London Borough of Hackney Local Plan

Sport England Position Statement

1. Sport England’s representation dated 7th January 2019 raised several matters, including elements that Sport England did not consider were sound. Since that time the Council have been working positively with Sport England to address these elements, particularly in relation to the sport facility evidence base and wording of Policies LP8 and LP46. The Council have now produced an Indoor Sports Facility Strategy, that has used Sport England’s ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance’, to support the Local Plan in relation to built sports facilities, such as sports halls, swimming pools and others.

2. The Councils’ Playing Pitch Strategy, however, is still currently in development. Although the strategy may not be completed, if progress continues it should be in a position to identify key findings and recommendations for the high-level Local Plan Policies at the time Examination In Public addresses the Community Infrastructure and Green Space Policies. Sport England, therefore, request to provide comments to the Inspector on this element once this stage of the Playing Pitch Strategy has been reached, namely whether the Council have a robust evidence base that can direct the Local Plan Policies in relation to playing pitches/fields, therefore resulting in robust sound Local Plan Policies. At present, however, Sport England’s comments in relation to playing fields and pitches is as set out in its representation on 7th January 2019.

3. The Council have forwarded suggested changes to Polices LP8 and LP46 to Sport England and Sport England are continuing to work with the Council to ensure that the polices are effective, justified and in line with national policy. Sport England, therefore, would also like to update the Inspector on its current position in relation to these policies before the Examination In Public.

4. I trust this sets out Sport England’s current position in relation to the plan and Sport England looks forward to providing a further update shortly.