

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Land at GE Aviation, Kings Avenue, Hamble-Le-Rice, Southampton, SO31 4NF

Appeal by GE Aviation

Planning Inspectorate Reference: APP/W1715/W/20/3255559

Eastleigh Borough Council Reference O/18/84191

INTERIM POSITION STATEMENT: SPORTS FACILITY PROVISION

27 OCTOBER 2020

1. This Interim Position Statement is provided on behalf of Eastleigh Borough Council (“the Council”) to explain the current position with respect to the fourth reason for refusal (on sports facility provision).
2. The submitted Proof of Evidence by Matthew Eames titled ‘The Mitigation and Enhancement of the Sports Facilities Located at GE Aviation’ sets out the background and context to the sports provision matter; and details the mitigation package that was proposed at the time that the appeal application was refused.
3. The off-site mitigation package provides for both cricket and football improvements within the Hamble local area to mitigate the loss of sports facilities within the appeal site.
4. With regard to the proposed football provision, a financial contribution was proposed towards the provision of an Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) at the VT Sports Ground. However, since the application was refused, the project to provide the AGP at the VT Sports Ground has been discarded due to a failure to secure funding and the progression of an alternative project to deliver an AGP at a school site in close proximity to the VT sports ground, outside of the Local Area of Bursledon, Hamble-le-Rice and Hound.
5. The Council has indicated to the appellant that an acceptable alternative to securing contributions towards an AGP at VT Sports Ground would be for equivalent contributions to be secured towards improved football and training facilities in the BHH Local Area at the priority sites identified in the Eastleigh Local Facility Football Plan 2020 and as to be agreed with the Council. This approach has been accepted by Hampshire Football Association. Confirmation that this is acceptable to the appellant is awaited.
6. The provision of off-site improvements to provide cricket and football playing pitches and associated ancillary facilities of better quality at College Playing Fields, in a suitable location, has been agreed with the Council and, (subject to the wording of the S106 legal agreement) Sport England. The expectation is that this will be delivered by the appellant/developer and must be ready for use prior to Follands Cricket Council being displaced from their existing site.

7. In addition to these works, a £200,000 contribution for playing pitch improvements has been agreed, with a proportion of this (£110,000) set aside to enhance the improvements at the College Playing Fields. The remaining £90,000 is identified for other cricket enhancements in the Local Area.
8. The College Playing Fields are owned by Persimmon Homes and leased to Hamble Parish Council on a long-term lease. As landowner, it is possible that Persimmon need to agree to the proposed improvements; therefore it may be necessary to secure a default position in case the College Playing Field improvements are not deliverable. The Council has indicated to the appellant that an acceptable default position may be to provide for improvements to deliver the equivalent cricket and football provisions within the BHH Local Area, (or an alternative provision agreed in writing by the LPA in consultation with Sport England, England and Wales Cricket Board, Hampshire Football Association, Hamble Parish Council and Folland Cricket Club). This would be provided by the appellant/developer and must be ready for use prior to Follands Cricket Council being displaced from their existing site. Confirmation is awaited from Sport England as to whether this is an acceptable alternative, and from the appellant.
9. It is believed that agreement regarding the necessary mitigation can be reached and will be appropriately secured within the S106 legal agreement currently being prepared.

Kitty Budden

Development Management Principal Planning Officer

Eastleigh Borough Council