

Annual Council – 14 May 2025

Annual Report of the Member Champion for Sport and Leisure 24/25

Councillor Simon Smith

REPORT:

Work Achieved during 2024/2025

This year has seen significant progress in enhancing sports and leisure across East Devon. The role has focused on fostering a collaborative approach to improving sports infrastructure and community engagement.

Key Developments

- **Playing Pitch Strategy:** Progress has been made in aligning sports facilities with community needs through the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- **Engagement with Sports Clubs:** Regular interactions with local sports clubs have highlighted their challenges and guided council support.
- **Advocacy in Planning:** Efforts have ensured that sports and leisure provisions are considered in planning applications.
- **Leisure Forum Participation:** Active involvement in the Leisure Forum has fostered a productive dialogue with Leisure East Devon and contributed to a comprehensive leisure review.

Future Priorities

- **Facility Enhancement:** Enhancing sports facilities to meet evolving community needs.
- **Parking and Access:** Addressing parking and access challenges at leisure centres to improve the user experience.
- **Partnership with Schools:** Supporting the ongoing collaboration between Leisure East Devon and schools to ensure smooth shared use of facilities.
- **Continued Advocacy:** Advocating for sports and leisure provisions in all relevant planning applications.
- **Youth Engagement:** Encouraging youth participation in sports through firsthand involvement and community engagement.

Through collaborative efforts, the role has helped integrate community needs into sports and leisure planning, ensuring a responsive and inclusive approach.