

Date of Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

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## Leisure and playing pitch requirements

### Report summary:

Cabinet have formally considered the recommendations in the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 report that outlined the significant challenges in meeting the completion deadlines for each priority within the Leisure Strategy Action Plan, delivering the demands arising from the Playing Pitch Strategy 2024, resourcing the request for three posts within the Sport England LDP programme in Cranbrook and also funding requests to carry out stock condition survey assessments on our leisure facilities and creating a senior level Leisure role to help enable the delivery of the Council's leisure work programme. To help the Council better understand the affordability of the leisure programme a high level options appraisal of the actions within the Leisure Strategy was also considered to develop a costed Implementation Plan with possible options for affordable delivery. This will provide the Council with the necessary financial information to make strategic decisions on what we may wish to deliver from the Strategy going forward. This was one of the recommendations from the recent Peer Review undertaken on the Council.

The urgency of the issues identified within the Cabinet report on leisure meant that it had to be taken to Cabinet before coming to the Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum due to the timetabling of meetings being out of the normal synchronisation. However the work to be undertaken on a higher level options appraisal of the affordability of the Council's leisure programme will require steering and oversight of the Forum leading to recommendations to Cabinet.

### Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### Recommendation:

That the Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum notes the leisure and playing pitch requirements report and will oversee and steer the options appraisal work led by Strategic Leisure.

### Reason for recommendation:

To enable the Forum to agree a position on what and where to prioritise its future investment in its leisure facilities and activities that are identified within the Leisure and Built Facilities Strategy 2021 -2031

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Medium Risk; The Leisure Strategy 2021-2031 identifies significant areas of work and specific recommendations to action which, if resources are not agreed and put in place, will limit the ability of the Council to make progress in delivering the Strategy's action plans

**Links to background information** [Cabinet report 27.03.24: Delivering leisure and sports playing pitch requirements](#)

**Link to [Council Plan](#)**

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

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## Report in full

### Summary

The Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum to consider, discuss and agree to lead the oversight and steering of the options appraisal work as set out in the attached report that went to Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The necessity for the report to have gone to Cabinet before it was considered by the Forum was due to the many pressing matters identified within the report linked to resources, understanding the Council's role in these matters and identifying if Cabinet were in agreement for undertaking the Peer Review's suggestion for a higher level options appraisal on the affordability of the Council's overall leisure programme.

The details of this work and the challenges being faced for delivering our leisure programme are all detailed in the attached report that went to Cabinet and are therefore attached for further comment and consideration by the Forum.

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## Financial implications:

## Legal implications: