

Reference Matter 14 – 2 MIQ's Policy NE3 Item's 1 to 7

Matter 14: Biodiversity and the natural environment Issue: Would the Plan's policy framework in relation to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment be effective and justified and would the individual policies be clear, justified and consistent with national policy, and would they be effective? Strategic policy NE1 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the natural environment

Policy NE3 Open space, sports and recreation

Policy NE3 Item's 1 to 7

Statement

For Policy NE3 to be robust, logical and sustainable, Sport Winchester believes it is absolutely necessary to incorporate quantifiable data and requirement into all elements of the Local Plan document.

Sport Winchester recognises that the initial work and contribution to this programme by WCC Playing Pitch Strategy research (currently being updated), and the Open Spaces assessment, provides some of this data, but also recognise this is primarily based on the current situation, and not necessarily forward looking. We recommend and would like to see incorporated within the Local Plan, the adoption, reference to and inclusion of the guidelines for sporting requirement that are recommended by Sport England and the Fields In Trust "Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play" in England (November 2020). These are nationally recognised standards based on ensuring the population of the future will have access to the level of sports facilities to deliver and support a healthy lifestyle.

Tables 1 and 2 do not reflect the guidance and standards published by Sport England, and there is no reason why this should not be the case. The differences and shortfall in the existing tables have already been pointed out and submitted. If they were corrected, and subsequently implemented into the planning allocation of the Local plan, then the Local Plan would be both compliant and successful in this respect.

There is a danger that if the Local Plan is purely dependent on only trying to provide on identified existing need, it will not develop a place to live that meets the requirements needed.

The Local Plan must include the process for managing the negative impact of loss of facilities (such as those of the Sir John Moore Barracks site), and ensure there is a due process in place within the plan that would allocate adequate recovery and replacement of facilities, full funded by the development.

The Council has already submitted and included its own analysis of The Open Space Assessment (2022 report already submitted) which identifies a 18 Hectare shortfall of sports grounds within the current Winchester city ward and surrounding parish council areas, and any future local plan should have specific objectives and allocations to both recover this identified shortfall and to cover the increased demand needed from both new houses and the growing population.

This should be stipulated and incorporated within policy NE3, and become a requirement for all planning considerations in the area covered within the local plan.

