

Dear Selina,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above named application for the redevelopment of an existing sports pavilion to create two changing rooms, changing facilities for match officials, plus clubhouse room, kitchen and WC facilities, including new extension to the entrances of the changing rooms and new windows and doors with integrated security shutters. Also extending podium deck area to the south elevation with ramped access.

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, as defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). The consultation with Sport England is therefore a statutory requirement.

Sport England has consulted the ECB on the proposal and we have received the following comments. The ECB comments that along with Hampshire Cricket Board they met with the applicant and cricket club representatives on the site to review the designs and wider plans on the 12th April 2022. Ahead of this meeting, the proposed revised internal lay-out was shared and the ECB confirmed that the proposed design is compliant with its guidance – notably with the main changing rooms have direct access to the playing area. Noting the potential changing flexibility within the Officials Area, the ECB would recommend that individual cubicle toilets are provided in both changing spaces (single & double), and the one shown in the corridor dispensed with. Also, the ECB comments that as discussed during the above mentioned visit, if possible, can provision for scorers be adopted within the scheme?

The Hampshire Cricket Board are fully aware of this project and it will be included within their emerging County Facilities Strategy. Overall, the ECB is fully supportive of the proposal.

Sport England has considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (in particular Para. 99), and against its own playing fields policy, which states:

'Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of:

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or
- land allocated for use as a playing field

unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.'

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document can be viewed via the below link:

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

Sport England is satisfied that the proposed development does not result in any material impact on the playing field and that the ECB is fully supportive of the proposal. On that basis, Sport England is satisfied that the application meets exception 2 of our playing fields policy, in that:

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field, and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.'

This being the case, Sport England **does not wish to raise an objection** to this application. We would however ask that consideration is given to the ECB's detailed comments on the design and layout of the facility to ensure compliance with their technical design guidance.

The absence of an objection to this application, in the context of the Town and Country Planning Act, cannot be taken as formal support or consent from Sport England or any National Governing Body of Sport to any related funding application, or as may be required by virtue of any pre-existing funding agreement.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact the undersigned at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal (MRTPI)
Planning Manager