

CONSULTATION PAPER

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE NOTE 17: SPORT, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

COMMENTS FROM THE INSTITUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

This note contains the comments of the Institution of Environmental Sciences on the above public consultation paper issued by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) in March 2001

Our comments deal with the ten Questions for Consultation raised in the document. The responses we make on these effectively cover the substantive points we have on the main document

Questions for Consultation 1 to 10.

We believe that the guidance note addresses positively most of the Questions for Consultation raised in the Annex to the covering letter. Our main areas of concern, however, are as follows:

1. Q1: In terms of providing 'sufficient clarity' we consider that inclusion of more detailed definitions on various categories of sport, open space and recreation would be helpful. At the moment a composite set of definitions does not appear to be available within the guidance. This could be usefully attached as an Appendix.
2. Q6: We do not consider it beneficial at this stage to provide more specific guidelines to local authorities on application of the guidance. This may compromise local decision-making. Nevertheless, this is an area that may need further research to establish.
3. Q7: Local authorities are likely to be best placed to develop, implement and monitor standards for their own area. However, the development of any such standards should be monitored through future research to ensure best practice is achieved.
4. Q8: Notwithstanding the points raised in relation to Question 6 above, it is likely that developers would prefer specific standards. Our preference, given the points we mentioned above, for any such standards to be set by local planning authorities in the first instance.