



**Statement of Common Ground**  
**between Sport England and Fareham Borough**  
**Council**

**September 2021**

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## **1 Introduction**

### What is a Statement of Common Ground?

- 1.1 The Duty to Co-operate, introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (amended by Section 33A of the Localism Act) places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and other prescribed bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to develop development plan documents, including activities that prepare the way or support the activities of preparing development plan documents, in respect of strategic matters.
- 1.2 The Duty to Co-operate specifically relates to 'strategic matters' which are defined as follows:
  - Sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, in particular in connection with sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with strategic infrastructure which has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, and
  - Sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use— (i) is a county matter, or (ii) has or would have a significant impact on a county matter.
- 1.4 In accordance with the NPPF (paragraph 24), public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the strategic priorities set out above. This forms part of each local planning authority's evidence for their respective emerging Local Plans.
- 1.5 This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 27 of the NPPF and the section of the Planning Practice Guidance on Maintaining Effective Cooperation. It has also followed guidance prepared by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) on this matter. It has been prepared in parallel with the Publication Local Plan (Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>1</sup>). This Plan, upon adoption, will supersede the existing Fareham Local Plan Parts 1 and 2. The new Local Plan will cover the period to 2036 and sets out the vision, objectives and policies to guide future development in the Borough over the plan period.

### What parties are involved with this Statement of Common Ground?

- 1.9 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is an agreed statement between Sport England (SE), and Fareham Borough Council (FBC) as the local planning authority in relation to Sport and Playing Pitch matters for the emerging Fareham Local Plan.

## **2.0 Strategic Matters**

- 2.1 Fareham Borough Council commissioned WYG (referred to hereon as Tetra Tech) to update its Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) in order to inform FBC's new Local Plan. The PPS provides a robust evidence base to support and inform the Local Plan. The strategy has been produced in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and both Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance as appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/regulation/19/made>

- 2.2 4 Global, working alongside FBC, completed stages A-C of the guidance. Tetra Tech were commissioned to review and update Stage C, and progress with Stage D through to the finalisation of the detailed strategy and action plan.
- 2.3 At all stages of development of the PPS the National Governing Bodies on the Steering Group (consisting of the Football Association (FA), English Cricket Board (ECB), Rugby Football Union (RFU), England Hockey (EH) and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)) were consulted and provided the opportunity to comment. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 through to March 2021, the fact that the ECB and the FA furloughed staff meant that consultation and engagement was extremely difficult.
- 2.4 Due to the pressures on FBC to progress the Local Plan, the Playing Pitch Strategy was published in November 2020 in support of FBC's Regulation 19 Publication Local Plan. However, this version of the PPS had not been signed-off by the Steering Group due to the circumstances related to the pandemic. Attempts were made to engage (Annex 1) and encourage comments back from NGBs. Sport England challenged FBC on the validity of the PPS without sign-off and so following the consultation on the Local Plan a further effort was made to seek comments and sign-off from the NGBs.
- 2.5 Following the Local Plan consultation, after further requests from Tetra Tech, comments were received from the RFU and both the FA and LTA confirmed in writing that they were happy with the strategy (Annex 2). These comments were included in a revised (Final) Strategy and Action Plan published in February 2021.
- 2.6 This Final PPS formed part of the further Regulation 19 consultation on the Revised Publication Local Plan conducted in June/July 2021 as a result of the requirement to include higher housing numbers through the Standard Methodology. At the start of the consultation, the PPS had been agreed by three of the five steering group members. Comments were received from the ECB requesting changes and additions following further engagement during the consultation. However, following consultation on the Regulation 19 Revised Publication Local Plan, no further changes can be made to such evidence documents before the Local Plan examination, meaning that the ECB comments will remain an outstanding consideration to be addressed as the report moves to Stage E (Appendix 3 provides the comments and FBC's response). Confirmation was also received from the England Hockey during the consultation that they too were satisfied with the PPS.
- 2.7 The National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance guide Local Authorities to using the Sport England Guidance for assessing the need for sports facilities. The Sport England guidance requires all the relevant parties to agree to the development of and are signed up to the delivery of the recommendations and actions of the PPS, to the satisfaction of Sport England. Following the receipt of confirmation of sign-off from all steering group members, except the ECB, FBC agreed with Sport England (28 July 2021) and clarified in written confirmation (Annex 4) from Sport England on 6 August, the following points:
- Sport England are satisfied that all suitable efforts have been made to engage with governing bodies and comments considered. Sport England advised on 28 July that they had seen the unactioned comments from the ECB but considered they could be addressed through an early review of the PPS (known as Stage E).

- Both Sport England and FBC agreed that FBC will update the PPS following conclusion of the Local Plan examination process to take into account the comments from the ECB. The proposed changes and FBC response is reproduced in Annex 3.
- FBC committed to review and update the PPS with a move forwards to Stage E – Implementation and Monitoring. Notwithstanding the timescales associated with Local Plan submission and examination, FBC committed to organising a Stage E implementation meeting with the Steering Group before the end of the calendar year.

### Areas of Agreement

2.8 Both parties agree the following points through this Statement of Common Ground:



1. That Sport England confirm to their satisfaction that the Playing Pitch Strategy has been undertaken in accordance with their guidance and represents a robust assessment of the borough’s quantitative and qualitative needs for playing field/pitches.
2. Fareham Borough Council will update the PPS to reflect the ECB comments following conclusion of the Local Plan examination process.
3. Fareham Borough Council commits to establishing a Stage E delivery and implementation meeting to progress the delivery strategy before the end of the calendar year subject to Local Plan examination timescales.

### **3.0 Signatories**

3.1 Both parties agree that this statement is an accurate representation of matters discussed and issues agreed upon.

3.2 It is agreed that these discussions will inform the Fareham Borough Council Local Plan 2037 and both parties will continue to work collaboratively in order to meet the duty to cooperate.

3.3 For Sport England the Statement of Common Ground is signed by Owen Neale. For Fareham Borough Council the Statement of Common Ground is signed by Richard Jolley.

Signed: 	Signed: 
Name: Owen Neal	Name: Richard Jolley
Position: Planning Manager	Position: Director of Planning and Regeneration
<b><i>Sport England</i></b>	<b><i>Fareham Borough Council</i></b>
Date: 15/09/2021	Date:15/09/2021



## Annex 1 – Engagement Log

20 March 2020	Tetra Tech complete first stage and circulate to all steering group members for comments
<i>Pandemic</i>	<i>Furlough amongst steering group member organisations</i>
December 2020	Draft PPS circulated and comments requested by Tetra Tech
December 2020	PPS Consulted on as part of Publication Local Plan Reg 19 consultation.
February 2021	Updates made in response to rugby. No comments from any other NGBs
1 March	Request from Sport England to get comments from ECB
2 March	Tetra Tech make further request to ECB/HCB.
4 March	ECB respond saying furlough has delayed ability to respond. May be some modest changes to club data but will get back to Tetra Tech
7 March	Response from ECB – Holiday, will review on return
29 April	Tetra Tech completed work on PPS incorporating all comments received to date
30 April	All steering group contacted by FBC and asked to indicate sign-off by 14 <sup>th</sup> May. Members were informed about the upcoming consultation on Local Plan and informed that Council needed to progress in timely fashion and so no reply would constitute happy to sign off.
5 May	FBC receive LTA sign-off
7 May	FBC receive RFU sign-off
14 May	FBC receive FA sign-off. Separate request from FA about being kept in loop on potential new sports hub at land South of Longfield Avenue
16 May	FBC receive Football Foundation sign-off. No change to document but future reference to LFFP suggested.
20 July	FBC send email to all Steering Group notifying who was yet to respond and pointer to consultation and encouragement to respond.
23 July	FBC receive contact from Hampshire Cricket Board saying would consider with ECB and confirm.
23 July	FBC sent email to England Hockey requesting confirmation
27 July	FBC try to make contact with England Hockey. Phone message left. .
27 July	FBC contact Owen Neal at Sport England providing an update to the process and request for confirmation of endorsement.
27 July	FBC receive response from ECB with changes and request for Stage E meeting as caveat to sign off
27 July	FBC email suggested way forward to ECB and SE in response.
28 July	Phone call between FBC and Sports England to agree way forward.
28 July	FBC receive England Hockey sign-off confirmation.

## Annex 2 – Sign-off confirmation emails

### ECB:

**From:** Neil Higginson <Neil.Higginson@ecb.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 27 July 2021 17:27  
**To:** Drake, Pete  
**Cc:** Simon Jones; Owen.Neal@sportengland.org  
**Subject:** ECB Way forward

No problem Pete and have notes your comments and look forward to hearing further in due course.

Yes, the PPS is a 'living document' but has not been signed off either by cricket and hockey so whilst it may have been adopted, this should be acknowledged.

As we move into 'implementation' phase and noting that your LA is a new one for me (along with a number of others) as Stage E meeting with you, SE and the other NGB's soon would be welcomed.

Regards,

Neil.

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**From:** Drake, Pete <PDrake@Fareham.Gov.UK>  
**Sent:** 27 July 2021 14:34  
**To:** Neil Higginson <Neil.Higginson@ecb.co.uk>  
**Cc:** Simon Jones <Simon.Jones@ageasbowl.com>; Owen.Neal@sportengland.org  
**Subject:** RE: Fareham PPS

This message originated outside the organisation.

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Thank you Neil,

I will consider these points and discuss with my boss about how we take them forward.

The Local Plan consultation is underway, so no further changes can be made to the document ahead of submission/examination of the Plan, but on the basis of that the PPS is a 'living document' perhaps if we put together a way forward in agreement with the steering group, including how we will include these alterations and commitment to stage E meetings, that will provide assurances to the steering group members as well as ourselves going through the examination process?

Regards

Pete

Pete Drake  
Principal Planner (Strategy and Regeneration)  
Fareham Borough Council  
01329824551





**England Hockey:**

**From:** Joanna Hawley <joanna.hawley@englandhockey.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 July 2021 23:59  
**To:** Drake, Pete  
**Cc:** Owen Neal  
**Subject:** RE: Fareham Playing Pitch Strategy

Hi Pete,

Thank you for your patience.

EH are happy to sign off Fareham's PPS.

Kind regards, Jo



**Joanna Hawley**  
Facilities Relationship Manager  
Direct: 07718 980512 |

England Hockey, Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RR  
Tel: 01628 897500 | [www.EnglandHockey.co.uk](http://www.EnglandHockey.co.uk)



**Football Association:**

**From:** Sacha Nicholas <Sacha.Nicholas@hampshirefa.com>  
**Sent:** 14 May 2021 10:29  
**To:** Drake, Pete  
**Cc:** Lee Rider  
**Subject:** FA  
**Attachments:** Fareham LFFP 3G priorities.png; Fareham PPS .png

Hi Pete

Unfortunately having been on furlough for much of the past year I have been unable to feed into this process recently and we have a number of Local Authorities who are setting similar deadlines for Playing Pitch Strategies.

I see no issue with the accuracy of the report but in terms of 3G provision it mentions feasibility to determine sites for 3G provision but we have already identified the key sites through the LFFP process so we just want to ensure synergy between the two plans if that makes sense?  
<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flocalplans.footballfoundation.org.uk%2Flocal-authorities-index%2Ffareham%2Ffareham-local-football-facility-plan%2F&data=04%7C01%7CPDrake%40Fareham.Gov.UK%7Cfc0497011b6f4c8282e708d916baa87e%7C80e430e2e3a04d31b1e686d2e862a7a2%7C0%7C0%7C637565813214525292%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9s2ZQuEqniGlqxcXaxykPYNwSVPTTpJOyQhMGpuEeCA%3D&reserved=0> (If these sites do not come to fruition then this will be revisited at a later date)

Lee Rider is now the Football Foundation lead rather than Stuart Lamb for your reference as well.

Regards

Sacha

**Lawn Tennis Association:**

**From:** Rob Peters <Rob.Peters@lta.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 May 2021 09:49  
**To:** Drake, Pete  
**Subject:** LTA

Hi Pete,

Thank you for sharing the final draft of the PPS.

Just a quick note to say I am happy to sign-off for tennis.

Many thanks,  
Rob

**Rob Peters**  
Participation Development Partner

D: 07932276060

LTA  
The National Tennis Centre  
100 Priory Lane, Roehampton,  
London SW15 5JQ

[www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk)  




**RFU:**

**From:** Kieran Spencer <KieranSpencer@RFU.com>  
**Sent:** 07 May 2021 17:13  
**To:** Drake, Pete  
**Cc:** Wilkinson, Carolyn; Allen, Neil; Rick Bruin; Owen Neal  
**Subject:** RFU

Hi Pete,

After a final read through today Rick and I are happy to provide RFU sign off for this strategy.

Our thanks go to both Carolyn and Neil for their work earlier in the year to ensure the rugby data and recommendations were accurately presented.

As some of the rugby recommendations are potentially reliant on emerging developments, we will definitely keep a look out for the Local Plan consultation and feed in if appropriate.

Many thanks,

Kieran

### Annex 3 - Additional alterations to be made to PPS following the Local Plan Examination

ECB Request	Council Response
<p>Dynamos Cricket: in addition to the mention of the ECB's All Stars Programme, could reference please be made to the ECB's Dynamos Programme. Designed to increase youth participation (and proving very successful) further details via this link:  <a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1625548/ecb-launches-dynamos-cricket-to-inspire-the-next-generation">https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1625548/ecb-launches-dynamos-cricket-to-inspire-the-next-generation</a></p>	<p>Agreed.            Reference will be made to Dynamos cricket in the following paragraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.3.9</li> <li>• 3.3.2</li> <li>• 3.3.9</li> </ul>
<p>Table 4.1: any reference to the IOG should be replaced with the GMA (Grounds Management Association) and the new Pitch Advisory Service. See <a href="https://www.thegma.org.uk/pitch-advisory-service-formerly-gantip">https://www.thegma.org.uk/pitch-advisory-service-formerly-gantip</a></p>	<p>Agreed.            Paragraph 4.3.10 and Table 4.1 will be updated to reflect change to GMA.</p>
<p>On the contents page there is no reference to Cricket in Section 4.0</p>	<p>Agreed.            Content's page will be updated.</p>
<p>On page 73 re Locks Heath CC; Rugby's preferred option is "New site – identification of a new site for the rugby club. This may need to come forward as part of a new development". So for the last point on p73 could read "New site – identification of a new site for the cricket club. This may need to come forward as part of a new development"</p>	<p>Agreed.            Will update the wording to seek opportunities for a new ground to be delivered through new development. This could include potential for sports hub as part of HA55 South of Longfield Avenue.</p>
<p>We would recommend not including reference to third and fourth teams, so as not to discount the possibility of the new facility becoming the main ground (the existing ground is a recreation ground shared with football). I would also move it up to the first bullet point, as the other suggestions are pretty unrealistic and on the basis of no consultation with the club.</p>	<p>Agreed.            Will remove the reference to 'third and fourth' teams so it reflects the club as a whole and agree that it should form the first bullet point.</p>

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From: Neil Higginson <Neil.Higginson@ecb.co.uk>  
Sent: 27 July 2021 14:23  
To: Drake, Pete <PDrake@Fareham.Gov.UK>  
Cc: Simon Jones <Simon.Jones@ageasbowl.com>; Owen.Neal@sportengland.org  
Subject: Fareham PPS

Hello Pete,

Simon and I have had the opportunity now to review this and additional comments as follows (in no particular order):

- **Dynamos Cricket:** in addition to the mention of the ECB's All Stars Programme, could reference please be made to the ECB's Dynamos Programme. Designed to increase youth participation (and proving very successful) further details via this link: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1625548/ecb-launches-dynamos-cricket-to-inspire-the-next-generation>
- **Table 4.1:** any reference to the IOG should be replaced with the GMA (Grounds Management Association) and the new Pitch Advisory Service. See <https://www.thegma.org.uk/pitch-advisory-service-formerly-gantip>
- On the contents page there is no reference to Cricket in Section 4.0

On page 73 re Locks Heath CC; Rugby's preferred option is "New site – identification of a new site for the rugby club. This may need to come forward as part of a new development". So for the last point on p73 could read "New site – identification of a new site for the cricket club. This may need to come forward as part of a new development"

We would recommend not including reference to third and fourth teams, so as not to discount the possibility of the new facility becoming the main ground (the existing ground is a recreation ground shared with football). I would also move it up to the first bullet point, as the other suggestions are pretty unrealistic and on the basis of no consultation with the club.

Simon has spoken with the club direct and they would like us to push for a new site (including Hooks' Lane rejected by the council last time round).

Once these amendments are made and seen by me/us, cricket is happy to sign off the PPS albeit would add a caveat that a Stage E meeting is held ASAP noting the Local Plan consultation.

Regards,

Neil.



Neil Higginson  
Facilities Planning Manager - Recreational Game  
England and Wales Cricket Board  
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## Annex 4 – Sign Off confirmation from Sport England

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From: Owen Neal <Owen.Neal@sportengland.org>  
Sent: 06 August 2021 16:05  
To: Drake, Pete <PDrake@Fareham.Gov.UK>  
Subject: RE: Local Plan

Dear Pete

Please consider this email our response to the 'evidence base' section of the local plan consultation.

Sport England welcomes the fact that Fareham Borough Council have undertaken work to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy for their local authority area in accordance with Sport England's guidance. Sport England considers that the Playing Pitch Strategy is robust and represents an up to date assessment of the borough's quantitative and qualitative needs for playing pitches. We note that "sign-off" of the strategy has been secured with the vast majority of the national governing bodies for sport on the steering group. Some matters need to be addressed in relation to cricket. However, it is our view that these matters can be satisfactorily addressed through an early review of the Playing Pitch Strategy and do not have any material effect on the validity of the assessment work. Given the time it has taken to develop the PPS, Sport England would expect the council to commit to an early review of the PPS, and our support for the evidence base is on that basis.

Kind regards,

Owen

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