

By email only

Date: 16th April 2026

FAO Justin Booij

Application Reference: 25/02571/OP

Site: BA1 (Land East Of North Rd And North Of Railway Line); BA10 (Land Between Railway Line And Royston Rd); BA3 (Land West Of A505); BA2 (Land South Of Clothall Rd); Walls Field; Urban Open Land West Of A505, And Land West Of North Road, Baldock

Proposal: Growing Baldock Development Site: Outline planning application with all matters reserved for up to 3,200 homes etc

Sport England Reference: PA/25/E/NH/72110

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the additional information submitted to support the above application. This response should be treated as supplementing our initial formal response dated 12th November 2025.

In our initial response, one of the matters that further information was requested on was for scaled plans of the Eastern Park and Urban Open Land Indicative Layouts in order to verify that the correct pitch dimensions have been used to inform the layouts and to check that these sites can in principle accommodate the number and range of facilities that are shown on the layouts. The two indicative layouts that have been provided in Appendix A of the updated Green Infrastructure Strategy show (on scaled plans) the indicative layouts of the Eastern Park and the Urban Open Land (option 2). I have considered these layout and consulted the sports governing bodies and while some points relating to detailed matters have been raised by the Football Foundation it is considered that these layouts demonstrate that the range of potential pitches shown on the layouts could in principle be accommodated on these sites which is welcomed.

For the Urban Open Land, as requested in our initial response there is still a need to demonstrate that all of the sports facilities could be accommodated if options 1 or 3 are progressed. Indicative layouts would need to be prepared of the whole secondary school sites for these options and would therefore need to be prepared in consultation with Hertfordshire County Council.

While the indicative layouts that have been prepared are welcomed, our position on the planning application would otherwise remain as set out in our initial response.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Warren
Planning Manager

