

**PSM17**

**South Gloucestershire  
Core Strategy  
Examination**

**Position Statement  
for**

**Matter 17: Green Infrastructure/  
Community Infrastructure & Cultural  
Activities/Sport and Recreation  
Standards (CS2, CS23 & CS24)**

May 2012

## **Matter 17 – Green Infrastructure/Community Infrastructure & Cultural Activities/Sport and Recreation Standards (CS2, CS23 & CS24)**

**Q1 Should the policy or supporting text to policy CS2 acknowledge that the Council’s objective for existing or new Green Infrastructure provision will not necessarily affect all areas identified in the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network diagram?**

Council response – No change is considered necessary.

1.1 Supporting paragraph 5.29 highlights that both strategic GI assets and non-strategic GI assets (i.e. those not displayed in the Strategy Green Infrastructure Network diagram) equally contribute to the objective of the policy. It is therefore not considered necessary to introduce a modification as this point is already appropriately dealt with.

**Q2 Should policy CS2 include reference to the contribution of woodland as part of Green Infrastructure initiatives?**

Council response – No change is considered necessary.

2.1 Woodlands are recognised as Green Infrastructure assets in paragraph 5.20 and in Appendix 3. It is therefore not considered necessary to introduce a modification as this point is already appropriately dealt with.

**Q3 How will viability be taken into account when assessing the need for facilities and how will the priority for different facilities be determined?**

Council response – Open Space, play, outdoor sports facilities and community facilities are recognised as ‘infrastructure’ in para 6.13 (pg59) of the Core Strategy. The Council accepts that viability is a material consideration and has therefore proposed modifications to CS6 (see Matter 16). Given the plan should be read as a whole this is considered the most appropriate approach as opposed to referencing viability separately with respect to the majority of CS policies.

3.1 Under this approach policies CS2, CS23 & CS24 should be read alongside the area based policies CS25, CS29, CS30, CS32 & CS34 and their respective Visions and objectives and the New Neighbourhood policies CS26, CS27, CS31 and CS33, all of which provide direction with regard priorities. For example para 13.1 & 13.2 (CS, pg163) describe the strengths and issues with regard the Communities of the East Fringe. Bullet 5 of 13.2 notes ‘*a shortage of both green space and sports pitches...*’ The Vision (3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph - pg 164) and CS26(5) makes clear that protection and provision of new green spaces *to address the current under provision*, is a priority in the locality.

3.2 Supporting appendices in the IDP (Examination Library EB22/1) also assist to clarify what the infrastructure priorities are. For example appendices papers with respect Libraries and Community Centres & Village Halls, commence by setting out the

respective national and local legislative and policy position, describe applicable provision standards and then set out the existing provision within South Gloucestershire. Any surplus or shortfall is then set out. Para 4.3-4.8 (pg10-11) of the Community Centres & Village Halls paper describes current provision of being '*generally good*', but with '*some exceptions*' in areas including '*Barrs Court, Rodway Hill & Siston Hill...*' New provision will therefore be a priority in these localities, but elsewhere in the district contributions towards village halls and community centres is likely to be for qualitative improvements to existing facilities where viability allows if at all necessary.

- 3.3 The IDP will continue to evolve as infrastructure elements are realised and priorities and central government initiatives change. 'Infrastructure' is also delivered from a variety of funding sources, including Community Infrastructure levy, which breaks the link between site and location of items it is spent on, including strategic infrastructure. Spending priorities therefore need to remain flexible to guide and respond to funding opportunities as they may arise over the plan period.