

App Ref: 67658 - Land West of Radcliffe Moor Rd BL2 6QU - Sport England Ref: PA/21/NW/BUR/60026

Sport England response - no objection add condition

Thank you for forwarding the additional information to me for comment.

Having consulted with the Football Foundation and Lancashire FA I am satisfied that all elements of the proposal comply with both Sport England and Football Foundation guidance. It is clear the proposal will provide an appropriate replacement facility for the loss of the existing site at Wyresdale FC (Bolton application ref: 12412/21). The legal mechanism to secure the replacement site will be via a Grampian style condition on application 12412/21, and Sport England will ensure that condition is applied to any subsequent planning approval in the response to Bolton Council.

Although the agent has stated the Management and Maintenance of the replacement site will be the responsibility of the Football Club there is nothing in the supporting statement that details how that will be implemented. For that reason, and to ensure the site is sustainable, a condition for a Management and Maintenance Scheme is required, wording is set out below.

It should be noted that Sport England do not agree with the agents view that this proposal is to meet a deficiency in pitch provision within Bury. The proposal is to provide a replacement facility for the loss of playing field in Bolton and to provide the specific needs of Wyresdale Football Club.. However, once constructed there may be opportunity for the Football Club to offer use to non club pitch users if there is sufficient spare capacity to do so.

Conclusions and Recommendation

Given the above assessment, Sport England **does not wish to raise an objection** to this application as it is considered to meet paragraph 99(b) of the NPPF and Exception 4 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. The absence of an objection is subject to the following condition and informatives being attached to the decision notice should the local planning authority be minded to approve the application:

Before the development is brought into use, a Management and Maintenance Scheme for the facility including management responsibilities, a maintenance schedule and a mechanism for review shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority after consultation with Sport England. The measures set out in the approved scheme shall be complied with in full, with effect from commencement of use of the development.

Reason: To ensure that a new facility is capable of being managed and maintained to deliver a facility which is fit for purpose, sustainable and to ensure sufficient benefit of the development to sport and to accord with Development Plan Policy [insert relevant local plan policy] and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.

Informative: the applicant is advised to consult with the Football Foundation to prepare the Management and Maintenance Scheme to ensure the new facility can be managed and maintained sustainably, and in accordance with Football Foundation requirements.

If you wish to amend the wording of the condition, or use another mechanism in lieu of the conditions, please discuss the details with the undersigned. Sport England does not object to amendments to conditions, provided they achieve the same outcome and we are involved in any amendments.

Sport England would also like to be notified of the outcome of the application through the receipt of a copy of the decision notice.

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 me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Pudge BA(Hons) BTP MRTPI
Planning Manager – North West