

# Activity Sheet 1.2a

## Source A

Extract from the Stadium Communities Handbook

by The Federation of Stadium Communities

### Stadium relocation

Despite the huge emotional attachment of the old stadium a number of major sports clubs have moved to new permanent homes and are the proud occupiers of a brand-new stadium offering the finest spectator facilities and amenities in an attractively designed and spacious setting ... Few spectators would go back to the cramped, uncomfortable and basic accommodation offered at their previous stadium.

In so many residential locations around the UK the stadium is now an unwanted nuisance. Changing patterns of use and spectator behaviour have broken the cosy relationship that once existed between club and community. Few clubs offer great community benefits. The larger football and rugby clubs are no longer regarded as local community-based clubs. Their community and spectator base is nation-wide. It may be better for the long-term viability of the residential area and the growing ambition of the club that it moves away.

For many clubs it has been difficult to find a suitable site within the same local authority area. The sites do exist. There are tracts of derelict and spoiled land in towns and cities that could successfully be redeveloped to provide a sustainable stadium location. There are sites on the edges of urban areas that are not strategic open spaces or ecologically sensitive. These sites can be found if there is a will to do so.

If the chosen site is likely to be controversial, the local authority may prepare a planning brief to establish certain limits on the development and make sure that it fits in with the authority's other plans for the area. The authority should involve all communities likely to be affected by the development.