

Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Supplementary Planning Document
Draft Consultation Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This statement is the 'Consultation Statement' for the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as required by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This statement sets out early stakeholder engagement and how the public and other stakeholders will be consulted upon the SPD. Following the consultation period, this statement will be expanded to summarise the comments received during the consultation period, including details of how the issues raised have been dealt with in working towards a final SPD for adoption.
- 1.2 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide guidance to supplement the policies and proposals in the District Plan. SPDs do not have to go through the formal examination process, but consultation with stakeholders and the wider community is still a vital part of the preparation process. The scope of consultation and decision on who will be consulted will reflect the nature of the SPD.

2. Town and Country Planning Regulations

- 2.1 The SPD is produced in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The relevant regulations relating to the consultation process are explained below.
- Regulation 12: Regulation 12(a) requires the Council to produce a consultation statement before adoption of the SPD, this must set out who was consulted, a summary of the issues raised, and how these issues were incorporated in to the SPD.
 - Regulation 12(b) requires the Council to publish the documents for a minimum 4 week consultation, specify the date when responses should be received and identify the address to which responses should be sent.

- Regulation 35: Regulation 12 states that when seeking representations on an SPD, documents must be available in accordance with Regulation 35. This requires the Council to make documents available by taking the following steps;
 - Make the document available at the principal office and other places within the area that the Council considers appropriate;
 - Publish the document on the Council's website.

3. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- 3.1 The Council's current SCI was adopted in 2013 and explains how the council will involve the community in plan-making and in the consideration of planning applications. Since 2013 there have been changes to legislation and the District Plan has been adopted.
- 3.2 Therefore, the Council is updating its SCI. A revised document has recently been subject to public consultation with the aim to adopt it in October. The principles of inclusive and accessible consultation continue but the revised SCI includes more information about neighbourhood planning, the use of social media and the expectation that SPDs can, if relevant, be subject to 4 weeks of consultation, instead of 6 weeks.

4. Early consultation

- 4.1 The contribution requirements identified in this SPD are based on the principles and provision standards established in three studies produced as part of the evidence base for the District Plan: the Built Facilities Strategy (2017), the Open Space Strategy (2017) and the Playing Pitch Strategy (2017). These studies (and therefore the background to this SPD) have been informed by collaboration with stakeholders as follows:

- Consultation with sport governing bodies and local clubs to provide information on clubs, teams, facilities and club aspirations;
- Hertfordshire Sports Partnership who provided information on the wider county context;
- Feedback from local facility providers;
- Neighbouring local authorities;
- Sport England advice on the methodology and endorsement of the final studies.

4.2 The emerging SPD has subsequently been informed by East Herts Council's Planning Policy and Leisure Services Development Officers and Sport England.

5. Proposed Consultation

5.1 The draft SPD will be published for consultation commencing during September/October 2019. It will be available for public inspection during normal office hours at the East Herts Council Offices in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, town council offices and in libraries across the district.

5.2 All consultation documents and further information on how to submit representations will be available to view on the East Herts Council website. All statutory and relevant consultees will be directly contacted, including those on the planning policy database.

5.3 Representations can be made via the Council's consultation portal found here: <http://consult.eastherts.gov.uk/portal/>

5.4 Alternatively representations can be emailed to planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk, or hard copy representations should be sent to; Planning Policy, East Herts Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EQ.