

Policy SL1

Sports and Leisure Facilities

The Council recognises the important role that high quality sporting facilities play in the District's economy and in attracting visitors to the District.

1. To help achieve the Council's ambition to create a world class cluster of sporting facilities in the north of the District, proposals for new large scale sporting facilities will be supported, where:
 - a. They meet an identified need;
 - b. They are sustainably located with good transport links and access;
 - c. They create new local employment and skills opportunities and contribute to the local economy;
 - d. They make a valuable contribution to the health and wellbeing of the local community; and
 - e. They are in accordance with other relevant Local Plan policies.
2. The existing sport and leisure provision within the District will be retained, unless it can be demonstrated that the tests set out in national policy have been met. Any reprovision of sport and leisure facilities must take account of local needs and quality improvements. These include:
 - a. All indoor sports facilities including swimming pools;
 - b. All sports pitches;
 - c. Golf courses;
 - d. Multi-use games areas;
 - e. Outdoor gyms; and
 - f. Playing fields and sites on educational establishments.
3. Any redevelopment of sports and leisure provision must prioritise other sport and leisure uses in the first instance, followed by other non-residential employment generating uses before a residential use.
4. Proposals to expand and improve the quantity and quality of the District's existing sport and leisure provision including playing pitches, indoor sports provision, as well as informal sports areas to provide facilities and access for all, will be supported. New playing pitches must be appropriately surfaced and capable of competition use unless not technically feasible. Pitch sizes should be informed by the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and constructed to FA recommended pitch size guidance.
5. Proposals to increase the quantity of 'pay and play' provision and/or community access will be supported.
6. New educational establishments must include facilities for community use and be subject to formal community use agreements.
7. Development to support open space, sport or leisure facilities will be supported where it is ancillary to the overall use of the site and is in accordance with other relevant Local Plan policies.