

## Development Plan Documents: Tests of Soundness

Test	Key Questions	Evidence	Potential Sport-Related Aspects
<b>Procedural Tests</b>			
1. Prepared in accordance with the LDS	DPD identified in the approved LDS? Details in the LDS (e.g. role, rationale, scope) been met	LDS LA's self assessment of soundness (where produced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport-related policy documents e.g. AAPs produced in accordance with stated intentions</li> </ul>
2. Prepared in compliance with SCI (where adopted) or 2004 Regulations (where not adopted)	All consultation procedures set out in SCI been carried out? Where no SCI, minimum consultation requirements in 2004 Regulations been met?	SCI Consultation statement produced with DPD 2004 Regulations LA's self assessment of soundness (where produced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of Sport England as a consultee on policy development and development control matters</li> </ul>
3. Plans and policies subject to SA	SA been carried out in relation to the particular DPD?	SA report (identifying process SA carried out, baseline information used and outcomes of process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of sport-related objectives, indicators and evidence using a range of sources such as Active Places</li> </ul>
<b>Conformity Tests</b>			
4. Spatial plan consistent with national planning policy, in general conformity with the RSS for the region (or SDS in London), and had proper regard to any relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the area or adjoining area	<p><i>(a) Spatial plan, with regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies</i></p> <p>Reflects guidance on spatial planning in national planning policy?</p> <p>Takes account of relationship between proposals in plan and other requirements (e.g. utility companies and service providers)</p> <p>Clear how DPD relates to other plans, strategies (e.g. Local Transport Plans) which influence delivery of proposals in DPD</p> <p>In two tier areas, clear DPD integrates effectively with plans prepared by the county council/district council?</p> <p><i>(b) Consistent with national planning policy</i></p> <p>DPD contain any policies/proposals not consistent with national planning policies?</p> <p>If so, any local justification?</p> <p><i>(c) DPD in general conformity with RSS (or SDS, in London)</i></p> <p>DPD contain any policies/proposals not in general conformity with RSS (or SDS, in London). If so, any local justification?</p>	<p>Depend on nature of DPD – range of documents relevant – see Test 7 examples</p> <p>LA's self assessment of soundness (where produced).</p> <p>Representations from bodies which consider DPD does not have sufficient regard to other relevant strategies they are responsible for.</p> <p>PPGs and PPSs</p> <p>Representations from GOs</p> <p>Local studies and other information providing basis for departing (e.g. those that derive from the Community Strategy or local studies forming part of evidence for the DPD)</p> <p>RSS (or SDS, in London)</p> <p>Reps from RPB (or Mayor, in London)</p> <p>Local studies/other information providing basis for departure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross-checking that DPDs have due regard to national, regional and local sport strategies in general and policy-specific terms.</li> <li>Demonstration of the use of national and regional policy guidance to frame and justify policy development</li> </ul>
5. Regard to authority's Community Strategy	DPD has regard to Community Strategy, by setting out policies and proposals which deliver key components of that strategy, in so far as consistent or in general conformity with higher	Community Strategy and representation from LSP Community Strategy may set out spatial implications of Strategy and how key components relating to use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport-related aspects of the community strategy included in DPDs</li> </ul>

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	level planning policy and relate to the use and development of land?	<p>components relating to use and development of land might be delivered through the LDF.</p> <p>DPD should set out how objectives of Community Strategy relate to the DPD</p>	
<b>Coherence, Consistency and Effectiveness Tests</b>			
<p>6. Strategies/ policies/allocations in the DPD are consistent within and between DPDs prepared by the authority and by neighbouring authorities, where cross boundary issues are relevant.</p>	<p>Polices clearly relate to objectives in the submitted DPD or a related DPD (e.g. Core Strategy)?</p> <p>Policy objectives within DPD themselves consistent?</p> <p>Clear how DPD relates to other plans in authority's LDF and relevant plans prepared by neighbouring authorities?</p> <p>Any overlaps - are they consistent/ complementary?</p> <p>Any obvious gaps in coverage of DPD, having regard to its purpose and the relevant requirements in national planning policy statements?</p> <p>Clear how cross boundary issues are addressed?</p>	<p>Principal source LDF and neighbouring authorities' LDFs</p> <p>Purpose of DPD should be clear (e.g. if Core Strategy should include a vision and strategic framework for the preparation of more detailed DPDs such as SAPs and AAPs)</p> <p>DPD should show how policies and proposals within it relate to other parts of the LDF and (where relevant) to any neighbouring authority's LDF. DPD should explain (where necessary) why there may be perceived inconsistencies.</p> <p>LPA's joint studies (where appropriate) to ensure consistency between neighbouring authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of how cross-boundary sport interests area being represented, including the outcome of any joint studies undertaken</li> </ul>
<p>7. Strategies/policies/ allocations represent most appropriate in all the circumstances, having considered the relevant alternatives, and are founded on a robust and credible evidence base</p>	<p>LPA considered all reasonable options and alternatives in preparing the DPD?</p> <p>Assumptions in the DPD set out clearly and supported by evidence?</p> <p>Evidence clearly supports the policies in the DPD?</p> <p>Evidence robust and credible – i.e. prepared in accordance with national guidance and good practice guidance?</p> <p>Where a balance struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives - is it clear how those decision have been taken?</p>	<p>SA Report fundamental, setting out options and process by which they have been objectively assessed</p> <p>Other evidence - <u>note: examples only:</u></p> <p>- if DPD is a Core Strategy, urban capacity studies; urban and rural regeneration strategies; local housing assessments; regional and local housing and economic strategies; retail capacity studies; community development strategies; local transport plans; health and education programmes and strategies; infrastructure providers' investment programmes and strategies; environmental programmes and assessments of waste management needs.</p> <p>- If the DPD is a SAP the evidence may include urban capacity studies; flood risk assessments; various environmental studies and assessments; transport assessments etc.</p> <p>- If DPD is an AAP, area assessments, market assessments, socio-economic assessments, and assessments of infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of options for sport and clarity over how subsequent decisions have been made</li> <li>• Use of national, regional and local advice and good practice</li> </ul>

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		<p>- DPD is an AAP relating to the regeneration of rural settlements, Parish Plans, rural regeneration strategies, and local transport plans etc.</p>	
<p>8. Clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring</p>	<p>DPD contains targets and milestones relating to delivery of the policies (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)?</p> <p>Clear how these are to be measured and linked to production of the AMR?</p> <p>Delivery mechanisms and timescale for implementation for the policies clearly identified?</p> <p>Clear who is intended to implement each policy? If actions required to implement policy are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence of commitment of relevant organisation to implement the policies?</p> <p>Processes for measuring the success of the DPD accord with national guidance?</p> <p>DPD explains how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</p>	<p>Evidence broadly similar to that required to assess Test 7</p> <p>If DPD relates to site-specific allocations, however, this may include viability assessments of alternative sites.</p> <p>Relevant evidence might include reports or representations by main public and private sector delivery bodies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targets and milestones for sport developed, linked to the Annual Monitoring Report</li> <li>• Mechanisms and timescales set for policy implementation</li> <li>• Representations considered for site-specific allocations</li> <li>• Measures established for the monitoring policy implementation</li> </ul>
<p>9. Reasonably flexible to enable DPD to deal with changing circumstances</p>	<p>DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances?</p> <p>Development Control Policies written in a generic form to provide robust and consistent framework for considering planning applications?</p>	<p>AMR important evidence source (e.g. LPA should be monitoring effectiveness of their policies)</p> <p>Sensitivity testing of policies in the DPD to potential changes in the assumptions that underpin them (such as economic growth or transport provision), and other sources of evidence for the DPD (see Test 7) would help to demonstrate the robustness of the DPD to change. For example, if the strategy of the DPD is dependent on construction of a major transport scheme, the LPA should undertake assessment of the risk of the infrastructure not being delivered and consequences of this for the DPD.</p> <p>Where significant risk, LPA should identify contingency options that will achieve the objectives of the DPD in the event that the policy in question cannot be delivered.</p> <p>DPD should set out the basis for the contingencies identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexibility of policies for sport to respond to changes in need, demand or other circumstances</li> <li>• Evidence of the sensitivity testing of policies</li> <li>• Wider contingency planning for changes in circumstance or policy</li> </ul>