



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Cabinet

Tuesday, 10 March 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 seek approval to adopt the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 - 2031.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1. Approve and adopt the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026 – 2031**

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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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 Any actions required to deliver the strategy will be managed through existing budgets where possible. If additional funding is required, this will be requested and approved through the appropriate route.
- 1.2 Alongside the existing budgets in place the Council has approved as part of the 2026/27 budget process a further £500k to investment in leisure centres which will support the delivery of the action plan.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.3 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 requires 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 Strategy continues to align to the Council's Corporate Plan 2024 – 2027 and 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 Strategy is structured around four key pillars which are identified below but also identifies key priorities for the Council. An action plan has been developed to accompany the 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 The Strategy was considered by the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 03 February 2026. Feedback received has been considered and included in the draft Strategy accompanying this report. **Table One** details the changes that have been made to the Strategy since its review by the Scrutiny Committee:

Table One: Changes made to the Strategy following review by Members of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
	Source of Changes	Changes Made
1	Culture and Leisure OSC Feedback	<u>Page 10: Active Place, Action</u> Feedback: The below action was listed as a Key Performance Indicator but is not a quantitative indicator so is now listed as an 'Action'. <i>Addition of the Action 'Annual promotion and engagement with Sport and Physical Activity events such as Health and Wellness Days, Great Big Green Week, National Fitness Day.'</i>
2	Culture and Leisure OSC Feedback	<u>Page 13: Reporting</u> Feedback: This section was previously called 'Key Performance Indicators' but many of the KPI's were achieved in partnership with providers and therefore not the sole responsibility of South Kesteven District Council. <i>Changes made from 'Key Performance Indicators' to 'Reporting'.</i>
3	Culture and Leisure OSC Feedback	<u>Page 13: Reporting</u> Feedback: All Key Performance Indicators should be reviewed to ensure they will remain relevant in years to come. <i>Changes included removing all Key Performance Indicators and insertion of data sources that can be</i>

	<i>measured from Fingertips for South Kesteven residents.</i>
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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 to 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 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 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. Consultation

6.1 The Strategy has been considered by the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 03 February 2026. Feedback given has been considered and included in the draft Strategy.

7 Background Papers

7.1 [South Kesteven District Council Corporate Plan - 2024 to 2027](#)

7.2 [Sport England - Uniting the Movement 2021 - 2031](#)

7.3 [Active Lives data](#)

7.4 [UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines](#)

7.5 [Local authority health profile - Fingertips](#)

- 7.6 [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) - Lincolnshire Health Intelligence Hub](#)
- 7.7 [Get Active: A Strategy for the future of sport and physical activity](#)
- 7.8 [NHS England - Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England](#)
- 7.9 [Millions more moving - The Richmond Group of Charities](#)
- 7.10 [Horizon Scanning: Future Trends in Sport and Physical Activity - May 2025](#)
- 7.11 [NHS England - Harnessing the benefits of physical activity](#)
- 7.12 [DCMS Youth Strategy](#)
- 7.13 [Let's Move Lincolnshire Strategy - Active Lincolnshire](#)

8 Appendices

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