

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum held at Online on 13 January 2026

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.11 pm

29 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 September 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted as a true and accurate record.

30 Declarations of interest

Minutes 34 – 39. Councillor Mike Goodman, Councillor sits on the management committee of Sidmouth Cricket Club.

31 Public Speaking

No members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

32 Matters of urgency

There were no matters or urgency.

33 Confidential/exempt item(s)

There were two confidential/exempt items (minutes 38 and 39 refer).

34 LED Facilities and Activities update January 2026

The LED Chief Operating Officer presented this report which provided an update on recent activities, highlighting both positive community initiatives and challenges such as increased competition and shifting user trends.

The Forum noted the report.

35 LED KPI Dashboard November 2025

The Forum received and noted key details of the performance of LED Community Leisure for November 2025. Members briefly discussed attendance trends, site-specific impacts and the effects of competition.

36 Cranbrook Leisure Centre update

The Leisure Manager provided an update on the progress of the Cranbrook Leisure Centre scheme by the project team including the appointment of design consultants, engagement with Sport England, and plans for a public consultation in February.

The Forum noted the report.

37 **Playing Pitch Strategy update**

The Leisure Manager presented an update on the draft Playing Pitch Strategy outlining the methodology, key findings, collaboration with local councils, and next steps for consultation with a view to finalising the Strategy and Action Plan by end March 2026. He thanked consultants Strategic Leisure for their work on the project.

Discussion included the following points:

- Auxiliary facilities such as changing rooms are part of the assessment process and, working with national governing bodies, the strategic plan will provide evidence of need which will support clubs to access grant funding.
- It is important to get the Strategy agreed and protect the facilities required to influence and inform the delivery of the Local Plan.
- The Strategy will become a key archive to hand over to the new organisation following Local Government Reorganisation, identifying what the challenges, opportunities and assets are, and ensuring there is an accurate record all in one place.

The Forum asked officers to consult with Parish and Town Councils on the draft key principles set out in the report along with the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Executive Summary and Action Plan and return to Committee with feedback and final edition for endorsement.

The meeting went into private session.

38 **Leisure Project update**

The Leisure Manager introduced this update report and Rachel Fowler of Strategic Leisure delivered a presentation to Forum members.

Members discussed the content and asked direct questions.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet: to note the contents of this update.

39 **Flamingo Pool verbal update**

The Forum received a verbal update on Flamingo Pool as part of the Leisure Project update (minute 38 refers).

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Arnott
K Bloxham
M Goodman
S Hawkins (Chair)
N Hookway
G Jung
F King
J Loudoun
S Smith

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

R Collins
P Faithfull
M Hall
S Jackson

Officers in attendance:

Mike O'Mahony, Senior Leisure Officer
Tim Child, Assistant Director Place, Assets & Leisure
Sarah James, Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Wood, Director of Place

Councillor apologies:

P Hayward

Representatives of LED Community Leisure in attendance:

Richard Purchase, Chairman of LED Board
Olly Swayne, LED Chief Executive
Matt Wright, LED Chief Operating Officer

Chair

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Date:

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