

Report to: Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum

Date of Meeting 8th April 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A



Playing Pitch Audit and Leisure Strategy Delivery Plan Updates

Report summary:

Further to detailed reports presented to the Leisure Delivery Forum in January 2025, Officers were asked to present the latest updates on the Playing Pitch Audit (PPA) that is now taking place.

The Forum is required to keep under review the Leisure Strategy Delivery Plan and in particular, the timelines, implications for resources and staff capacity issues against the individual priority actions.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

That the Forum notes the progress that has been made on the Playing Pitch Audit (PPA) and the Leisure Strategy Delivery Plan and highlight any areas that warrant further discussion.

Reason for recommendation:

To comply with a monitoring, delivery and reporting request on the Playing Pitch Audit and the Leisure Strategy Delivery Plan which is under the purview of this Forum.

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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: Low Risk; The timetable includes both internal and external dependencies and adherence to this timetable will be monitored through the Leisure Strategy Delivery Forum.

Links to background information

Appendix 1 – East Devon Playing Pitch Audit and Strategy Programme – Update April 2025

Appendix 2 – Leisure Strategy Action Plan – Update April 2025

Previous Reports

Leisure Delivery Forum Report – January 2025 [Leisure Strategy Action Plan Update](#)

Leisure Delivery Forum Report – January 2025 [Playing Pitch Audit and Strategy Update.pdf](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☒ A supported and engaged community
- ☐ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
- ☒ Resilient economy that supports local business
- ☐ Financially secure and improving quality of service

1.0 Background and context

1.1 Playing Pitch Audit

The overall Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is underpinned by audits, consultation and a “needs led” analysis of sport and recreation across the district creating a detailed evidence base. Due to the long-term nature of the plan, it is essential that it responds to changing needs and priorities. “Regular consultation and review of supporting information is important, particularly to provide robust evidence to support and inform planning and investment decisions”. The study based on the Sport England guidance has 5 stages broken down into individual steps as detailed in the programme in Appendix 1.

- 1.2 The Audit has now completed Stage B – Supply and Demand Data within the Project Plan Timescale (February 2025). Some follow up is needed to engage with more Town and Parish Councils to complete the surveys that were issued.

Undertake site audits for winter sports (Summer sports undertaken during peak play in the summer)
Consultation with neighbouring authorities. Gather information regarding significant pitch or housing developments and displaced demand
Club, school, town council and parish surveys distributed. Request affiliation data from all NGBs as well as pitch assessment information e.g. PitchPower
Draft Stage B document using info from site audits, NGB affiliation data and online surveys
Distribute Stage B summer data to steering group. Request feedback and any missing information
Steering group provides feedback on Stage B document
Draft final stage B document, showing supply and demand information across all sports. Request steering group sign off.

1.3 Stage C – Supply and Demand Analysis.

This stage is due to be completed before end of May 25.

Agree the current and future population statistics to be used, information on housing developments etc, across study area and in the neighbouring authorities.
Understand the situation at each site - compare supply with demand, evaluate spare capacity, any key issues
Develop understanding of current community provision in the study area
Understand the potential future demand - take into account population change, participation targets, any changes to supply etc.

Identify key findings - current and future supply and demand for provision, is provision accessible and appropriately managed
Distribute stage C to steering group. Provide time for NGBs to respond with changes/recommendations

2.1 Leisure Strategy Delivery Plan

The Leisure and Built Facilities Strategy was adopted in June 2022. This outlines the Council's plans for improving leisure facilities and services in the district, with a focus on providing opportunities for physical activity and improving the quality of life for residents. Alongside that was a Built Leisure Strategy Action Plan with defined priorities over the lifespan of the strategy (i.e. 2022 – 2027). This is attached as Appendix 2.

3.0. Discussion items:

Forum to

- Review the completion timelines as indicated in the Leisure Strategy Action Plan spreadsheet attached with the report. – are these still achievable and realistic?
- Raise any issues of concern in meeting timelines that can lead to a review of completion dates and also if additional resource is required to enable the action to be delivered

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The strategies and action plans support efforts to ensure that the sports facilities in the district continue to provide a choice of quality and accessible opportunities for participation in sport.

Financial implications:

There are no immediate financial implications identified at this stage, but the PPS itself will require financial resources to deliver, and this will need to be considered in its formulation.

Legal implications:

There are no immediate legal implications. However, as noted in Appendix 1 (Stage E: Step 8), full member approval may be required to the revised Strategy when it is in its final form. This should be addressed at the point that the draft Strategy is submitted to Cabinet for approval, by way of Officer recommendations stage.