Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan Examination

HEARING STATEMENT PREPARED BY SPORT ENGLAND

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<th>Matter 11  Health and Well-being</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HWC3 Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity</strong></td>
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<td>Are the Borough’s Audit and Needs Assessment findings for playing pitches and sports facilities now available and on the website? Have the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Sports Facilities Strategy referred to in MM5 now been published and are they available on the website? Do the findings of these support the proposals and policies in the Plan?</td>
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Sport England understands that the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy has now been formally adopted and published by the authority.

The strategy documents will assist in guiding proposals and policies in the Plan by identifying sites for protection, enhancement and provide new provision to meet current and future demand. Sport England therefore does not support the Council’s proposed modification to the Plan MM5 as it still refers to the assessment report and not the adopted Playing Pitch Strategy.

The Policy should clearly set out that the Playing Pitch Strategy (or any subsequent updates), which meets the requirements of NPPF paragraph 97, would be the evidence base to help inform/support the protection, enhancement and the provision of new playing pitch provision (and ancillary provision) within the authority.
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Matter 11  Health and Well-being

HWC3 Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity
7. Does the policy provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal? How will proposals be ‘supported’ in practice? What are the ‘Sport England Active Design Principles’ that will be applied?

As proposed through MMS it is unclear the scale of developments which will be required to make contributions towards new sport and physical activity facilities and where the monies will be invested. The policy sets out a range of potential options such as those which could be contained within County led sports and active lifestyles strategies, national governing bodies strategies and neighbourhood plans etc. This could lead to the plan not effectively delivering the requirements set out within the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy (or any subsequent updates), which would not be in conformity with NPPF paragraph 96.

Therefore the policy should set out the size threshold of the development whereby contributions are expected and the relevant evidence base i.e. Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy which will be used guide where the investment/new provision will be made to best meet the demands generated from new development sites. Other investment projects could be identified, though they should not conflict or impact upon the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy (or any subsequent updates).

In relation to the Active Design Principles that would applied to proposals, Sport England considers that some of the principles are already contained in part within the policy such as; walkable communities; connected walking & cycling routes; and an element of management and maintenance. For principles which should also apply is activity for all, co-location of community facilities; network of multi functional open space; and appropriate infrastructure.