



Planning Manager (Policy and Tools)

Closing date for applications is
11:30pm, Tuesday 14th April 2026

Who we are

Sport England is an arms-length body of government responsible for growing and developing grassroots sport and getting more people active across England.

We were established by Royal Charter – which is an instrument of incorporation granted by the late Queen – we began operating as Sport England in 1997.



Our mission

Right now, the opportunities to get involved in sport and activity depend too much on your background, your gender, your bank balance and your postcode. We're determined to tackle this and unlock the advantages of sport and physical activity for everyone.

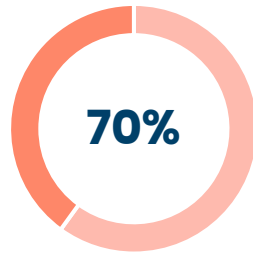
We're here to invest in sport and physical activity to make it a normal part of life for everyone in England, regardless of who you are. Together, we can change lives for the better in every home, and in every community, right across the country.



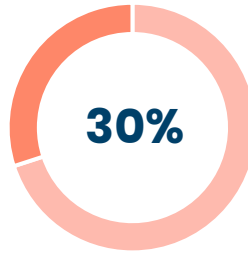
The Role at a Glance

The Planning Manager (Policy and Tools) role can be either home-based, or hybrid office based in Loughborough or Bisham Abbey. Some nation travel will be required, including to Sport England offices and national centres (Loughborough, London, Bisham, Lilleshall). The salary for this position is £47,000 per annum.

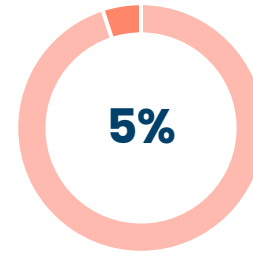
Please note, it is Sport England's policy to appoint to the advertised salary.



**Planning
Policy & Tools**



**Relationship
Management**



**Other General
Duties**



Our Objectives



Sport England's planning aim in working with the planning system is to help provide places that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active.

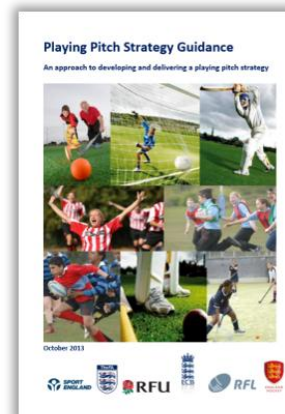
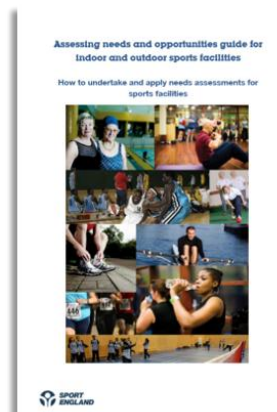
Protect: The protection of sport sites, including our role as a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect playing fields

Enhance: Making the best use of existing facilities by improving access and management e.g. through the opening up of school sites to community use.

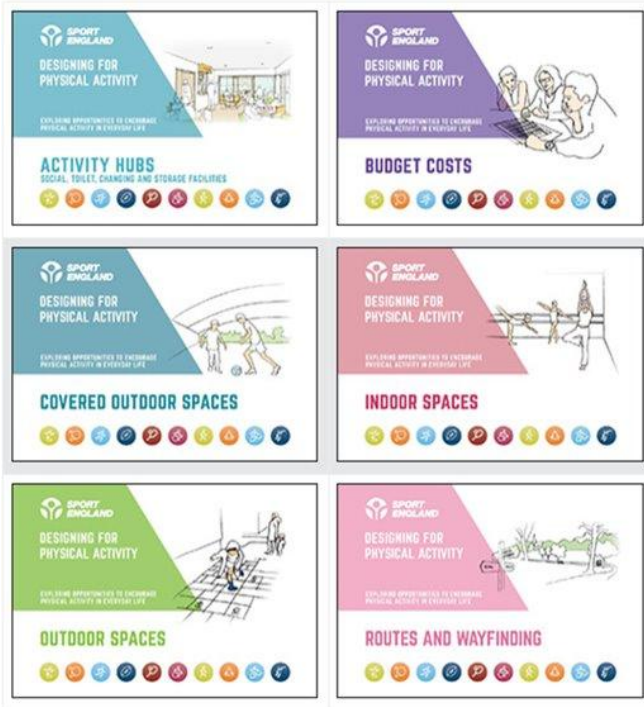
Provide: Ensuring that communities have access to high quality sports facilities, by using evidence and advocacy to guide investment

Planning for Sport

The Planning system plays a crucial role in providing access to high-quality facilities so everyone can play sport and be physically active. Sport England provides a range of guidance and tools to local authorities and the development industry; some examples are shown opposite.



Active Design – Designing for Physical Activity



Part of our role is about creating active environments. Modern-day life can make us inactive, and about a third of adults in England don't do the recommended amount of weekly exercise, but the design of where we live and work can play a vital role in keeping us active. Active Design is about designing and adapting where we live to encourage activity in our everyday lives.

It's a combination of 10 principles that promote activity, health and stronger communities through the way we design and build our towns and cities.

That's why we, in partnership with Public Health England, have produced the Active Design Guidance. It builds on the original objectives of improving accessibility, enhancing amenity and increasing awareness, and sets out ten principles of Active Design.

More information is available on our website.

About the Team

The Planning Team sits in the Place Directorate and is responsible for our statutory function as a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields and also our new statutory role on local plans.

In addition to the statutory function the Team works on a number of areas including, non-statutory planning application consultations, policy development at national, regional and local levels as well as helping ensure the right facilities are available in the right place, and the wider physical environment is designed to enable and encourage sport and physical activity – active design.

The Planning Team consists of a National Team, two area-based teams – North and South and a Planning Technical Team. It won the In-House Planning Team of the Year at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence 2019.

About the Team

National Team

- Management of our in-house planning function
- National Consultations –Government Planning Policy
- Strategic Tools and guidance documents
- Provision of GIS services
- Maintain relationships with national agencies and stakeholders e.g. Town & Country Planning Association, Public Health England, National Governing Bodies for Sport
- Integration of planning into wider Sport England work

Area Planning Teams (North and South)

- Our Planners are based around the country.
- Work directly with Local Authorities and other partners;
- Planning application consultations – statutory & non-statutory;
- Responses to Strategies and Local Plans, assessments of needs to provide evidence to underpin plans and policies;
- Feed into National Team work and influence different project groups.

Planning Technical Team

- Central coordinating team providing supporting efficient casework management of the full range of our planning work
- Manage our high-quality casework management system.

Our Consultee Role

Sport England is a **Statutory Consultee** where development affects playing field land or where development could have a prejudicial impact.

Sport England has a **Playing Fields Policy**, consistent with the NPPF, to help us assess and give advice on planning applications.

Sport England is also a **Non-Statutory Consultee**. Local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to:

- Loss or creation of sports pitches;
- Loss or creation of any major sports facility;
- Proposals which create the opportunity for sport, e.g. major body of water; or
- Large housing developments, over 300 houses.





The Role

This role supports the development of a high-quality, evidence-based planning service for Sport England. You will help shape long-term planning approaches, update national policy and guidance, and develop strategic tools, including digital and data-driven ones.

You will also strengthen the wider planning system by building national partnerships and supporting work that protects, improves and creates active environments. This includes fulfilling statutory duties and creating the evidence, guidance and tools that help influence planning at all levels, ensuring sport and physical activity are embedded in regeneration and investment decisions to help communities become healthier and more active.

Our Employee Benefits

32 days annual leave + bank holidays (pro rata for part-time)

Generous pension scheme

£500 per year to support fitness-based activity

Commitment to development and training

Free confidential counselling and service

Flexible working and family friendly policies

For more information on our benefits, please see the [Careers](#) page on our website

Our values

Our values define who we are as an organisation and highlight what we do to go the extra mile to set us apart. From creating an organisation we all enjoy, believe and thrive in, to creating a positive employer brand and effective partnerships with our stakeholders.

Our values are embedded in everything we do including our recruitment process and we encourage candidates to read about our values on our careers page

<https://www.sportengland.org/careers>.



Our vision is clear

Together, we won't stop
until everyone has the
opportunity, the
inspiration and the
freedom to get moving.

You can help up do this.





If you are passionate about the role of sport and physical activity in creating a better future for communities, and want to play a key part in realising that, we want to hear from you...

Come join us