



Tuesday, 3 February 2026

Report of Councillor Paul Stokes
Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet
Member for Leisure and Culture

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 - 2031

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To consider the draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 - 2031.

Recommendations

The Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- 1. Consider the updated Sport and Physical Activity Strategy to cover the period 2026 – 2031.**
- 2. Recommend to Cabinet that the draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031 is adopted.**

Decision Information

Is this a Key Decision?	No
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting Communities
Which wards are impacted?	All wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There is currently no direct budget implications associated in adopting this Strategy. Any future initiatives resulting in budgeting implications will be, in the first instance, be managed within existing service area budgets. Where additional funding is required, this will be requested formally, taking the appropriate action.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no governance implications associated with this report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan (2024-27) identifies Connecting Communities as a key priority. To underpin this priority, the Council is currently delivering the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021/26 which was adopted in 2021 and later refreshed in 2024. Progress has been made over the last five years by the Council's Leisure Team in implementing the actions identified in the current Strategy, targeting key areas, and working with partners to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to live healthy, active lifestyles.
- 2.2 Despite the current Strategy being refreshed in 2024 to ensure that it continued to align with updates made to national strategies by Central Government, it is due to expire in 2026 and therefore required a full review.
- 2.3 As part of this review several supporting documents at a local, national and international level have been reviewed and where relevant, actions have been incorporated in the draft South Kesteven Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031 which is attached at **Appendix One**. A list of the documents which have been considered can be found in **Background Papers**.

- 2.4. The refreshed draft Strategy continues to align to the Council's Corporate Plan 2024 – 2027 which will enhance the strength, wellbeing, security and capacity of all our communities to enable a thriving and cohesive society that all our residents are proud to belong to.
- 2.5. The draft Strategy is structured around four key pillars which are identified below but also identifies key priorities. An action plan has been developed to accompany the draft Strategy which will help to shape the direction of the work Officers undertake over the next five years. The four pillars are:
 - Active Society
 - Active Place
 - Active People
 - Active System
- 2.6. New Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) have also been developed and embedded into the Strategy to provide a clear framework for measuring progress, impact and success. The KPI's identified will enable the Council and its partners to assess whether interventions are achieving the intended outcomes and identify areas for improvement.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. The refresh of the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy has been essential to ensure that the goals and objectives remain relevant and aligned not only the national context around Sport and Physical Activity but also meet the needs of our community in South Kesteven. The refreshed Strategy demonstrates the Council's commitment to improving public health, reducing inequalities in participation, and ensuring the mission remains 'to provide opportunities for people to be more active, more often'.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The draft Strategy plays a pivotal role in working towards the ambitions set out in the Council's Corporate Plan (2024-27). Therefore, the option to 'do nothing' has been discounted.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 The current Strategy has been in place since 2021 and is due to expire in 2026.
- 5.2 The draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy will provide a basis for the Council to deliver on its ambition to increase health and wellbeing outcomes across South Kesteven.

6 Background Papers

- 6.1 [South Kesteven District Council Corporate Plan - 2024 to 2027](#)
- 6.2 [Sport England - Uniting the Movement 2021 - 2031](#)
- 6.3 [Active Lives data](#)
- 6.4 [UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines](#)
- 6.5 [Local authority health profile - Fingertips](#)
- 6.6 [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) - Lincolnshire Health Intelligence Hub](#)
- 6.7 [Get Active: A Strategy for the future of sport and physical activity](#)
- 6.8 [NHS England - Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England](#)
- 6.9 [Millions more moving - The Richmond Group of Charities](#)
- 6.10 [Horizon Scanning: Future Trends in Sport and Physical Activity - May 2025](#)
- 6.11 [NHS England - Harnessing the benefits of physical activity](#)
- 6.12 [DCMS Youth Strategy](#)

7 Appendices

- 7.1 **Appendix One** – Draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031