

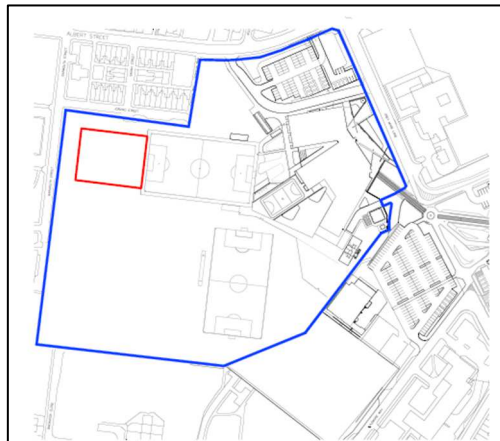
SPORTING BENEFITS SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Planning Application 135932/FO/2023

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is for the construction of a two court Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) with 5m high fencing.

- *200mm deep Type 3 MOT sub-base*
- *75mm thick coated macadam surface comprising of 50mm AC20/14 open textured macadam and*
- *25mm AC6 open textured surface course macadam.*
- *The court dimensions are currently proposed to be:*
 - Overall Dimension (inc. run offs) 24.5m wide x 43m deep*
 - Court Dimension 18.5m wide x 30.5m deep*



The MUGA will be positioned on the playing field to the west of the existing Artificial Grass Pitch, and on an area of land that has historically accommodated a football and rounders pitch. However, due to significant drainage issues on this area of the site and the impingement of wildlife, this area has not been used as a functional playing surface for over five years. The academy has two other full size grass pitches, rounders pitches and a rugby pitch for curriculum use.. It should be noted that inadequate drainage on this area of the school site has impinged on the ability to use this facility not just in summer months but throughout the school year. It is to be noted that the current existing grass pitch does not currently provide any community benefits as it is not let out due to health and safety concerns.

During a recent survey it was highlighted that the academy lacked hard surface play spaces and the construction of a MUGA would help address that deficiency.



PLANNING POLICY

As the location of the MUGA is on the playing field which results in the loss of natural turf playing field, the sporting benefits of the MUGA need to be clearly set out. The relevant planning policies are:

SPORT ENGLAND PLAYING FIELDS POLICY AND GUIDANCE (UPDATED 2021)

Sport England will be a statutory consultee on this planning application as the proposal affects the playing field. The following details are provided to enable Sport England's informed assessment of whether the proposed MUGA provide sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field to satisfy Exception E5 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (UPDATED 2021)

The planning system encourages and promotes the retention of existing and the provision of additional, outdoor sports facilities, both public and private. Specifically, paragraph 99 (concerning open space, sport, and recreation) of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states:

"Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings, or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use."*

MANCHESTER CORE STRATEGY

Core Strategy policy EN10 (Safeguarding Open Space, Sport, and Recreation Facilities) reflects the objectives of the NPPF and Sport England Playing Fields Policy at a local level. The policy seeks to protect and enhance existing open space, sport, and recreation facilities.

SPORTING BENEFITS

Currently the school has access to only one outdoor court for basketball. The new MUGA will allow greater provision for netball and basketball as both are sports that the children enjoy and encourage both genders to participate fully. Furthermore, recent community consultations through the Manchester's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and Football Foundation PlayZones Programmes and have highlighted significant deficiencies in MUGAs provision and unmet demand Basketball.

The current basketball court is not fit for use as there is no internal fencing and it sits very close to external buildings which causes ball strike issues with the glass frontage.

The academy has been asked to expand the number of students on roll to 1150 within the existing boundaries of the academy. Having adequate play space for the children at social times and PE is critical to this infrastructure development. It will also mean enhanced sporting facilities for the PE curriculum and social time as the current grass pitches can not be used effectively for majority of the school year due to drainage and the pitch condition during autumn and winter months. The new MUGA will be in use every day by a variety of student groups and stakeholders, with a Community Use Agreement setting out the slots available for community use.

The MUGA will enhance provision for netball and basketball, and it will be used for a range of different activities throughout the school day such as;

- breakfast club – students will use the MUGA for structured play.
- It will be open at both break and lunch for supervised sporting activities (the current basketball court is very well used at social times and the new courts will be twice the size to enhance this provision.
- It will be used as a PE teaching space.
- After school the academy currently hires coaches for both basketball and netball and the courts would be used to further enhance this provision.

- The academy is also in use throughout the holidays through the HAF fund and the courts would support more participation for priority groups.
- It is proposed that the space will be available for community use (as external coaches are in partnership with the academy to provide instruction and supervision)

At TEMA we also open up our assets to the community at weekends and evenings. We would use a mixed model of both subsidised and chargeable community use as we do with our existing assets so that community members can benefit from secure playing spaces specifically for netball and basketball which we know are limited within our locality. The current gym is used by Manchester Magic and Mystics who have expressed an interest in further spaces. This means that the additional benefit to the community would be 30 hours of all year round community use that is available. It also means Manchester would have another asset that is used throughout the day increasing the participation of targeted and identified groups such as girls, low socioeconomic communities, students from a diverse range of backgrounds and those with additional needs. The academy serves a student population with one of the highest pupil premium rates in the country with above average SEND, EAL and migrant communities.

The academy will also work with Manchester Active to ensure a community use agreement is put in place to ensure the sporting assets in the academy benefit both the school and the community.

The throwing cage has not been used by the academy in recent years. The local regional athletics track now has a cage, and Manchester Active have agreed to assess the asset and relocate to another site.

Table 1 – Exception E5 Justification

REQUIREMENT	DETAIL PROVIDED
Impact the proposed development would have on playing pitch provision including proposed summer / winter playing pitches	We currently have three grass football pitches which also accommodate rounders in addition to a rugby pitch. This development would still retain two full size football pitches, rounders facilities, rugby facilities and a cricket pitch whilst also giving a secure usable play space for outdoor netball and basketball to enhance provision further.
Existing community use	This section of the site is not used by the community currently as the surface has such poor drainage it is not at a high enough standard.
Proposed community use	It is proposed that the community would be able to use the space during the evening and weekends for key community groups.

	The academy serves an area of high socioeconomic disadvantage and a diverse range of backgrounds. It is hoped that the MUGA would enhance the provision of basketball and netball locally with a particular focus on young people and women in sports. The PlayZones consultation has highlighted basketball as a priority sport and this MUGA would significantly enhance sporting provision.
Community access formally secured through a community use agreement	A community access agreement will be drawn up and implemented prior to first use between the academy and Manchester active.
Sport related benefits of the proposed MUGA for the applicant and the community. This explanation should provide detail on the deficiencies of the existing facilities and set out how the new facilities will address such deficiencies and help with the delivery of sport and meet community facility needs. Furthermore, the explanation should provide details regarding which sports the new MUGA will accommodate.	Please see above for the sport related benefits.
Explanation of which sports the new MUGA will accommodate	It is proposed that the new MUGA accommodate basketball and netball as we currently have limited facilities for these sports and the area has a need for this facility.
Proposed surface type	200mm deep Type 3 MOT sub-base 75mm thick coated macadam surface compromising of 50mm AC20/14 open textured macadam and 25mm AC6 open textured surface course macadam.
Sustainability	As this will be part of mixed use lettings agreement the academy will build this asset into its asset management plan to ensure it kept up to date and in good condition. Any profits are used to directly support the maintenance and usage of these assets

CONCLUSION

The evidence provided in this statement demonstrates the sporting benefits to the school, and potential community users are considerable and will help the school deliver their PE Curriculum and after school activities.

The MUGA will provide a sustainable sports facility which will be of benefit to the academy and the entire community and prior to first use, a Community Use Agreement will be devised supported by Manchester Active.

It is considered the proposed MUGA meets the requirements of paragraph 99(c) of the NPPF, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E5 and Core Strategy Policy EN10.