

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 01 September 2025

Question from: Cllr Hunt

Question to: Councillor Patient, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Action and Housing

QUESTION

The Council has just approved planning application 24/00136/FUL for over 400 new homes in Elland, despite an objection from Sport England, which highlighted that the development "will generate demand for sporting provision, and this is not adequately addressed within the current planning application."

At the same time, the Council is now bringing forward a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that sets out clear requirements for open space, sport, and recreation provision in new developments. Given all this, why wasn't this SDP brought forward earlier to ensure that these provisions are provided for in local plan developments.

Had the SPD been in place prior to the decision, it seems likely the Council could have sought financial contributions to meet Sport England's concerns. Now without this, there is a real risk that local infrastructure will fall short of what's needed.

Response

Since the adoption of the Local Plan in March 2023, the Planning Service has been very busy producing a comprehensive suite of Supplementary Planning Documents to support the delivery of the Local Plan. The SPDs adopted so far are:

- Garden Communities (two SPDs for each site - a Masterplan SPD and a Design Code)
- Affordable housing
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Flood Risk and Drainage
- Self and Custom Build Housing
- Placemaking and Design Guide

The production and adoption of these documents required considerable staff resources and as such it was not practical or feasible to bring the Public Open Space SPD forward earlier.

Notwithstanding the above, the Elland housing development does make provision for on-site public open space. In this respect the combined total provision of POS on Site 1 would be c.3.06 hectares. This would equate to c.28% of the total land area within Site 1 being allocated as Public Open Space. The open space includes a children's play area comprising c.1,500 sqm with a range of formal, informal and natural play equipment.