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To DCON; Iain Crossland

Cc Contact

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Dear Iain

**SUMMARY: OBJECTION**

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application. I have sent it to several email addresses as bounce back's keep being received to Chorley's Planning email addresses.

**Sport England – Statutory Role and Policy**

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). The consultation with Sport England is therefore a statutory requirement.

Sport England has considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (particularly Para 99) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within its 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document': [www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy](http://www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy)

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of, all/part of a playing field, unless one or more of the five exceptions stated in its policy apply.

**The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field**

The application site includes playing fields that are part of the prison and a crown green bowling green and club facilities that are used by the local community.

The playing field has been marked out for pitch sports in the past and would be lost in its entirety as part of the new prison development and a car park would be constructed in its place. Plans do not show that the playing field would be replaced, although 4 small MUGAs are proposed close to prison house blocks.

The bowling green and club would be lost entirely to the development but would a replacement of some form would be provided to the south of the prison site complex.

**Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF**

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy sets out five Exceptions. This application, on playing field land is considered in respect of Exception 4 which states:

The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:

- of equivalent or better quality, and
- of equivalent or greater quantity, and
- in a suitable location, and
- subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.

In this instance the playing field would be lost in its entirety, and there is no supporting evidence from the applicant to demonstrate how and where the amount of playing field lost would be replaced. Therefore in this instance the proposal would be considered contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to Sport England's Playing Field Policy. The loss of this playing field that was large enough to hold a full sized football pitch with large hinterland without direct mitigation for loss results in a proposal that fails to meet the requirements of paragraph 99 of the NPPF and Exception E4 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

Whilst the bowling green and club facilities would be replaced there is insufficient information provided about the existing facility to understand if the replacement would meet the requirements of paragraph 99 of the NPPF and Exception E4 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

**Conclusion**

In light of the above, Sport England objects to the application because it is not considered to accord with any of the Exceptions to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy or with Paragraph 99 of the NPPF.