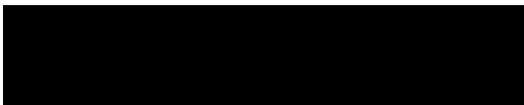




**SPORT
ENGLAND**

Creating sporting opportunities in every community

Planning Policy Team,
Harborough District Council,
The Symington Building,
Adam & Eve Street,
Market Harborough
LE16 7AG



18 June 2025

Dear Planning Policy Team,

Sport England ref: SP/25/00006586 – Regulation 19 – Proposed Draft Submission of the Harborough Local Plan

Thank you for allowing Sport England to make comments on the above document. We have now registered an account on your consultation portal.

Given the nature of the comments that Sport England would like to make, we have adjusted the format slightly and we hope that this is acceptable to the Council.

Sport England has an established role within the planning system which includes providing advice and guidance on all relevant areas of national, regional and local policy as well as supporting local authorities in developing the evidence base for sport.

Sport England's role is focused exclusively on sport, although it is recognised that sport can, and does, play an important part in achieving wider social, community and economic benefits (most notably in the context of health). Sport England recognises the vital role that the planning system can play in assisting with the delivery of our strategy. In addition, the development of sport within a local area can provide sufficient benefits to assist local authorities with the implementation of Local Plans and Frameworks. In this, well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and



**SPORT
ENGLAND**

Creating sporting opportunities in every community

recreation are fundamental to deliver broader Government objectives.

Sport England's response to the consultation is outlined in the attached table.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on the details listed below.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Planning Manager, Planning & Active Environments

[Redacted contact details]

Policy:	Comment
Policy DS05 Development Strategy: Supporting Strategic Infrastructure	Sport England welcomes the inclusion of this policy and in particular the contrary in Paragraph 4.52 highlighting the issues raised in the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy 2022 and in the PPS Stage E Review 2024. Is the Council's intention to publish the Stage E Review document as it does not currently appear in the list of Supporting Evidence.
Policy SA01: Site Allocations QA1 – Gartree Road BA1 – Land off Frolesworth Road	All of these allocations adjoin playing fields and sports facilities. Allocation QA1 adjoins sports lit hockey pitches and BA1 adjoins a cricket pitch. The allocations should comply with the requirements of paragraph 200 of the NPPF (2024) which requires that new development should be integrated effectively with existing community facilities such as sports clubs. These existing facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established. Therefore, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should include details of measures to protect the operation of the adjoining sports facilities from any significant adverse effect arising from the siting of this new development. Suitable mitigation measures may impact on the number of dwellings that can be constructed at the proposed housing sites.
GG1 Land north of London Road B1: Land at	

<p>Inclusive Design</p>	<p>active choice the easy choice for people and communities.</p> <p>Sport England in partnership with Active Travel England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities have produced the Active Design Guidance (2023). This guide seeks to help planners, designers and everyone involved in delivering and managing our places to create and maintain active environments. The foundation principle of “Activity for all” is supported by the remaining principles which are brought together under the three themes of ‘Supporting active travel,’ ‘Active, high-quality places and spaces’ and ‘Creating and maintaining activity.’</p> <p>The Active Design Principles are aimed at contributing towards the Government’s desire for the planning system to promote healthy communities through good urban design.</p> <p>The guidance and checklist can be viewed on this link: https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design</p>
<p>Policy DM05: Green and Blue Infrastructure and Open Space</p>	<p>Sport England welcomes the inclusion of the provision of outdoor sports space being in accordance with the Playing Pitch Strategy. As Harborough District Council has an up-to-date Playing Pitch Strategy then the Council can use Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator to calculate on-site requirements and/or off-site contributions into sport and recreation to meet the demands generated by the additional population which would occupy proposed housing allocation sites. The calculator uses key data from the PPS to estimate what the additional demand generated from specific housing developments for the different pitch sport types is likely to be.</p>

One of the key strategic actions in the Council's PPS (2022) is to ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved sport facilities and the resource documented against these actions is "*as determined by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator.*" As such, reference to the use of Sport England's calculators should be included in the wording of Policy DM05

With regards to the wording under 4. of Policy DM05, instead of using the words "Playing Pitches," the words "**Playing Fields**" should be used to ensure that this Policy is in accordance with the requirements of Paragraph 104 of the NPPF that "*Playing Fields should not be built on*" unless one of the specified criteria is met. A definition of "Playing Field" is provided in Annex 2 of the NPPF which is the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.