

APPENDIX D – POLICY IF4 (OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES)

RESPONSES TO PROPOSED POLICIES

| CHAPTER: 9 | | POLICY NUMBER: IF4 | POLICY NAME: OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES | | |
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| MAIN ISSUES RAISED | COUNCIL RESPONSE | ACTION | RESPONDENT ID | RESPONDENT NAME | |
| Support | | | | | |
| Supported [as the policy will] increase activity, social connectivity and improve health and wellbeing. | Noted | No change | 45 | Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board | |
| Support | | | 92 | Ashby de la Zouch Town Council | |
| ODAPC is supportive of the creation and enhancement of open spaces & sports/recreation facilities, and would challenge the loss of any open space through development proposals. | Noted (also see section on loss of open space below) | No change | 175 | Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council | |
| Evidence | | | | | |
| Sport England welcomes the Council's commitment to update the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Built Facilities Assessment which are both out-of-date. | Noted, this evidence has been drafted and is in the process of being signed off via the governance process set out in the Committee Report. Its findings will also be inputted into the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. A Viability Assessment of the Regulation 19 Plan will be carried out. | See amendments to part (1) and (3) of Policy IF4. Update the supporting text at Regulation 19 stage to refer to the evidence base studies and the expected open space standards. | 143 | Sport England | |
| [NWLDC should instruct updated evidence to understand what POS standards would be appropriate and account for the standards in a whole plan Viability Assessment] | | | 187; 656 | Define Planning & Design Ltd (Bloor Homes); Define Planning & Design (Rosconn Strategic Land) | |
| This policy does not go far enough and will result in developers doing minimum to box tick when it comes to the provision of walking, cycling | Policies need to be justified by evidence. Requirements for open space etc. needs to be directly related to the development and of | | 419 | Clare Taylor | |

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| routes and green space. This policy should be more detailed and specific. | <p>a reasonable scale/type. Policies also need to be flexible because circumstances will differ from site to site. For example, a site may be adjacent to an existing facility where it would make sense to make improvements to that facility rather than provide a new facility.</p> <p>Onsite open space will be sought in line with the amended part (1) of the policy and clarity/explanation will be provided in the supporting text.</p> | | | |
| Threshold/Standards for provision | | | | |
| With regards to proposed thresholds, Section 8 of the NPPF advises that any new sports facility needs arising as a result of new development should be met. With an up-to-date and robust evidence base in place the Council can use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator and Sports Facilities Calculator which are important planning tools for assessing the demand and requirement for additional on site and/or off site provision and/or potential cost contributions arising from any development for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. | Noted. | <p>Include reference to the Playing Pitch Calculator and Sports Facilities Calculator in the supporting text of the Regulation 19 plan.</p> <p>Where there are any onsite requirements, update any site allocation policies at Regulation 19 stage.</p> | 143 | Sport England |
| The policy needs to outline the expected levels of delivery which should be in accordance with recognised standards and provide | Noted, the policy as been amended accordingly and the supporting text will be rewritten at | See amendments to part (1) and (3) of Policy IF4. | 341 | Leicestershire County Council (landowner) |

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| justification for exceeding that requirement due to factors such as local demand. | Regulation 19 stage to provide more clarity. | | | |
| Bloor Homes agrees that recreational facilities should be provided on major residential schemes and that the scale of the provision should relate to the scale of the proposed development and context, having regard to existing facilities in the vicinity. | Noted | See amendments to part (1) and (3) of Policy IF4. Update the supporting text at Regulation 19 stage to refer to the evidence base studies and the expected open space standards. | 245; 256 | Evolve Planning (Bloor Homes); Evolve Planning (Cameron Homes) |
| [Some flexibility should be incorporated into the policy to enable POS delivery to reflect settlement-specific evidence of existing provision and the resultant demand for specific typologies, as well as site-specific considerations.] | Whilst amendments to the policy will be made which refer to open standards and offsite contributions; the policy still incorporates flexibility. The supporting text should be expanded on at Regulation 19 stage to confirm this. | Amend supporting text to clarify circumstances in which a flexible approach would be appropriate. | 187; 656 | Define Planning & Design Ltd (Bloor Homes); Define Planning & Design (Rosconn Strategic Land) |
| The draft policy appears to suggest a more flexible approach to open space and sports provision based on local characteristics and considerations, rather than setting a rigid space standard. This approach is welcomed. | | | 214 | Stantec UK (Bloor Homes and Taylor Wimpey) |
| [Natural England welcomes the strong link to the Green Infrastructure Policy (IF3) and recommends referencing its Accessible Greenspace Standards to assess open space needs. The | Noted, the Open Space Strategy recommends that we use the latest Fields in Trust Standards. We have said that we would add commentary about Natural England's Green Infrastructure | Check for consistency and cross reference with policies IF3 and En1 where appropriate. | 223 | Natural England |

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| Environmental Improvement Plan prioritises access to green and blue spaces within a 15-minute walk from home, which should inform this policy and IF3. Biodiversity Net Gain units should be used to enhance biodiversity in parks, playing fields, and open spaces.] | Framework: Principles & Standards to the supporting text for Policy IF3. | | | |
| Design | | | | |
| Open Space is a key issue for Policing within the planning process of new developments with particular attention to Safer Streets issues. Ongoing government funding has been focused on providing Safer Routes through Open Spaces with attention to trimming of ground level foliage to 1m and trees to have foliage trimmed to 2m from the ground to provide a 1m clear field of vision. Also lighting, signage and CCTV improvements are under consideration. Any new appropriate Open Spaces should consider these issues, to provide safe transit and use of these areas. Women and girls, as well as all vulnerable persons have been subject to crime and would be able to benefit from early consideration via the planning process. | Noted. These are detailed design comments and were forwarded to the Council's Urban Designer for consideration in the updated Design Guide. | No change to Policy IF4 | 205 | Leicestershire Police |
| There are recommendations made in the Make Space for Girls – safer parks guidance that would be useful to include within this section – the | Noted. These are detailed design comments and were forwarded to the Council's Urban Designer for | No change to Policy IF4 | 341 | Leicestershire County Council |

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| recommendations support creating recreational spaces that are feel safer and more inclusive to girls and women as well providing spaces across the life course for different age groups | consideration in the updated Design Guide. | | | |
| There may be opportunities for schools to use this type of space for teaching and learning as well as the possibility of schools managing such spaces | Noted, the reports refer to provision on/adjacent to school sites as well as the need for such facilities to provide community access | No change | 341 | Leicestershire County Council |
| Loss of Open Space | | | | |
| ODAPC is supportive of the creation and enhancement of open spaces & sports/recreation facilities, and would challenge the loss of any open space through development proposals. | Noted | No change | 175 | Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council |
| The policy needs to apply to the protection of all playing fields, sport and recreation facilities in the District and not differentiate between protection for facilities within the Limits to Development and facilities within the Countryside. To apply different levels of protection would be contrary to the wording in paragraphs 102 and 103 of the NPPF. | Noted and agreed. | Amend part (4)(b) and delete part (5) of the policy so that it does not differentiate between the countryside and limits to development. | 143 | Sport England |
| Development should avoid open spaces, to preserve the National Forest setting wherever possible. | This appears to be a comment about development in the countryside rather than on open space for recreational purposes. The draft National Forest policy (En3) deals with the relationship | No change | 180 | Ashby Wolds Town Council |

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| | between new development and the setting of the National Forest. | | | |
| Other | | | | |
| The policy fails to recognise the need to designate areas of local green space in accordance with national policy. | Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. There is no requirement for LGS's to be designated in Local Plans and the Local Plan includes a policy for the loss of open space. In North West Leicestershire, Local Green Spaces have been designated through Neighbourhood Plans. | No change | 341 | Leicestershire County Council (landowner) |