LOCAL PLAN FOR BOLSOVER DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

AS AGREED BETWEEN

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

AND

SPORT ENGLAND
1) Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this Statement of Common Ground is to inform the Inspector and other parties about the areas of agreement between Bolsover District Council and Sport England on Policy ITCR5: Green Space and Play provision, Policy ITCR 6: Protection of Green Space, and Policy ITCR 7 Playing Pitches of the Local Plan for Bolsover District submitted to the Secretary of State on the 31st August 2018.

2) Background

2.1 The Council set out its policies in its Publication Local Plan for Bolsover District in May 2018.

Representation 9100

2.2 Sport England raised objections in its representation (ref: 91001) about the soundness of the wording of policy ITCR5: Green Space and Play Provision that can be summarised as:

- Support thrust of the policy which seeks to secure new and enhanced provision, including for sports pitches, but consider requires minor wording adjustment to be consistent with NPPF Paragraph 73 and thereby support the delivery of provision to meet identified needs. Specifically, it is considered that the walking distances quoted are too restrictive in so far as they relate to playing pitches as users of pitches and the spatial distribution of pitches are likely to be based on wider catchment areas and investment in a site beyond the distances quoted may better serve to deliver identified need in some circumstances. Add text to clarify that the walking distances are only one factor that will be taken into account and that for playing pitches the evidence of need informed by the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy will be used to consider the most appropriate site for new or enhanced provision.

2.3 The Council has considered this representation and has discussed and agreed the following proposed modification to this policy referred to above with Sport England to address their objections. Essentially, references to Playing pitches are taken out of this policy because they are referred to a new part of Policy ITCR 7. It should also be noted that the walking distances have also changed, this is not as a result of the Sport England objection but is a modification made in response to a separate representation.

(Relevant text to be deleted shown as strikethrough and new text to be inserted shown as bold):

**Policy ITCR 5 – Green Space and Play Provision**

In addition new residential developments of more than 10 units will be expected to make reasonable financial contributions, either for new green spaces, playing

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1 Representation references refer to the unique reference within the Council’s JDi consultation database system.
pitches, or to improve green spaces or playing pitches falling within the following walking distances.

- Spaces of a minimum size of 10 ha. within 7.5 km;
- Spaces of a minimum size of 4 ha. within 2 km;
- Spaces of a minimum size of 2 ha. within 800 metres;
- Spaces of a minimum size of 0.5 ha. or equipped play areas within 400 metres;
- Equipped Play Areas within 400 metres
- Amenity Green Space within 500 metres
- Recreation Grounds or Semi-Natural Green Space within 800 metres.

The Council will prioritise contributions to achieve minimum quality standards of 60% for Green Spaces and an ‘Average’ standard for Playing Pitches.

Representation 9101

2.5 Sport England raised objections in its representation (ref: 9101) about the soundness of the wording of policy ITCR6: Protection of Green Space that can be summarised as:

- Modify the wording of first paragraph to read "Development proposals will be supported where they do not result in the loss of existing..." to accord with NPPF paragraph 74.
- Modify the wording of second paragraph to read "... unless the proposal is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss." to accord with NPPF paragraph 74.
- Apply the term Green Space consistently.

2.6 The Council has considered this representation and has discussed and agreed the following proposed modification to this policy referred to above with Sport England to address their objection. (Relevant text to be deleted shown as strikethrough and new text to be inserted shown as bold):

**ITCR 6: Protection of Green Space**

Development proposals will be permitted where they do not have any adverse effect upon, or **result in the** loss of, existing green spaces, including allotments and village greens, as identified on the Policies Map or in the Council’s Green Space Strategy, and associated documents, or any future green space.

**Representation 9102**

2.7 Sport England raised objections in its representation (ref: 9102) about the soundness of the wording of policy ITCR7: Playing Pitches that can be summarised as:
2.8 The Council has considered this representation and has discussed and agreed the following proposed modification to this policy referred to above with Sport England to address their objections. *(Relevant text to be deleted shown as strikethrough and new text to be inserted shown as bold)*:

2.9 Amend policy ITCR7 to read:

**Existing Playing Pitches**

Development proposals will be permitted supported where they do not have an adverse effect **upon or result in the loss** of Playing Pitches or playing field land as identified on the Policies Map or within the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy and associated documents. Proposals resulting in a loss will need to provide a replacement facility **provision equivalent or better in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location**.

**Need for new Playing Pitches**

When considering development proposals the Council will use the Sport England Playing Pitch Demand Calculator and the Playing Pitch Strategy and Assessment to consider whether new playing pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches will be needed.

**Quality Improvements to Playing Pitches**

If improvements to existing pitches are needed new residential development of more than 10 dwellings will be expected to make financial contributions to the improvement of playing pitches and / or their ancillary facilities. The Playing Pitch strategy and assessment will be used to consider the most appropriate site for enhancements. The site must be well-related to the development. The Council will prioritise contributions to achieve minimum quality standards of ‘average’ for playing pitches.

3) **Areas of Common Ground**

3.1 Bolsover District Council and Sport England agree that:

- The modifications proposed by Bolsover District Council stated above address the concerns of Sport England raised in their representations ref. 9000, 9001 and 9002.
4) Conclusion

4.1 Based on the stated areas of common ground, Sport England agree that their representations ref. 9000, 9001 and 9002 to the Publication Local Plan for Bolsover District have been addressed and can be withdrawn subject to the modifications stated above being made to the Plan.

AGREEMENT

Signed:

Dan Swaine, CEO
On behalf of Bolsover District Council

Cllr Tom Munro, Chair of Planning Committee
On behalf of Bolsover District Council

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Helen Cattle
On behalf of Sport England.

4\textsuperscript{th} January 2019.