

LOCAL PLAN SUB COMMITTEE - 15 JULY 2019

PART I – NOT DELEGATED

6a LOCAL PLAN – SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES (DCES)

1 Summary

- 1.1 This topic paper sets out the issues which the new Local Plan will need to address in relation to Community, Leisure and Cultural Facilities and proposes policy wording to be contained within the new Local Plan.

2 Details

- 2.1 Paragraph 92 of the NPPF confirms that to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs, policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities, and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments. Policies should also take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community; guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs; and ensure an integrated approach to consider the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.
- 2.2 Social and community facilities and important local services may include (but are not limited to) local shops, post offices, health services such as doctors or dental surgeries, schools and nurseries, libraries, places of worship, community centres or village halls, meeting places, sports venues, open space, play space, cultural buildings, facilities for arts, theatres, and public houses.
- 2.3 The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study identified that several community venues, such as village halls, schools, community centres and scout huts are used for sport and leisure provision and recommends that these should be protected.
- 2.4 Outside of urban areas, facilities such as public houses, post offices and petrol stations in particular can perform a vital function in terms of the economic and social welfare of such areas and to help ensure the continued vitality of village and rural communities.
- 2.5 As social and community facilities, whether publicly or privately owned, can be subject to development pressures from alternative uses it is recommended that the new Local Plan contains a policy that will protect the existing services and facilities and ensure that new development supports the necessary enhancements to, or provision of new facilities.
- 2.6 The proposed Draft Social and Community Facilities Policy is set out Appendix 1 to this report.

3 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 3.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.

4 Financial, Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

4.1 None specific.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That the Local Plan Sub Committee note the contents of this report and recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee the Draft Social and Community Facilities Policy as set out in Appendix 1

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Background Papers

National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

Open Space Sport and Recreation Study (2019)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Draft Social and Community Facilities