

**From:** Dale Greetham  
**Sent:** 01 October 2013 14:36  
**To:** planning policy  
**Subject:** Catford Town Centre Local Plan

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Catford Town Centre Local Plan**

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above consultation document. Sport England is the Government agency responsible for delivering the Government's sporting objectives. Maximising the investment into sport and recreation through the land use planning system is one of our national and regional priorities. You will also be aware that Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields and a non statutory consultee on planning applications proposing major housing development.

In response to the consultation, Sport England would like to make the following comments on the consultation document:

#### 4.5.4 Social Infrastructure, CLP Policy Option 20: Social Infrastructure and community and leisure facilities

##### **Objection**

Sport England welcomes the inclusion of CLP Policy Option 20: Social Infrastructure and community and leisure facilities section. However, indoor and outdoor sports facility requirements should be specifically referenced. CLP Policy Option 20 should therefore include the following policy objective stipulations:

##### **Protection of playing fields for sport**

Planning Policy Objective 6 within Sport England's Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation: Development Control Guidance Note (2009) Appendix (<http://www.sportengland.org/media/121906/document-7-spatial-planning-for-sport-development-control-guidance-note-.pdf>), aims to ensure that there is no further reduction in the supply of conveniently located, quality playing fields for sport to satisfy current and likely future demand. Sport England will normally oppose development that would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of, all or part of a playing field, without meeting at least one of the specific exception criteria identified in Sport England's policy 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' (1997), a copy of which can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>. Sport England's policy is consistent with that of the Government's set out in the NPPF.

##### **Protecting existing places for sport**

Planning Policy Objective 2 aims to prevent the loss of existing sports facilities. Sport England opposes the redevelopment of such facilities, unless equivalent or better replacement facilities are provided (in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility) in a suitable location. The only exception to this policy is where it can be proved that the facility is genuinely redundant and there is no demand for a replacement based on a thorough local assessment.

##### **Planning new places for sport**

Planning Policy Objective 7 aims to support the development of new facilities, the enhancement of existing facilities and the provision and/or improvement of access to the natural environment which will secure opportunities to take part in sport and which can be achieved in a way which meets

sustainable development objectives.

**Providing for sport through new development**

Planning Policy Objective 8 aims to promote the use of planning obligations as a way of securing the provision of new or enhanced places for sport and a contribution towards their future maintenance, to meet the needs arising from new development.

We hope these comments can be given full consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any queries or would like to discuss the response.

Kind Regards

**Dale Greetham**  
Planner