

From @sportengland.org> ★

Subject **App Ref: 21/01935/CREG3 - Kingfisher Leisure Centre - Sport England**

31/08/2021,

To development.management@kingston.gov.uk <development.management@kingston.gov.uk> ★

Cc ★

Dear

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

**Sport England – Non Statutory Role and Policy**

The Government, within their Planning Practice Guidance (Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Section) advises Local Planning Authorities to consult Sport England on a wide range of applications: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space#open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities>

This application falls within the scope of the above guidance as it relates to the loss of a major sports facility.

Sport England assesses this type of application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and against its own planning objectives, which are Protect - To protect the right opportunities in the right places; Enhance - To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision; Provide - To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations. Further information on the objectives and Sport England's wider planning guidance can be found on its website: <http://www.sportengland.org/planningforsport>

**The Proposal and Assessment against Sport England's Objectives and the NPPF**

The proposal is for the demolition of the former Kingfisher Leisure Centre.

The planning statement accompanying the application lists a number of facilities that an anticipated new leisure centre 'could deliver' such as a 25m 8-lane swimming pool and a sports hall, however there is no detail or firm commitment around these and indeed no planning application has been submitted for this replacement (the application suggests this will happen later this year). It is therefore not possible to assess whether any replacement leisure centre is considered adequate in line with policy.

I also note that Kingston-upon-Thames does not currently have an up to date evidence base for its built facilities; there is therefore no evidence that this leisure centre is surplus to requirements.

**Conclusion**

Sport England considers that the application conflicts with Objective 'Protect' as there are currently no firm details of the leisure centre's replacement available, and no evidence that the leisure centre is not currently required.

In light of the above and the lack of evidence of any exceptional circumstances Sport England objects to the application.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, Sport England would like to be notified in advance of the meeting date(s) and the publication of any agenda(s) and report(s). Sport England would also like to be notified of the outcome of the application through the receipt of a copy of the decision notice.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below.

Please note that my colleagues in Sport England's legal team will be in touch with the applicant regarding the previous Sport England grant awards made to this facility.

Yours sincerely,