

Local Development Framework Briefing Paper Sport and Physical Activity



Devon County Council's advice to Local Planning Authorities.

This is one of a series of briefing papers prepared by Devon County Council to assist the preparation of Local Development Documents.

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Local Planning Authorities are requested to take the following sport and physical activity into account in preparing their Local Development Frameworks and other documents:

1. **Maximise investment in the sports infrastructure; provision and maintenance of high quality and accessible facilities, provision of sustainable opportunities for high quality sports development programmes and school sport.**
2. **Co-ordinated approach across the Devon; Develop a network of sport and recreation facilities which are accessible and affordable. Identify gaps in provision and exploit opportunities to meet those identified needs (see reference to Partnership working below).**
3. **Protect playing pitches and open space from development unless sport and recreational benefits outweigh the loss.**
4. **Encourage and developing community use of school sports facilities.**
5. **Seek developer contributions and agreements to improve the sports infrastructure, with Local Authorities working in partnership to achieve shared priorities.**
6. **Community Safety; Promote physical activity and opportunities for formal and informal sport and recreation to divert from crime, disorder and substance abuse and focus on preventative measures. Safety in design of facilities. A busy facility has a reduced risk of being a target of vandalism and crime than an isolated underutilised one. Provide more local opportunities and encourage active travel such as walking and cycling to reduce car journeys and improve people's health and the environment**
7. **Community Engagement; facilities must meet the realistic needs and requirements of the local community. Support and involvement of new Community Sport and Physical Activity Network's bringing together stakeholders to improve infrastructure.**
8. **Education and skills ; Use physical activity as a means to raise aspirations and attainment. Physical literacy /Skills development – self esteem, confidence, educational attainment, and an engagement tool.**
9. **Develop stronger links between health and sports development programmes**
10. **Active work spaces; Increase and promote the opportunities for convenient and accessible physical activity during the working day. Promote walk and cycle routes to work.**
11. **Innovative ways of providing people with opportunities; participation in sport both in and out of school, working with health partners and county sport partnership.**
12. **Increase awareness and accessibility;**
 - a) *to the countryside by walkers, cyclists and equestrians.*
 - b) *to affordable opportunities*
 - c) *to safe routes – cycle paths, walking*
13. **Value of sport and leisure to the economy; promotion of Devon as a destination for sports tourism. Encourage and promote sports related businesses. Support for volunteers in sport.**

Partnership Working

Devon County Council wishes to work in partnership with District Councils, in further developing the above policy areas with colleagues and other organisations and would wish to be fully involved in any discussion relating to them.

1. Introduction

Sports Development aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity across all sections of the community.

National, Regional and Local Policy recognise that sport and physical activity can positively impact on the cross cutting agenda including health, education, community safety and economic growth including tourism. The development of sports opportunities and facilities has been proved to assist with regeneration of communities, and the importance of sport in the national psyche is demonstrated by not only the euphoria generated by sporting achievement, such as the success for the 2012 Olympic bid and the Ashes victory in 2005, but also in high levels of government support for sport through increased focus and funding. To achieve targets of increasing participation in sport and physical activity and to deliver these other community benefits at local level in Devon a high quality physical and human infrastructure must be in place and properly resourced to ensure impacts remain sustainable in the long term.

Local Planning Authorities have the ability to influence the infrastructure and to provide high quality opportunities for all. Provision of resources needs to be supported by good management with a co-ordinated approach in line with other service providers including access for all across all Devon's communities, even the most isolated rural areas. Provision of sports facilities in schools to deliver the curriculum and extra curricular activities is defined by the DfES through such documents as Building Bulletins etc.

The CPA process requires the County Council to collect data for the Culture Block Performance Indicators on areas such as participation statistics, choice of provision and satisfaction with provision of services.

Other Providers of Sport - As with many other services, opportunities in sport and physical activity are provided by a mixed economy, with private, voluntary and public sector organisations playing a part. Whilst considerable investment is made by local authorities in public provision, the voluntary sector also has a huge role to play across the county, through voluntary sports clubs and organisations who often provide opportunities in the most rural of areas, such as the local cricket club, or the village playing fields association. There is also provision by the private and commercial sector from the personal trainer who works with a number of individuals in their own environment and the aerobics instructor taking a weekly class in the Village Hall to the commercial fitness businesses in town and city centres and the leisure management companies running local authority leisure centres.

2. Partnership Working

Increasingly organisations throughout Devon are working in a more co-ordinated way to achieve shared objectives and work in formal and informal partnerships to provide more opportunities in sport and physical activity, whether through capital development or the human infrastructure.

The core documents are the '*Devon County Sports Strategy and Creating an Active Devon: A Framework for Physical Activity*' and '*Sport in Devon*' from the new and emerging Active Devon Sports Partnership. These should inform the Local Area Agreement, Local Public Service Agreement, Children and Young People's Services Plan, Devon Vision for Learning, Devon Youth Service Plan 2003 – 2006, Devon Strategic Plan 2006 – 11, Every Child Matters. Equally these documents and processes will inform the County Sports Framework document (Active Devon).

The gaps in provision of sports and physical activity will be identified through reviewing County Sports Strategy 1999 and assessing what has been achieved. Using strategic sports planning tools such as Active Places Power, Facilities Planning Model and County Council audits such as Asset Management Plan, School Development Plans, Curriculum Analysis, and County Council Strategies, including the Strategic Plan, and other documents and strategies such as the Local Area Agreement to identify current needs, in conjunction with local Sports Strategies, including Playing Pitch and Open Space strategies.

Sport and Physical Activity has also now been included in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for both lower and upper tier authorities as part of the Government's drive to get more people active through sport. These proposals will ensure that local authorities will be measured on their provision of sport and the CPA will include 'key performance indicators' (KPI) to give a greater emphasis on sport within local services.

These KPIs will include;

- the percentage of adults (16 years and over) participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including walking) on 3 or more days per week;
- the percentage of 5 – 16 year olds engaged in two hours a week minimum on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum
- the percentage of the population volunteering in sport and active recreation for at least one hour a week.

This now means that the CPA now includes KPIs for sport, helping to ensure a greater emphasis on sport within local services. Sport England believes this will help to align local and national sporting priorities for the first time, and will assist in the effective delivery of grass roots sport on the ground.

3. Devon County Council Policy Guidance for Sport and Physical Activity

Devon County Council has a responsibility for the duty of care and welfare of the population and a statutory responsibility for the provision of physical education and school sport for school age pupils according to national curriculum. Sport and physical activity is an instrumental component in health, education, Environment, Economy, culture, community safety and other activities that Devon County Council has specific responsibilities. The aim of Sports Development is to encourage physical activity of all and increase participation, raise the profile of the benefits of physical activity and maximise the opportunities to participate by all sectors of the community including under-represented groups.

In preparing Local Development Documents, Core Strategy and other Plans, Local Planning Authorities should:

- a) **Develop an integrated and sustainable approach** to physical activity provision, in conjunction with partners whilst ensuring the environmental, economic and social needs of Devon are met.
- b) **Provide high quality sport opportunities** for the population to take part in sport and physical activity, accessible to all sectors of the community, regardless of race, ethnicity, income, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, in their local area through working with a range of partners
- c) **Maximising investment in high standard sports facilities** that have been well planned and will be appropriately managed and maintained
- d) **Co-ordinating the provision of sport and physical activity opportunities** through strategic work with a range of appropriate partners
- e) **Getting everyone in Devon active for life** through local community based opportunities and co-ordinated partnerships through
 - Meeting leisure needs across the county
 - Play an important part of physical activity for younger residents
 - Co-operation and co-ordination between partners to develop opportunities for physical activity and sport.
 - Increase participation in physical activity at all levels
 - Access to high quality open space, sport, leisure and cultural facilities for all
 - Maximise investment
 - Increase and maintain access to facilities for all across the county particularly in rural areas
 - Increase and maintain community use of school facilities
 - Promote utilisation of Devon's natural environment to participate in physical activity and sport whilst protecting it for future generations
 - Raise standards
 - Protect playing pitches and open spaces from development unless sport and recreational benefits outweigh the loss

- Maintenance of facilities and access-ways etc to sustain use of facilities.
- Utilise the opportunities of the economic value of sport into the county especially within the tourism industry

These aims will be overlaid by the County's Strategic Plan and other plans, and all key policies and strategies, including Every Child Matters relating to Devon's role and responsibilities.

The implementation of the Sports Development Strategy shares cross cutting issues with Community Strategy, Cultural Strategy and the Devon Local Area Agreement.

4. Direction of Change Targets to be achieved

The Devon Local Public Service Agreement sets stretch **targets which sport and physical activity can impact** on and contribute to;

1. **Improve skill levels** among young people and adults
2. **Access to the countryside**
3. **Increasing participation** (and physical activity accrued by this participation) in countryside access by improving information about access to the countryside and supporting 'Walking for Health' schemes.
4. **Increase children's levels of physical activity**
5. **Increase participation in school sport and physical education**, plus improvements in school attainment and social aspects.
 - 92% of primary schools to offer 2hrs/wk of high quality PE to all pupils by July 2008.
 - 84% of primary schools to offer 1hr/week of Daily Physical Activity and/or School Sport by July 2008.
 - 89% of secondary schools to offer 2 hrs/wk of quality PEDPASS to all pupils by July 2008
 - 40% of extended schools to offer 2 hrs/wk of Daily Physical Activity or Sports as a key component of the menu of activities offered.
6. **61 multi skills clubs** supported across School Sport Partnerships
7. **Improve life chances for young people**
8. **Improve independence of older people and people with disabilities**
9. **Increase levels of volunteering** – over the life of the LPSA (2) a target of an additional 2950 volunteers will undertake activity for an average of at least 2 hours per week over a 12 month period. This can include volunteering in sports clubs, through coaching, facility maintenance, administration, etc
10. **Health** – work with health partners to focus on increasing physical activity, reduce obesity, smoking cessation, diabetes – support PCTs in implementation of Health Trainer posts.
11. **Safety** – crime prevention issues, distraction etc re-offender reduction, safer use of facilities through improved knowledge and understanding
12. **Environment** - access/transport to facilities and natural environment both use of and its protection. Encourage better use of the local environment as part of a healthier lifestyle
13. **Active workplaces** – opportunities within work place and 'utility routes'; Introduce one Active workplace scheme per year for the next four years.
14. **Raising standards** – 10 partners using TAES by April 2009, achieve advanced level Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport by April 2008
15. **10 Community Sport and Physical Activity Networks** supported by 2009

(Use of natural environment for recreation – measurements? Need for advice from other DCC sections on any relevant KPIs)

References, bibliography, contacts and links etc

National Context

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG 17, 2002, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Every Child Matters
Youth Matters
Building Schools for the Future, Guidance for Local Authorities on Improved Joined- Up Planning and Funding November 2004 DfES Download from www.bsf.gov.uk
Choosing Health; Physical Activity and Sport
Game Plan
Review of national sport effort and resources Introduction and executive summary(known as The Carter report) March 2005 Download from www.sportengland.org
Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links Strategy
The Framework for Sport in England Making England an Active and Successful Sporting Nation: A Vision for 2020, 2004 Sport England SE/2273/10M/03/04 Download www.sportengland.org
Planning Bulletins – Sport England 1 Playing Fields for Sport 2 Strategic Planning for Sport 3 Intensive Use Sports Facilities 4 Planning Obligations for Sport 5 Sport in the Urban Fringe 7 Stadia, Football Academies and Centres of Excellence 8 Playing Fields for Sport Revisited 9 Planning for Watersports 10 Sport and Regeneration 12 Planning for Open Space 13 Sport in the Greenbelt 14 Intensive Use Sports Facilities Revisited 15 Strategic Planning for Sport Revisited 16 School Sites and Community Sports Provision
Planning Contributions Kitbag, 2005 Sport England http://www.sportengland.org/contrast/planning_for_sport_developing_policy_local_placing_sport.htm
Sport Playing Its Part http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/sport_playing_its_part.htm
Taking part: The national survey of culture, leisure and sport www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/5C34581B-AB19-418D-9490-DD6D501032E6/0/TakingPart_finalReport.pdf

Regional Context

Life's Out There... Be Active in the South West The Regional Plan for Sport 2004 – 2008 Executive Summary March 2004 Sport England SE/2275/0.75M/03/04 Download www.sportengland.org
Joining Up Culture South West report www.culturesouthwest.org.uk
In search of Chunky Dunsters, A Cultural Strategy for the South West Culture South West
People, Places and Spaces, South West Cultural Infrastructure Development Strategy Currently being written – to be completed in May 2006

County Context

Creating an Active Devon – a Framework for physical activity and sport in Devon County Sports Partnership February 2006
Devon Local Area Agreement 2005
Devon Local Public Service Agreements
County Structure Plan
Our Devon – a focus on the future - Strategic Plan 2006 - 1011
Devon Children's Plan
The Future of Sport in Devon, Devon County Council 1999

Appendix 2

Devon Statistics

Provisional results from the first 6 months of the national survey "Taking Part" commissioned by the DCMS and the Non Departmental Public Bodies have shown that of the 11,204 people aged 16 and over surveyed;

- 52% participated on at least one occasion in an active sport during the past four weeks
- 35% participated on at least once occasion per week in a moderate intensity level sport
- 7% had volunteered in the culture or sport sectors during the past twelve months

Devon County Council's Corporate Surveys in 2001 and 2002 showed these headline statistics;

- 35% participated at least once a week in sport/recreation
- 8% of those surveyed had volunteered in sport/recreation in the past twelve years, and of these 19% had volunteered for more than 5 hours a week.

The following tables set out the results of the 2001 and 2002 surveys about sport and exercise activity

The Local Area Agreement and Local Public Service Agreement for Devon, both include a number of actions and targets related to sport and physical activity development, to improve health and well being and should be reviewed with this statement,

LDF Briefing Paper - Sport and Physical Activity.DOC