are not sufficient, you will need to complete a Full Equality Impact Assessment.**

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts <u>or</u> reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Age	Older people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to improve the provision of open space and sports activities within the Borough which could benefit older people.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Younger people and children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to improve the provision of open space and sports activities within the Borough which can benefit younger people and children.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to improve the provision of open space and sports activities within the Borough.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	Transsexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impact on transsexual people.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and Maternity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to improve the provision of open space which could benefit the physical and mental health of pregnant women.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Black or black British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Irish people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Chinese people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gypsies & Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other minority communities not listed above (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responsible Section/Team		Version	
Responsible Author		Due for review	
Date last amended		Page 2 of 3	

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts or reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Belief or Religion		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on women in particular.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on men in particular.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	Gay men, gay women / lesbians and bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on people of a particular sexual orientation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to equality of opportunity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to meet the demand for open space and sport facilities across the Borough.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to fostering good relations between different groups (people getting on well together – valuing one another, respect and understanding)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to provide good quality open spaces and sports facilities where people from different groups can meet and interact.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights http://intranet/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=86&documentID=251		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on human rights.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responsible Section/Team		Version	
Responsible Author		Due for review	
Date last amended		Page 3 of 3	