

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Executive Summary

East Devon District Council

**A report by Strategic
Leisure Limited**

June 2026



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Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Definition
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
EDDC	East Devon District Council
SLL	Strategic Leisure Limited
MES	Match Equivalent Session
MPS	Matches Per Season
TGR	Team Generation Rate
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
NTP	Non-Turf Pitch
RFU	Rugby Football Union
FA	Football Association
FF	Football Foundation
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
DAP	Devon Active Partnership
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
EN	England Netball
BE	Bowls England
EH	England Hockey

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Foreword

East Devon’s Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) covers the period between 2026 and 2040 and aligns with the latest Sport England guidance. Initial data was primarily gathered in 2023/24. Strategic Leisure Limited was commissioned to develop the Playing Pitch Strategy and worked collaboratively with East Devon District Council (EDDC), Planning and Streetscene (Parks) teams, alongside sports national governing bodies (NGBs) and Sport England (the project's steering group) to undertake the work.

A Playing Pitch and Open Space Strategy (PPOSS) serves multiple functions across sport, public health, the local planning authority, parish and town councils, sports clubs, the wider voluntary sector and landowners. It contributes towards health and wellbeing through supporting formal club-based sport and social, casual and informal sport, which encourages broader participation and increased physical activity.

Engagement with neighbouring and local councils, clubs, schools and academies, operators, owners and pitch providers has been carried out to understand the needs of local sports.

The study area for the PPS is the whole of the East Devon District Council (EDDC) area. The study also details the sub-areas and main towns used for analysis and presentation of the strategy’s recommendations and actions.

The strategy covers grass and artificial grass pitches (AGPs) used for football, rugby union, bowls, hockey and cricket, as well as outdoor netball and tennis courts.

As recommended in Sport England guidance, the strategic framework is based on three themes:

- **Protect:**
 - Safeguarding existing playing pitch provision, regardless of ownership or current community access.
- **Enhance:**
 - Improving the quality, accessibility and management of existing pitches and supporting facilities to meet current or future demand.
- **Provide:**
 - Developing new provision where existing provision isn’t meeting demand.
 - On-going revenue expenditure is unlikely to require works that involve development/require planning permission but may still need to be funded from available sources.

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Capital costs arising from proposals to enhance or provide new facilities will need to be identified and appropriate additional resources and planning permissions secured before any scheme is approved. The council will continue to seek and where possible secure Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)/other funding sources towards improvements to facilities in accordance with NPPF for planning obligations given the competing priorities for CIL monies. This means there has to be a more considered and strategic approach linking development sites with identified projects – the PPOSS helps officers to achieve this. To some extent the PPOSS is useful in linking development sites with projects, but this is only explicitly so where (typically) facilities will actually be located on bigger development sites or rarely clear off-site linked provision is required. Most actual development sites are too small to come into this category and so making direct links is not credible. Grant funding and other sources of capital will always be explored to provide or improve those sports facilities where planning obligations cannot be justified.

Action Plan

The PPOSS also provides more specific identification of the individual schemes to which contributions could be allocated –using the research and analysis now available.

Recommendations and actions are set out and monitored in a “live” action plan framework which steering group members have a responsibility to update and implement. They are aspirational and do not result in any immediate financial commitment by EDDC nor by any other body nor the steering group. The Action Plan (Appendix 1) sets out priority actions in broad terms.

The EDDC Leisure Forum will note that the actions relate to council facilities and to those owned by other organisations. For the latter, the Strategy set out the council’s intention with regard to potential support for those facilities, which in most cases, reflects aspirations and priorities identified through the consultation and projects already under development. The Strategy highlights whether the council’s role will be to ‘lead’, ‘collaborate’ or ‘advocate’ in order to progress the action.

- **Lead** – take responsibility for planning, delivery, monitoring and review
- **Support** – play an active role in delivery partnership (e.g. s106 / CI / Grants and where relevant advice)
- **Advocate** – seek to influence and offer support as appropriate (Supporting letter for grants)

There was extensive consultation with the sports sector as part of the research and audit work. There will continue to be regular engagement with, and involvement of providers to progress delivery of the actions in the Strategy.

Action plan review meetings will be held regularly by the steering group, whilst delivery work will continue between partners on an ongoing basis. The difficulties and the possibilities of the recommendations will be explored, along with their potential impact on other planned actions. A “plan, deliver, monitor, manage” approach will guide the process. Implementation will be a shared responsibility relying on steering group members to coordinate and work closely with clubs, teams, league organisers, providers, and owners of current pitches and potential sites for additional pitches.

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This Strategy will be reviewed and refreshed as schemes and projects are developed, delivered or changed. After further feasibility work, some projects may be considered unviable. All of the projects identified are aspirational however the overarching approach of this Strategy is one of optimism, and over the next few years we will do what we can to enhance yet further the facilities that add so much to lives of residents in East Devon.

The initial focus will be on short term plans due to the pending outcomes of the Local Government Review due in Summer 2026.

Further Information

Comprehensive summary tables of the key findings including information on current demand, future demand, specific calculations on the supply / demand balance and AGP provision are available in separate Assessment Reports for each sport. Further detailed recommendations including sub-area breakdowns are available on the EDDC website.

Any queries or requests for further information should be sent to: (add contact)

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. East Devon District Council (EDDC) appointed Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) to undertake a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) to provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development. The PPOSS will form part of a wider suite of strategic planning documents that will feed into the development of the Local Plan.
- 1.2. A PPOSS is a strategic assessment that provides an up-to-date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) and its current and future demand in the local authority. The strategy and the evidence base upon which it is based is delivered using Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013), Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) and facility insight from specific National Governing Bodies of Sport. The following sports are assessed using the PPS guidance:
 - Football
 - Rugby Union
 - Cricket
 - Hockey
- 1.3. Tennis, netball and outdoor bowls are assessed using the ANOG guidance.
- 1.4. The findings of the PPOSS are based on data collected from several credible sources, including, but not limited to;
 - Local authority and public policy strategic documentation;
 - Sport England tools, including the Playing Pitch Calculator, Sports Facility Calculator, Active Places Power and the Active Lives Survey;
 - Stakeholder consultation, including East Devon Council Officers and Members, Sport England, relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport, education providers, key user clubs; and
 - Site visits, undertaken at all strategically important sites across the Study Area.
- 1.5. A project steering group comprising representation from the Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage.
- 1.6. All information and data included in this Executive Summary, is taken from the PPOSS Assessment, Strategy and Action Plan documents, in which further detailed analysis can be found for each sport.

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- 1.7. It is important to note that although the PPOSS is compliant with Sport England guidance and provides a robust assessment of need for East Devon it is a mechanism for supporting not ensuring delivery.
- 1.8. The PPOSS identifies the overall need in the district and on a sub area basis and recommends where and how this should be addressed i.e. type and scale of provision. However, it is not an instruction to provide. Rather, its findings are designed to inform the delivery of the Local Plan and other additional infrastructure requirements, demonstrate need, assist in determining planning applications, and secure resources to deliver where necessary.
- 1.9. It is important to use the PPOSS as a planning tool and for identifying potential methods for meeting the needs of East Devon residents. Where it is decided that additional facility development is required, further feasibility work should be undertaken to ensure that the right provision is delivered in the correct location. As the PPOSS does not include costing of individual schemes, nor identifies how much could be raised from s106 etc, it is important that any feasibility work also identifies capital costs and potential funding sources, as well as engaging all necessary partners and stakeholders.

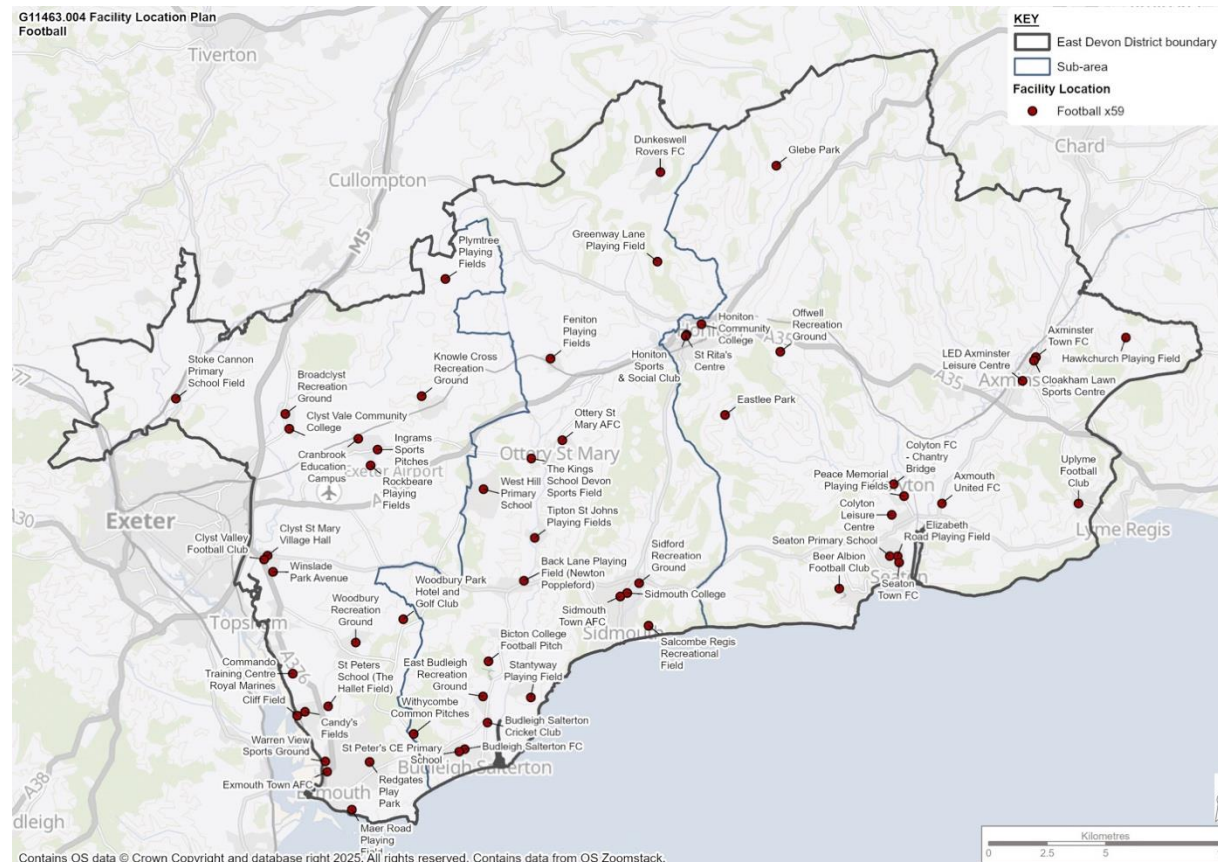
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2. Grass Football Pitches

Supply and Demand Audit

2.1. In East Devon, there is a total of 108 available pitches across 59 sites, of which 57% are rated as good quality, 20% rated as standard, and 23% are rated as poor quality.

Map 1: Available Football Pitch Sites



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- 2.2. There are 46 football clubs in East Devon, comprising a total of 292 teams. The largest proportion of these teams come from adult male 11v11 (61), 7v7 (65) and 5v5 (66) teams.
- 2.3. Although ancillary provision is mostly of standard or good quality, there are a number of key community football sites that have poor quality facilities and fail to meet the needs of the clubs.



Ottery St Mary AFC



Feniton Playing Fields (Feniton FC)

Analysis Findings

- 2.4. The current supply and demand analysis for accessible and secure pitch provision in East Devon, shows spare capacity on adult 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitch types. There is currently a significant deficit of -9.5 MES of youth 11v11 provision.
- 2.5. When looking forward to 2042, there is predicted to be an insufficient supply of all grass pitch types, with the largest shortfalls found on youth 11v11 pitches.
- 2.6. Growth of the female game is predicted to add 4 adult, 12 youth and 9 mini teams to East Devon in the next 3 years, increasing demand by 12.5 MES per week and further worsening the grass pitch deficit.
- 2.7. As a result of local and national FA initiatives, the demand for football is expected to grow significantly quicker than population growth. Based on FA predictions there could be an additional 91 teams added to East Devon by 2030. 45 of these are expected to be mini 7v7 or 5v5 teams, 42 will be youth 11v11 or 9v9 and 4 will be adult teams.

Strategy Recommendations

1. Improve the quality of grass pitches, wherever possible, with priority given to:
 - Cliff Field
 - Cranbrook Education Campus
 - Clyst Vale Community College
 - Back Lane Playing Field
 - Bicton College
 - The Kings School Devon
 - Hawkchurch Playing Field
 - Sidford Recreation Ground
2. Support the provision of additional grass pitches and ancillary provision in and around Honiton including Tower Hill (subject to planning permission being granted).
3. Where suitable and avoiding unnecessary travel, consider transferring 5v5 and 7v7 match play demand onto 3G AGPs, creating additional capacity on existing grass pitches.
4. Secure community use agreements wherever possible at currently unsecure sites to provide additional capacity to the study area. Due to the current deficits, priority should be focussed on those with youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches.
5. Consider investment in ancillary facilities at Clyst Valley FC, Candy's Field, Stantyway Playing Field, Elizabeth Road Playing Field, Greenway Lane, Winslade Park, Colyton FC.
6. Ensure that large scale housing developments provide appropriate levels of provision to cater for their new population
7. Protect the existing supply of grass and AGP provision, in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 104 of the NPPF

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3. 3G Artificial Grass Pitches

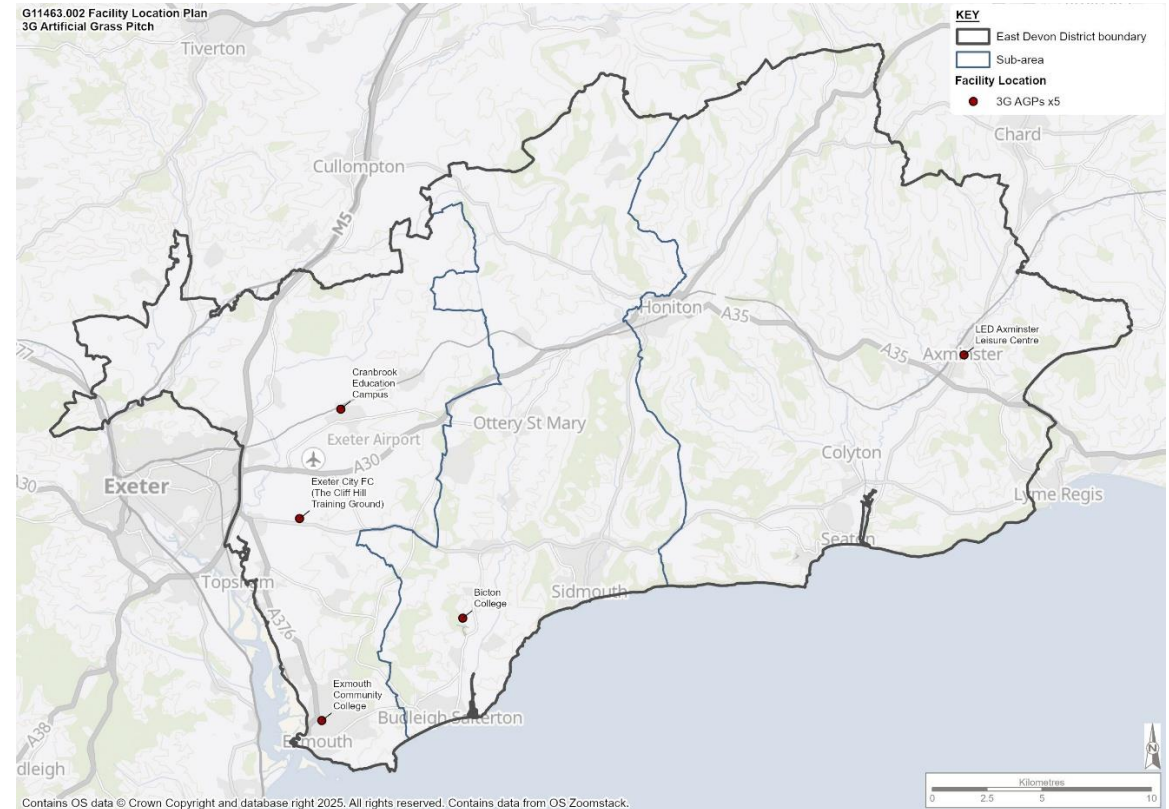
Supply and Demand Audit

- 3.1. There are 2 11v11 3G AGP's and 1x 5v5 pitch and 1x 7v7 in East Devon. The 11v11 3G at Cliff Hill Training Ground is currently only utilised by Exeter City youth teams and affiliated partners and offers little usage to the wider community. Only the 7v7 pitch at Exmouth Community College has a WR22 compliant surface, however this is not used by any affiliated rugby union clubs.
- 3.2. There is a total supply of 2.5 11v11 equivalent 3G AGPs that are accessible to the community.
- 3.3. 3 of the 5 3G pitches in East Devon are rated as good quality and 2 rated as standard quality. There are no poor quality 3G pitches in the study area.



Cranbrook Education Campus

Map 2: Available 3G AGP Pitch Sites



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Analysis Findings

- 3.4. Based on football and rugby club demand, there is a current deficit of -8 3G pitches in the study area. Most of this deficit is generated by the central sub area (-4), followed by the west (3) and east (-1).
- 3.5. ONS population growth projections and latent demand predict that the total deficit of 3G pitches will increase to -13 by 2042.
- 3.6. However, FA projections suggest a significantly higher level of team growth of 91 teams by 2030, which would increase the deficit substantially. Housing development is also projected to increase the deficit of 3G provision.

Strategy Recommendations

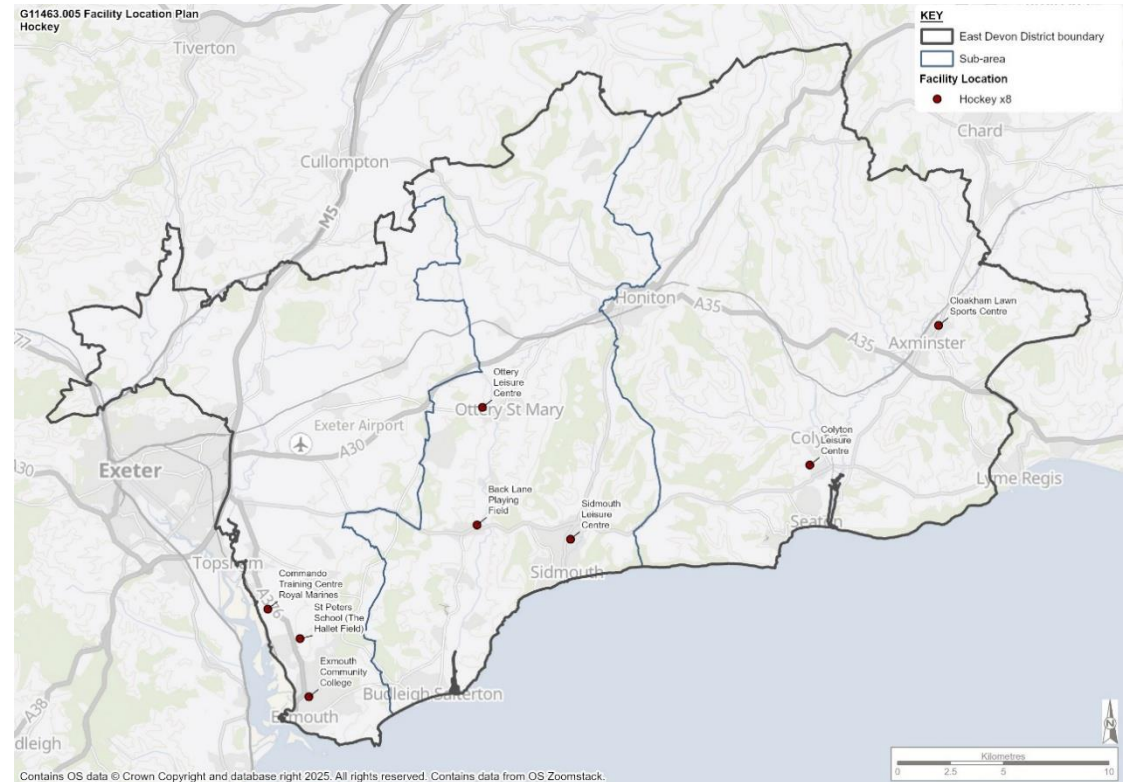
1. Develop additional 3G pitch provision throughout East Devon, with an initial focus on Cranbrook and Honiton Community College. Once delivered, the priority for investment should be the west sub area.
2. Agree the location for further 3G development, with considerations made for, but not limited to:
 - Exmouth Rugby Club
 - Exmouth Town FC
 - Maer Road
 - Land opposite Withycombe Common (Exmo 20)
 - Sidford Recreation Ground
 - Sidmouth Town FC
 - Marlcombe (new community)
3. To mitigate against the loss of Clyst Rovers FC stadia pitch, developer contributions should be secured to ensure that 3G provision at Marlcombe has the capacity and facilities (stadia, supporters rail etc) to allow for a community football club to progress through the football league tier system without restriction).
4. Ensure that wherever 3G development is agreed, WR22 surfaces are considered. Priority sites for WR22 compliance are Exmouth Rugby Club, Sidford Recreation Ground and Marlcombe.
5. Protect the existing supply of AGP provision, in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

4. Hockey Pitches

Supply and Demand Audit

- 4.1. There is a total of 5 full size AGPs in East Devon that are suitable for Hockey, however only 4 offer community use as CTCRM is not available to the community. There are a further 3 small-sided sand-based AGPs. There is no security of tenure at any site for hockey clubs in East Devon.
- 4.2. There are 3 hockey clubs located within East Devon; East Devon & Exe HC, Sidmouth and Ottery HC and Honiton Hornets. East Devon & Exe are largely based outside of the study area in Exeter.
- 4.3. Sidmouth Leisure Centre is not floodlit, limiting capacity for hockey on site. Exmouth Community College is the only sand-based pitch rated as good quality, with all other AGPs rated as standard apart from CTCRM which is poor quality.

Map 3: Available Sand-Based Hockey Pitch Sites



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Colyton Leisure Centre



Sidmouth Leisure Centre

Analysis Findings

- 4.4. There is a lack of capacity on hockey-appropriate AGPs to meet hockey club demand, alongside football club training demand.
- 4.5. There is a deficit of adequate hockey facilities and future demand driven by population growth and EH participation increases will be unable to be met on the current stock of pitches accessible to the community. If football demand continues to grow, facilities are lost, or East Devon & Exe HC return to the study area, capacity for the growth of hockey clubs will be further restrained.
- 4.6. Due to challenges in accessing appropriate provision in the study area, East Devon & Exe Hockey Club currently utilise poor quality pitches in Exeter, as well as Exmouth Community College which is used for 1 hour per week. The club wish to consolidate all activity to one site within East Devon, allowing them to support all current demand, facilitate future growth and cater for participation and informal activity (Walking Hockey, Back to Hockey etc).
- 4.7. Broadclyst Parish Council have identified Clyst Vale Community College as a potential site for the development of community sports hub that will include a full-sized sand-dressed AGP, a community building and clubhouse, secure storage and appropriate car parking. Delivered alongside upgraded grass pitch provision and resurfaced netball courts, the collective development would ensure that the local community has adequate access to high quality facilities.

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- 4.8. England Hockey predict a 20% growth in junior participation, which could add approximately 50 new members to East Devon, further increasing the strain on sand-based AGPs.

Strategy Recommendations

1. Consider the development of a full size sand-based AGP as part of the proposed sports club at Clyst Vale Community College.
2. Install sports lighting at Sidmouth Leisure Centre sand-based AGP.
3. Ensure security of use for hockey clubs on all sites currently utilised for club, community and school activity.
4. Protect all existing sand-based AGP provision, in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 104 of the NPPF

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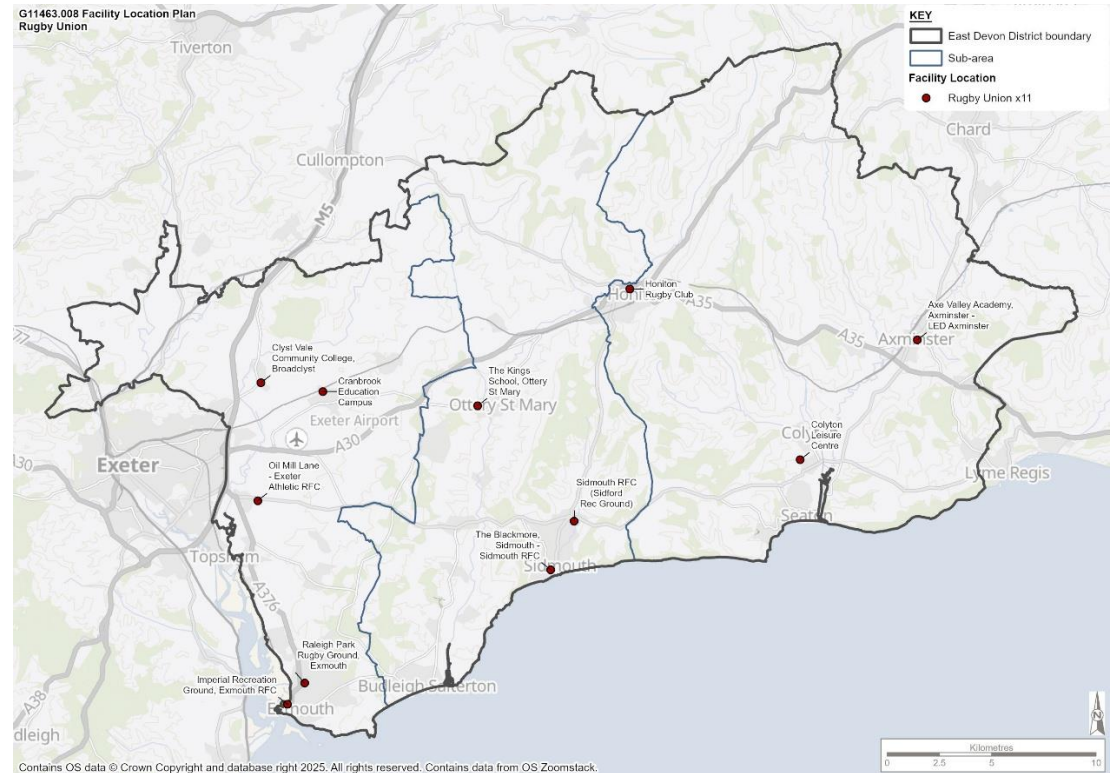
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5. Rugby Union Pitches

Supply and Demand Audit

- 5.1. There are currently 15 rugby union club sites in East Devon, with a total of 25 senior pitches. However, only 12 of these sites, with 22 pitches are available to the community. 9 of these are located in the west sub area, 8 in the central area and 5 in the east sub area.
- 5.2. Currently only 6 sites offer any security of tenure: Oil Mill Lane, Imperial Rec Ground, Raleigh Park, Sidmouth RFC, The Blackmore and Honiton RFC, with a total of 12 pitches.
- 5.3. There are 5 clubs in the study area, comprised of 74 teams; 11 senior male, 3 senior female, 25 youth boys, 3 youth girls, 7 U12 and 25 mini teams. 3 clubs are located in the west area, with a total of 44 teams. There is 1, 19 team club in the central sub area and the eastern area also has 1 club, with 11 teams.
- 5.4. Based on population growth and latent demand, it is estimated that there will be a total of 17 new teams in East Devon by 2042.

Map 4: Available Rugby Union Pitch Sites





Oil Mill Lane (Exeter Athletic RFC)



Sidmouth RFC

Analysis Findings

- 5.5. There is a current large deficit of training provision in the study area due to lack of sports lit pitches and high levels of demand for them. There is a small shortfall of weekend match play availability. The vast majority of this deficit is generated by the west sub area.
- 5.6. There is a deficit of 3G AGP provision in the study area. If future AGP development was to be rugby union compliant, it could help to reduce some of the training deficit currently experienced in East Devon. Due to the expected future growth in demand for rugby union provision, the deficit of both training and match play availability is expected to increase significantly.
- 5.7. The development of additional sports lighting on 8 existing pitches at club sites would have a positive impact on the capacity for training, however in some cases could create overplay that negatively affects match play. Therefore, access to appropriate artificial surfaces is required to adequately cater for rugby union demand. Although pitch quality improvements alone would have a minimal impact on reducing the training shortfall due to lack of sports lighting, they should be considered as part of a holistic approach alongside other methods of increasing capacity.
- 5.8. Additional grass pitch development should be a priority at new large scale housing developments such as Cranbrook and Marcombe.

Strategy Recommendations

1. Development of additional floodlighting at key rugby union club sites. Priority should be to install floodlighting at sites where it can deliver the biggest impact most effectively and where there is the largest need. Consideration should be given to Imperial Rec Ground, Sidmouth RFC and Honiton Community College.
2. Improve grass pitch quality on all sites where possible. Focus to be on pitch improvements at Sidmouth RFC, Oil Mill Lane and The Blackmore.
3. Consider the development of additional grass pitch provision where possible. However, this may be required to be off-site with priority given to proposals at Cranbrook and the future Marlcombe.
4. Consider and support the development of WR22 compliant 3G provision to help meet rugby training demand. Priority sites to explore are Imperial Rec Ground, Honiton Community College, Sidford Rec Ground (Sidmouth RFC).
5. Explore the potential for investment into ancillary facilities, with the priority sites being Oil Mill Lane, Sidmouth RFC and Honiton RFC.
6. Protect the existing supply of grass rugby union provision, in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

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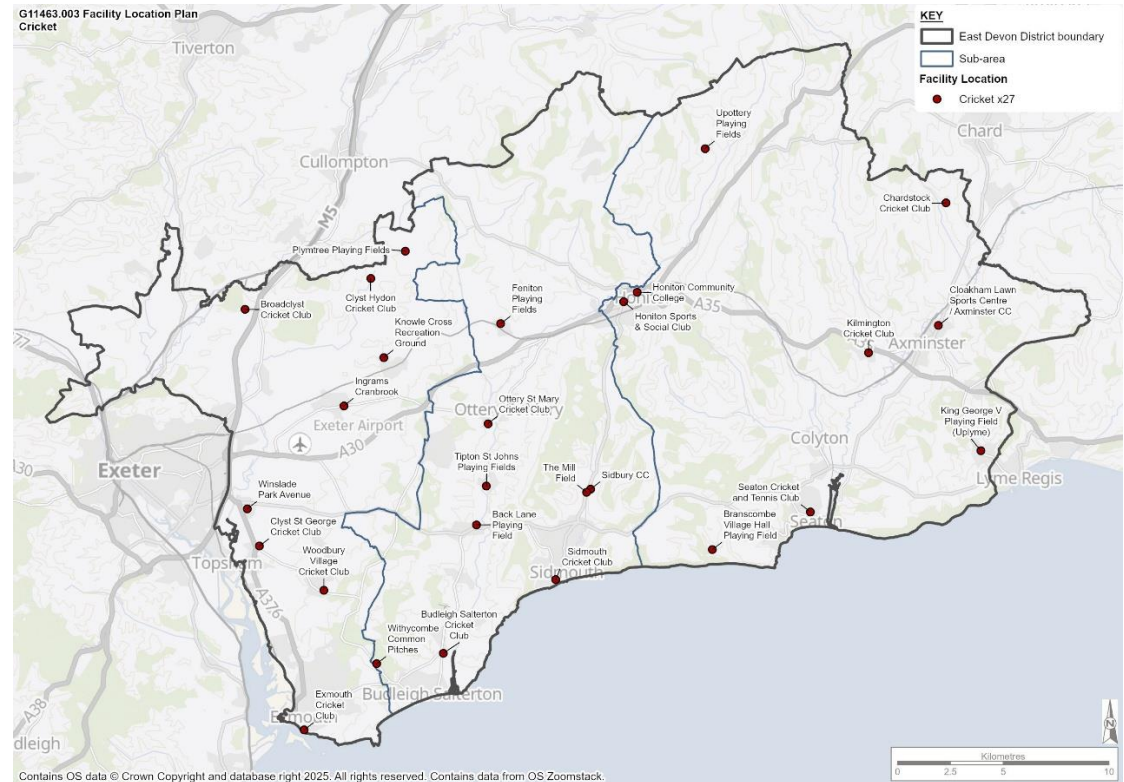
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6. Cricket Pitches

Supply and Demand Audit

- 6.1. There is a total of 29 sites in East Devon, of which 27 are available for community use, comprising of 251 grass wickets and 17 artificial grass wickets.
- 6.2. 93 grass wickets are located in the west (38%), 79 in the central sub area (31%) and 79 in the east (31%)
- 6.3. 29% of all sites are owned by community organisations, 26% by EDDC or Parish Council, 23% are owned by sports clubs, education establishments own 13% and 10% of sites are owned commercially.
- 6.4. 22 clubs have been identified as playing in East Devon, with a total of 131 teams. There are 72 teams in junior age categories and 59 senior level teams. The majority of cricket is played in the West sub area with 58 teams, followed by the central sub area with 48, and 25 in the east.

Map 5: Available Cricket Pitch Sites



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Winslade Park - EX5 1DD



Exmouth Cricket Club - EX8 2AY

Analysis Findings

- 6.5. There is a deficit of -41 MPS of accessible community use grass wicket provision in East Devon. However, this deficit is generated by the West (-186 MPS) sub area, whilst there remains a small level of spare capacity in both the central (4 MPS) and eastern sub areas (141 MPS). By 2042, there is expected to be a grass wicket deficit of -233 MPS, due to population growth and latent demand predictions by clubs.
- 6.6. Improvements to all accessible grass wickets could create current spare capacity and significantly reduce the predicted future shortfall, however, must be carried out alongside additional pitch development.
- 6.7. Devon Cricket aspires to develop a high performance, outdoor, two pitch facility to support the growth in cricket across the county, to help to alleviate some of the demand from seniors and women and girls that is currently being met at community clubs. Further feasibility work is necessary to identify a suitable site locally.
- 6.8. There are plans in place to develop improved ancillary facilities at Winslade Park, improving the playing experience for all community users, in particular women and girls.
- 6.9. Devon Cricket also identifies the need for 2 further pitches in the study area to help meet current demand from the community. Exmouth CC require additional capacity to meet demand and there are proposals, supported by the ECB to deliver additional pitch provision on site.

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- 6.10. Population growth and housing development are predicted to create further shortfalls by 2042, requiring more additional pitch development. Where not possible on existing club sites, large scale housing developments such as Marlcombe, provide good opportunities to deliver appropriate cricket facilities.

Strategy Recommendations

1. Improve the quality of grass wickets on club sites wherever possible, with priority sites being Plymtree Playing Fields (West), Winslade Park (West), Feniton Playing Fields (Central), Newton Poppleford CC (Back Lane Playing Fields) and Sidbury CC (Central).
2. Secure community use agreements at Colyton Leisure Centre and St Peter's School if possible.
3. Develop new cricket pitch provision at Marlcombe, where up to 30 grass wickets could be supported once the site reaches 10,000 dwellings. Also consider some off-site development to support the rest of the west sub area.
4. Support the development of the high performance community cricket facility in East Devon, with further feasibility work to identify a suitable site.
5. Explore the feasibility of developing other additional cricket pitches, with an initial focus on the west sub area to provide further capacity for Exmouth CC. Other pitch provision should be considered for the west and central sub areas.
6. Support the development of and investment into improved ancillary facilities for cricket clubs, with priority sites being Sidbury CC, Clyst St George CC, Sidmouth CC, Tipton St John CC and Whimble CC (Knowle Cross Recreation Ground).
7. Consider investment in netting to prevent ball strike issues at Honiton Sports and Social Club
8. Protect the existing supply of cricket provision, in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

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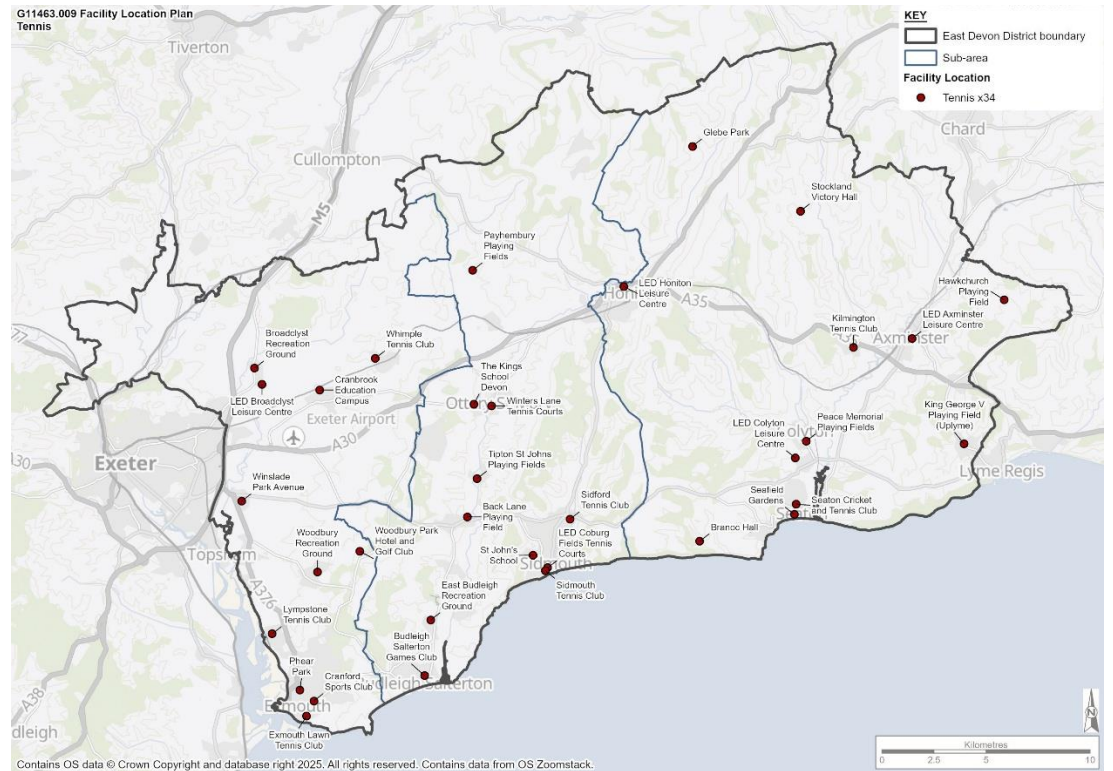
7. Outdoor Tennis Courts and Padel

Supply and Demand Audit

- 7.1. There are 98 courts across 35 sites in the EDDC study area, 17 of which are LTA registered. 40 of these courts are located in the west sub area, 35 are in the central area and 23 in the east. 76 courts are available to the public. However, there are courts on un-registered sites and education campuses that either do not allow community access or prioritise other sports such as netball, meaning there is no tennis activity.
- 7.2. 42 of courts are floodlit, accounting for 43% of the total supply. Although 79% of these courts are theoretically available to the community, only LTA registered venues provide effective operating models, online to court journeys and financial sustainability.
- 7.3. 14 out of 35 sites are rated as excellent or good quality, 11 sites are classed as standard quality, 9 sites in East Devon are rated as poor. Winslade Park is classed as unplayable and cannot offer any capacity for tennis activity.
- 7.4. There is a total of 1,536 members of clubs in East Devon, whilst 2,980 people play tennis at least twice every 28 days and 8,939 play at least once per year. 476 people are members of tennis clubs in the west sub area, 810 members are located in the central sub area, and the east sub area accounts for 250. The high membership figures in the central sub area are influenced by large memberships at both Budleigh Salterton Games Club (202) and Sidmouth Tennis Club (275).

7.5. There are 8 padel courts across 2 sites. 6 of these are located at City Padel Exeter, which is an LTA registered venue and there are 2 temporary courts at Woodbury Park Hotel.

Map 6: Available Outdoor Tennis Court Sites



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LED Axminster



Phear Park

Analysis Findings

- 7.6. Club sites in East Devon are operating at 68% of their maximum capacity, whilst publicly available courts are operating at around 48% of their total operational capacity. This level of utilisation is marginally below the national average according to the LTA data. However, if the analysis only considers the 3 LTA registered parks sites, then publicly available courts are currently operating at 86% of their maximum capacity.
- 7.7. If participation continues to grow in line with population the playing population will increase by 16.8%, meaning that club sites across East Devon are estimated to be operating at 79% of their maximum capacity. However, there is disparity between the sub areas, with the west predicted to be at 62% capacity, the central area at 99% capacity and the club sites in the east are likely to be operating at 73% of maximum capacity.
- 7.8. Demand for public courts will also increase by 334 sessions per month, bringing the utilisation of public courts to 56% by 2042.
- 7.9. Although club sites in East Devon are expected to be at 79% of their maximum capacity by 2042, there is a significant over-subscription at 6 out of 14 clubs, the worst of which are East Budleigh Tennis Club (250%) and Whimble Tennis Club (205%).
- 7.10. Although demand for public courts is likely to increase in line with population growth, there is still predicted to be 44% of the total capacity available for community use by 2042. However, if non-LTA registered venues are removed from the analysis due to their inability to provide effective community access, then the 3 remaining venues will be operating at 100% of their maximum capacity with no room for further development.

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- 7.11. There are aspirations to develop additional tennis courts at Cranford Sports Club. Although currently unused, this would involve the loss of 2 floodlit netball courts on site, further decreasing access to appropriate courts that could be used to support netball training and match play throughout the winter.
- 7.12. All indoor and outdoor tennis facilities should be protected and cannot be considered as potential sites for new padel development or any other change of use. Based on LTA calculations, it is estimated that East Devon could sustain 12.8 courts padel courts. If future population figures are accurate, East Devon could effectively sustain 14.6 padel courts by 2042.

Strategy Recommendations

1. To retain and sustain all tennis courts regardless of quality or utilisation.
2. To maintain high quality accessible tennis through effective operating models at Phear Park, Seafield Gardens & Coburg Gardens. Review court quality issues at Phear Park & Seafield Gardens.
3. Improve park tennis provision with high quality facilities and financially sustainable operating models. Priority sites include Winters Lane, Peace Memorial Playing Fields, Broadclyst Rec Ground, Honiton Tennis Courts and Kilmington Tennis Club.
4. Reinstate Winslade Park (as above) as a key strategic location for park tennis.
5. Review court quality, lighting provision and accessibility of courts at Cranford Sports Club.
6. Secure long-term community use agreement at Cranbrook Education Campus.
7. Increase the number of floodlit courts where demand is evident. Cranbrook Education Campus being a priority site.
8. To ensure tennis demand is considered in relation to future housing developments and population growth.
9. Secure lease agreements for clubs, with a particular focus on Seaton Tennis Club.
10. Work towards a minimum of 11 padel courts across East Devon to meet demand based on LTA data.
11. Ensure even geographical spread of facilities is evident
12. Ensure courts meet the needs of the local community through robust community use agreements
13. Ensure padel courts do not replace existing indoor or outdoor tennis provision

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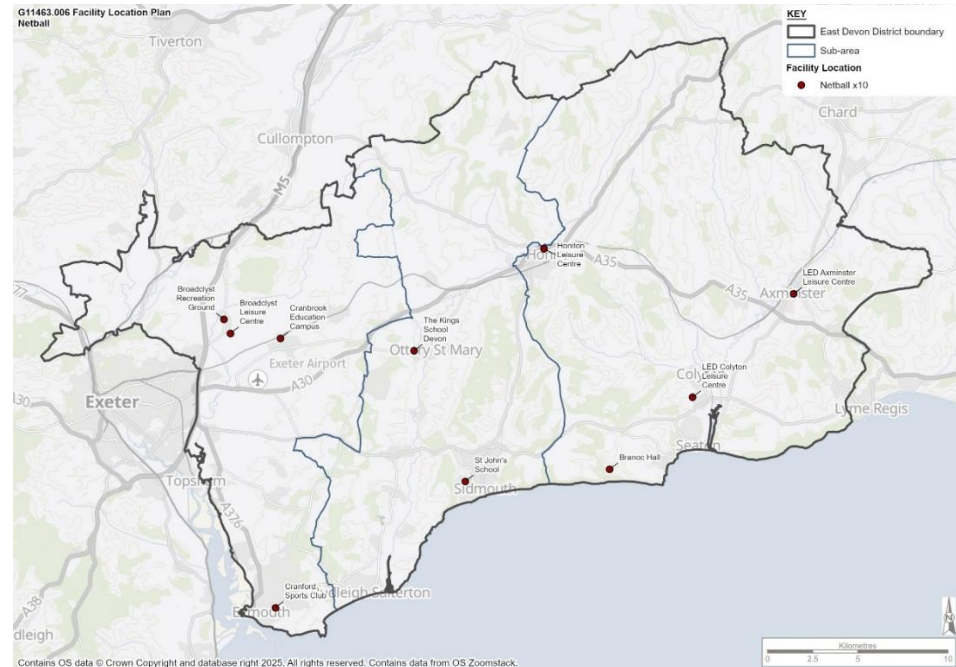
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8. Outdoor Netball Courts

Supply and Demand Audit

- 8.1. Education owned sites provide 80% all netball courts in East Devon, 7% are located on local authority sites, 7% on commercially owned sites and 6% are owned by community organisations.
- 8.2. There are 15 courts located in the west sub area, 8 in the central sub area and 7 in the east sub area.
- 8.3. A total of 9 courts are floodlit, of which 6 are in the east sub area and 2 are in the west. However, the 2 floodlit courts in the west are located at Cranford Sports Club which currently does not cater for any netball demand.
- 8.4. The only 2 courts of good quality are located at Honiton Leisure Centre, however the paint used for line markings is not of an appropriate standard and creates a health and safety issue. There are 15 standard courts and 13 poor courts in the study area.
- 8.5. There are 20 netball clubs in the study area utilising outdoor netball provision, as well as a major league that utilises Honiton Leisure Centre

Map 7: Available Outdoor Netball Court Sites



Cranbrook Education Campus

Analysis Findings

- 8.6. Although there are a number of sites available to the community that are not currently utilised by netball clubs, lack of sports lighting on outdoor courts means that they cannot effectively meet demand for outdoor netball activity in the mid-week.
- 8.7. Courts at Cranbrook Education Campus, although recently resurfaced, also require sports lighting to ensure year round netball activity is possible. Although the site has previously catered for a range of league and club netball, all activity is now displaced to Exeter.
- 8.8. Current trends based on club consultation show that participation in Netball is increasing throughout East Devon. There are thriving netball leagues and clubs and demand is likely to grow through the effective implementation of participation initiatives and recent success at the elite major tournaments.
- 8.9. There are facility development proposals at both Honiton Leisure Centre and Cranbrook Education Campus, for the resurfacing of courts at Honiton, the covering of outdoor provision at Honiton and the installation of sports lighting at Cranbrook. Both developments would provide additional opportunities for netball to grow and for displaced demand to return to the study area.
- 8.10. Plans to create additional tennis provision at Cranford Sports Club involve the loss of 2 floodlit netball courts. Although these do not currently support netball activity as clubs do not like the surface, there is a deficit of provision in the study area and there are aspirations from EN and local netball organisations to future proof the sport and provide further opportunities for netball to be developed, especially at the grass roots level.

Strategy Recommendations

1. Protect existing quantity of netball courts.
2. Consider the development of additional sports lit outdoor courts to support mid-week training and match play demand, including the development of a Football Foundation Playzone in Ottery St Mary.
3. Support the court resurfacing and covering of courts at Honiton Leisure Centre and the installation of sports lighting at Cranbrook Education Campus.
4. Engage further with England Netball and the LTA to agree an appropriate decision on the resurfacing of netball courts at Cranford Sports Club.
5. Ensure club future demand can be accommodated through existing indoor provision and supplemented through existing supply of outdoor courts, working with facility owners/managers to provide both indoor and outdoor netball.

6. Ensure that any large housing developments provide for netball where necessary. Ideally, new netball development should be located as close to the housing development as possible, however it may be more appropriate for additional provision to be provided at existing club or school sites.

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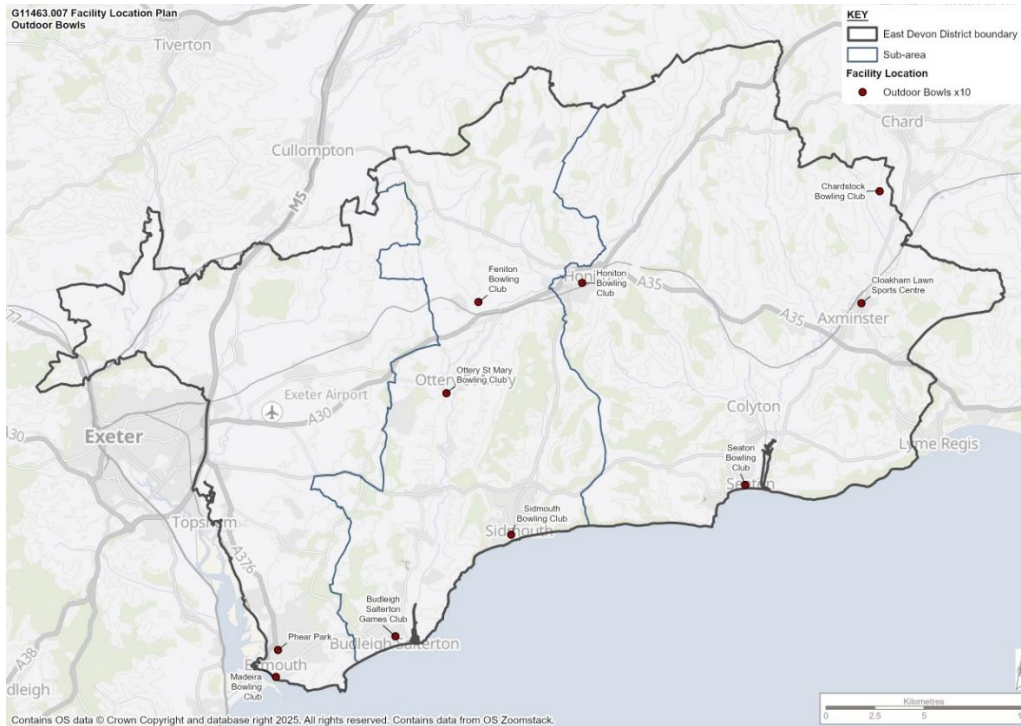
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9. Outdoor Bowling Greens

Supply and Demand Audit

- 9.1. There are currently 10 sites across East Devon with 12 greens.
- 9.2. There are 10 clubs in the EDDC area with a total estimated membership of 764 people.
- 9.3. Of the 12 greens, 9 were rated as good quality and 3 were rated as standard. Maintenance of all greens is of a good standard

Map 8: Available Outdoor Bowling Green Sites



Budleigh Salterton Games Club



Feniton Bowling Club

Analysis Findings

- 9.4. All 10 sites in the study are secured for community use, and based on membership figures provided by Bowls England, consultation and Active Lives participation rates, it is likely that there is spare capacity for new bowls demand on all greens.
- 9.5. Future population projections indicate a potential 523 additional players by 2042. Any future growth in demand can be satisfied with the current green stock and is likely to have little impact on the supply and demand balance in the study area.

Strategy Recommendations

1. Protect existing quantity of all facilities.
2. Support grounds staff to review quality issues on greens to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
3. Ensure club future demand can be accommodated on existing supply of greens.
4. Work with clubs to support development and growth of the sport.

10. Summary of Recommendations

Table 1: Summary of Recommendations

Objective	Recommendation
OBJECTIVE 1: To protect the existing supply of outdoor sports provision to meet current and future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 1: Ensure, that all existing outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local, national and Sport England planning policy; • Recommendation 2: Secure tenure and access to sites for participation-focused development clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements; and • Recommendation 3: Ensure continued use of education facilities where there is a need, these should have long-term security agreements where possible.
OBJECTIVE 2: To enhance outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 4: Improve quality of playing pitches and ancillary facilities; • Recommendation 5: Work with facility owners, operators and sports clubs to ensure there is an appropriate maintenance regime and all pitches being improved. • Recommendation 6: Secure external funding in partnership with other stakeholders; and • Recommendation 7: Secure developer contributions.
OBJECTIVE 3: To provide new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 8: Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand; and • Recommendation 9: Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock. • Recommendation 10: develop facilities in the area of greatest demand to minimise travel time for residents.

Action Plan

- 10.1. The Sport Specific Action Plan Appendix 1 provides individual sport recommendations and individual site recommendations by geographic area and reflect the outcomes of the scenarios and identified quantitative and quality improvements identified in the assessment report and strategy document of this report.

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10.2. The Sport Specific and Individual Site Action Plans are given timescales to deliver:

<p>Short Term Delivered against or worked towards within three years (ahead of the first full review of the PPS);</p>	<p>Medium Term. Delivered within 6 years; and</p>	<p>Long Term. No specific date – In many instances the action is an aspiration and is general support for clubs or other bodies to progress with and is not an action the Council or the Playing Pitch Steering Group have control over.</p>
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10.3. The strategic actions within Appendix 1 have also been ranked as low, medium, or high based on cost. These are based on Sport England’s estimated facility costs. The range in which these sit are:

<p>(L) - Low - less than £50k</p>	<p>(M) - Medium - £50k-£250k</p>	<p>(H) - High £250k and above</p>
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10.4. In addition to using the planning system to lever in developer contributions, it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought to deliver much of the action plan because there are many competing demands for developer contributions and the funding available is unlikely to be sufficient to meet the identified projects. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding will need be investigated e.g. look to apply for grants and work with NGBs and Sport England to seek partnership funding for several projects.

10.5. It is important that the PPS Steering Group keep this strategy alive and the District Council is in the process of establishing an Infrastructure Planning Officer Advisory Group to assist with this. This will be achieved by:

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions;
- Providing up to date annual supply and demand for pitch stock; and
- Addressing changing trends and formats for the different pitch sports as they develop and monitoring participation of these changes and trends

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