

**Policy SB12 Land for Expanding Education & Recreational Uses  
Supporting Evidence SB12.EV4**

**Sport England - Shaping our Future: Consultation Document: May 2020  
Extracts: Pages 7 and 11**

**“WHEN WE MOVE WE ARE STRONGER.**

**That’s true for each of us. And it’s true for our nation.**

Movement makes us happier and healthier. It opens up opportunities and brings communities together. It’s essential for our wellbeing and has the power to make life better and fairer for everyone. And that’s why Sport England is here.

If we can help everyone move more – by enabling people to find and enjoy the activities and sports they choose – we can play our part in creating:

- More integrated and resilient communities, actively involved in shaping the places they want to live in.
- A stronger economy – boosted by the huge cost benefits of people with better mental and physical health, living in less divided communities: from relieving pressure on our National Health Service to reducing prison populations.
- A society where physical activity is the norm – powered by thriving grassroots groups and clubs up and down the country.

Some people will succeed on the national and international stage – becoming positive role models to millions and giving us a shared sense of pride. But above all, we want to create an environment where every single child has the chance to reach their full potential.

That’s what ‘winning’ looks like for us. We can’t do it alone. We can only succeed if we realise that this isn’t an individual pursuit. We’re part of a much bigger team. And that’s why we’ll work with organisations, locally and nationally, who share our ambitions – whatever their sector or industry.

Sometimes we’ll lead. Sometimes we’ll listen. We won’t have all the answers, but we can share valuable knowledge and bring together expert voices.

We’re here to champion the role of sport and activity, so all of us can enjoy the benefits of being active. That means our ambition is for everyone – and the life-changing difference that we can make together.

We are Sport England”

## **“THE BIG ISSUES**

The big issues that people suggest we should play a role in are

- Tackling inequalities – for a long time, it’s been evident that the way sport and activity experiences are designed and delivered typically meets the needs of some people more than others. Partners are clear that some people need more support to get active and stay active than others, and that it will take a determined and co-ordinated effort to tackle inequalities in sport and physical activity.
- Climate emergency – partners have told us that this represents some tangible threats, as well as opportunities to be part of the solution.
- Connecting with health and wellbeing – a sense of unlocked potential, especially around social prescribing into sport and activity.
- Digital and data – concern that sport and leisure has fallen behind other sectors in terms of the digital experience and needs to catch up.
- Workforce – how we can sustain, grow, develop and diversify the professional workforce and volunteers.
- Active environments – creating the spaces and places for people to be more active and planning to make it more joined-up for people.
- Diminishing local resources and capacity – fears about ongoing reductions in local government spending on activity, sport and leisure. A sense that places are losing capacity and capability to make strategic long-term decisions.
- School experiences – often the first and most equal opportunities that children and young people have access to - which shape their relationship with movement for the rest of their lives – are felt to be low priority for many schools.”

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