

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Head of Development Services	Fwd Plan Ref No:	
Wards Affected	All	26 February 2019	
Title	LOCALISING POLICY FOR OPEN SPACE, PLAYING PITCH AND SPORTS FACILITIES		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Chapter on Heritage and the Natural Environment in the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2) will include a policy specifically relating to open space, playing pitches and sports facilities, herein referred to as open space, sport and recreational facilities and / or assets. This Report is to advise Members of the preferred policy approach for open space, sport and recreation in the SSP2 and the rationale behind that decision.

2. INFORMATION

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

Chapter 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2018) seeks to promote healthy and safe communities through a planning policy and decision making approach. It highlights the importance of local communities having access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity. To make such provision there must be planning policy based on up to date audits and needs assessments. The information gained from the assessments will provide the policy direction to ensure the right facilities of the appropriate quality are in the right places to meet the needs of the present and future communities.

2.2 North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011 – 2031 (2016) (JCS) establishes that community facilities such as open space, sport and recreational assets play a vital role in promoting health and wellbeing and the sustainability of communities while contributing towards their self-resilience. It sets out a strategic approach driving, where appropriate, the protection and enhancement of existing and creation of new provision. It recognises the role of local assessments, the Part 2 Local Plans and neighbourhood planning as the means to plan for and deliver this approach on a local level to meet current and future need.

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2.3 **Local Plan Part 2: On Open Space, Sport and Recreation**

The Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan – Draft Plan (2018) (SSP2) determines that an Open Space Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy will be prepared. These will provide an up-to-date evidence base in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and progress the policy objectives of the JCS on a local level.

2.4 Commissioned in November 2018, the Strategies are based on an audit of provision and needs assessment from now up to 2031. Each Strategy will deliver a prioritised action plan which will identify individual projects to enhance and enrich existing provision, remedy current deficiencies and provide recommendations to meet future predicted demand. The Strategies are due for completion in January 2020, after the proposed Submission of the SSP2 to the Secretary of State in August 2019.

2.5 **Local Plan Part 2: The Preferred Policy Approach**

The preferred policy approach will be to provide a policy hook to the key documents that seek to protect, enhance and create new open spaces, playing pitches and sports facilities. These will include the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategies.

2.6 Making the Strategies a reference point for policy is logical as these documents will be regularly updated to remove projects which have been delivered and include new projects coming forward. The three Strategies will set out a clear and localised approach to planning and delivering open space, playing pitches and sports facilities from now until 2031. They will advise on potential rationalisation with respect to surplus capacity; identify which facilities, including changing rooms and auxiliary support facilities need protection and or enhancement; recommend appropriate locations for new provision and provide a calculator to secure developer contributions from new development in the interest of open space, sport and recreational provision.

2.7 In conclusion, Members are asked to note the proposed preferred policy approach being taken forward into the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan i.e. it will contain a policy hook directing policy officers and developers to the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategies. These documents will guide decision making and masterplanning with respect to open space sport and recreational provision within the Borough. They will ensure a strategic approach to the development and delivery of such provision for now until 2031.

3. **CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

3.1 The next stage of consultation will be for Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, otherwise known as the Pre-submission consultation. This document will subsequently be Submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration (Regulation 20), along with other

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supporting documentation, consultation responses and any further comments or resolutions agreed by the Authority.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The policy on open space, sport and recreation will be contained within the SSP2 which forms part of the North Northamptonshire Development Plan. The Development Plan will guide the provision of sustainable growth in Kettering Borough.

5. USE OF RESOURCES

5.1 The cost of preparation of the SSP2 will be met within the existing Development Services Planning Policy budget.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the preferred policy approach in the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan for open space, sport and recreation will be to provide a policy hook directing policy officers and developers to the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategies. These documents will guide decision making and masterplanning with respect to open space sport and recreational provision within the Borough. They will ensure a strategic approach to the development and delivery of such provision from now until 2031.

Previous Reports/Minutes:

None

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