

**Agenda for LED Monitoring Forum
Tuesday, 30th March, 2021, 6.00 pm**



Members of LED Monitoring Forum

Councillors P Arnott, A Dent, M Hartnell, S Hawkins
(Chair), P Hayward, V Johns, G Jung, G Pook,
J Rowland

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Venue: Online via zoom app

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(or group number 01395 517546)
19 March 2021; reissued 25 March 2021

**Important - this meeting will be conducted online and recorded by Zoom only.
Please do not attend Blackdown House.
Members are asked to follow the [Protocol for Remote Meetings](#)**

This meeting is being recorded by EDDC for subsequent publication on the Council's website and will be streamed live to the Council's Youtube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmNHQruge3LVI4hcgRnbwBw>

Public speakers are now required to register to speak – for more information please use the following link: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say-at-meetings/all-other-virtual-public-meetings/#article-content>

1 Public Speaking

Information on [public speaking is available online](#)

2 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 February 2021.

3 Apologies

4 Declaration of interest

Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)

5 Matters of urgency

To note there is a late report, listed under item 10 on the agenda.

6 Confidential/exempt item(s)

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the Press) have been excluded. There is one item which officers recommend should be dealt with in this way, listed under item 10.

Part A

7 **Management agreement review of Colyton Grammar School dual use site**

The Service Lead – Place, Assets & Commercialisation will provide a verbal update on this review.

8 **EDDC Playing Pitch Strategy review** (Pages 7 - 9)

The Planning Policy Manager will present his report.

9 Exclusion of the press and public

That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt and private information (as set out against each Part B agenda item), is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing the items in private session (Part B).

Part B

10 **LED Service fee** (Pages 10 - 15)

A report submitted by LED Leisure for discussion.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the meeting of LED Monitoring Forum held on 23 February 2021****Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 9.33 am and ended at 11.18 am

25 Public Speaking

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

26 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27 January 2021 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

27 Declaration of interest

Cllr P Arnott: Minutes 28 - 33; Personal interest: Paid membership of LED Leisure.
Cllr A Dent: Minutes 28 - 33; Personal interest: Paid membership of LED Leisure.

28 Matters of urgency

There were no matters of urgency.

29 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were two items agreed by the Forum to be held in private session, listed under minutes 32 and 33.

30 Sport England 'Strategic Outcomes for Your Place' Grant application

The Forum welcomed Liz Taylor from Leisure Strategy, who outlined their work with a number of authorities in evaluating their leisure provision.

In order to begin drafting a new Leisure Strategy, evidence based data was required to build a picture of the current provision, including the physical assets associated with delivering leisure provision, before moving to planning for what that provision would look like over the next five to ten years.

The Forum were being asked to consider agreement to the first step, the undertaking of the Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance (SOPG) Diagnostic. The diagnostic will:

- Provide an overview of the District in terms of
 - Existing needs and demand
 - Existing participation levels and trends
 - What gaps in provision exist
 - Links with local strategies and policies, including for health and wellbeing
 - The Council's priorities in relation to health and wellbeing
- Describe the current provision, in terms of where and how
 - Inspection of all sites including dual use sites
 - Community outreach service

- Throughput and social value
- Costs
- Strategic factors for each facility
- Consult with stakeholders
- Run the Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) to assess indicative future need.

This body of evidence can then be used to compare the current provision to the future need and opportunities, which leads onto the key elements of work that are needed to underpin the future strategic approach to provision and delivery.

In response to questions from the Forum, the following points were made:

- Analysis against local competition/facilities would be made;
- Timescale for the diagnostic stage was usually around the three month mark; that may be impacted by the ability to visit sites currently and evaluating demand following the pandemic;
- The “Active Lives” survey would be considered, which would detail on how people seek out activity, such as those who exercised without the benefit of group activities or gym membership;
- Consideration of offer from other sources would be made to help consider if there was any duplication of leisure offer, or identify gaps that could be met;
- This work would be linked to the review of the Playing Pitch Strategy;
- Any recommendations forward from the diagnostic steps would look to balance both ambition in delivery with what was possible economically and sustainably;
- Consideration would also be given to what offer can be of benefit to the tourism offer of the District;
- Comparison would be made to the facilities in neighbouring districts; particularly those close the District border or easy transport links to access;
- A clear understanding of what the District could afford was key;
- In consulting with stakeholders, care would be taken to clarify how to manage expectation;
- Wellbeing hubs would also be taken into account;
- Whilst individual detail on smaller community groups would not be sought out for the diagnostic, a strategic view on the local offer would be taken into account;
- Any assistance that Ward Members could give to signpost what community and business leisure services were available in their area, would be appreciated to help build the overall picture of the current offer of the District.

RESOLVED that the Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance Diagnostic be undertaken by Strategic Leisure.

31 **Exclusion of public and press**

That under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012, the public (including the press) were excluded from the meeting as exempt and private information was likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing the items in private session.

32 **Monitor and assess the ongoing financial support needed by LED**

The Forum received an update on the ongoing support, with further modelling to be undertaken in light of the Government's announcement on steps out of lockdown.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

33 **LED updates on operational matters**

The Forum received an update on operational matters and the implications of opening capacity in line with the Government's recently announced steps out of lockdown.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Arnott
A Dent
S Hawkins (Chair)
P Hayward
V Johns
G Jung
G Pook
J Rowland

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Faithfull
S Gazzard
N Hookway
S Jackson
P Millar
A Moulding

LED Leisure representation

Peter Gilpin, CEO LED Leisure
Bridgette Jones, Director of Finance LED Leisure
Jamie Bryant, Director of Delivery LED Leisure
Nigel Halford, Chairman LED Leisure

Strategic Leisure (Consultants)

Liz Taylor
Rachel Fowler

Officers in attendance:

Tim Child, Service Lead - Place, Assets & Commercialisation
Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance
John Golding, Strategic Lead Housing, Health and Environment
Charles Plowden, Service Lead Countryside and Leisure

John Symes, Finance Manager
Mark Williams, Chief Executive

Paper to LED Forum - 30 March 2021
East Devon Playing Pitch Strategy

**Report prepared by – Matt Dickins – Planning Policy Manager –
East Devon District Council**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A Playing Pitch Strategy, produced in accordance with Sport England guidance, provides an assessment of sport participation levels alongside a critique of pitch supply, quality and availability. In so doing it identifies shortfalls and deficiencies in pitch provision (or potentially areas of over-supply) as well as an overall qualitative assessment (specifically how fit for purpose any pitch is). The strategy also looks forward to identify new or emerging demands, specifically in respect of need that may be generated through population growth.
- 1.2 Outputs from the Strategy should inform future policies and set out specific actions, amongst other matters and taken from Sport England, in respect of:
- PROTECT sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment;
 - ENHANCE existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management; and
 - PROVIDE new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.
- 1.3 It is important to note that the Playing Pitch Strategy is concerned with outdoor pitch provision (both grass and artificial) in respect of use by and for the organised (usually league based) team sports of Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby Union. There needs to be an active level of matches to extend coverage to other team sports, for example Rugby League or Baseball, to warrant their inclusion. Relevant organised participation in other sports does not exist in East Devon and it also relevant to note that the Sport England guidance, and therefore this work, does not extend to cover such sports as Tennis or Netball.

- 1.4 The Playing Pitch Strategy is concerned with all pitches in East Devon that have some element of public use and access regardless of who owns or manages those pitches (i.e. it is **not** just concerned with East Devon District Council owned or managed pitches).

2 The current strategy and future work

- 2.1 We have an existing Playing Pitch Strategy for East Devon, though this was completed in 2015 and is now dated. The previous strategy was produced by the Planning Policy team of the Council.
- 2.2 The 2015 strategy can be viewed at:
<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/media/1182367/adopted-east-devon-pps-2015.pdf>
A report to the Strategic planning Committee of the council setting out more details on the proposed approach to producing a new strategy, and background information, can be viewed at:
<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MIId=1484&Ver=4>
This committee report highlighted the option to employ consultants to produce the strategy but determined that the work should be undertaken in-house.
- 2.3 The new Playing Pitch Strategy will be produced (again) by the Planning Policy team at the Council and will be one of the evidence documents needed to support production of a new local plan. From a planning perspective the strategy will be particularly important in respect of establishing policy to secure new sports pitch provision alongside development. However, the strategy should ideally have a wide 'ownership', and be endorsed and used by all departments of the Council that have any involvement with sports pitches and their use, management and supply.
- 2.4 Importantly the 'ownership' and application of the strategy should, however, not just be restricted to the Council and its activities. Strategy production requires active engagement with Sport England and the sport governing bodies as well other organisations or bodies with an overview of sports and potentially also individual clubs. The strategy should be looked upon as having a 'buy-in' by bodies and organisation across East Devon.
- 2.5 For the new Playing Pitch Strategy, on which much background work has already been undertaken (though updating is required), a timetable for production is to be determined, but an early stage task will be to renew

contacts with sport governing bodies. It should be noted that previous engagement stalled at the point of the COVID outbreak when, understandably, attention and prioritise shifted away from this work to more urgent needs.

- 2.6 By way of summary of work to date a database has been compiled of every club and each of their teams that play matches in East Devon and also of every pitch (with teams linked to pitches) that is used for the pitch sports. The database includes an assessment, albeit it dated, of the quality of each pitch and any supporting club house or other facilities.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 As noted in this report work on a new Playing Pitch Strategy is underway and will progress over the rest of this year and into next. Securing wide participation in preparation and collective 'ownership' of outputs will be desirable. The work should, as well, align with wider leisure and recreation work that is being undertaken, this specifically should include the current and ongoing review of physical activity and leisure provision in the district.

- 3.2 The importance of having a new Playing Pitch Strategy in place (specifically in respect of planning policy work) is highlighted by the fact that Sport England made representation on the East Devon Local Plan Issues and Options consultation (on which consultation closed on 15 March 2021) advising:

*“.....it is Sport England’s approach to challenge the soundness of Local Plan documents which are not justified by;
- an up to date playing pitch strategy (carried out in accordance with a methodology approved by Sport England)
- an up to date built sports facilities strategy (carried out in accordance with a methodology approved by Sport England).”*

- 3.3 Our new Playing Pitch Strategy should address the first point above though some further attention will need to be given to having a built sports facilities strategy. It would, ideally, be hoped that the LED work would partly or fully address this need.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted