

NORTH DEVON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY UPDATE January 2025

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES AND KEY PROPOSALS

A PRIORITIES

(Not in priority order)

- Provision of proposed grass pitches:
 - Southern Extension, Ilfracombe: two adult pitches (delivery c.2027): one adult 11v11 football and one adult rugby pitch, with changing rooms, community hall and MUGA.
 - Limers Lane, South Molton: replacement of existing 11v11 adult pitch site plus additional 11v11 adult pitch and two youth pitches and clubhouse (changing facilities).
 - Westacott, East of Barnstaple: adult 11v11 football with changing facilities and MUGA.
- Tews Lane Football Pitches, Roundswell, Barnstaple: extension of changing pavilion and improvements to pitch drainage.
- The Park School, Barnstaple:
 - Develop secure community use of the cricket pitch.
 - Protection of a hockey appropriate surface on the artificial grass pitch (currently sand based). Possible refurbishment with 'Gen 2' surface to support hockey continuing on a secure community accessible site within North Devon and Torridge.
- Filleigh Cricket Club: improvement of changing facilities.
- Brimlands Playing Fields, Ilfracombe: major upgrade of changing room and clubhouse facilities for Ilfracombe Rugby Football Club and Ilfracombe Cricket Club.
- Equivalent of full size WR22 3G AGP with full community use to serve Barnstaple and Braunton. Feasibility required re: possible sites and appropriate sizes for rugby and football. New sports lighting to existing rugby pitches may also need to be considered.
- Chulmleigh: further investigation of opportunities to deliver small sided 3G AGP with full community access.
- All existing grass and artificial grass playing pitches to be protected, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (paras. 103 & 104) and Sport England's 'Policy and associated guidance on planning applications affecting playing fields' (last updated December 2021). The Strategy has identified a shortage of both grass and artificial grass pitches to meet current, latent and future demand for the sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey across North Devon.

B SUMMARY OF KEY PROPOSALS

(for further detail see Main Strategy Document on individual sports and Action Plans).

Sub Area	Cricket	Rugby	Football Grass	3G/WR22 compliant Artificial Grass Pitches	Hockey Appropriate/ Sand Artificial Grass Pitches
Barnstaple/ Braunton	Additional ground (minimum 8 wickets)	Access to training facilities (this could be through peak access to new WR22 3G AGP and/or new sports lighting to existing pitches). Bridge Field Pitches owned by DCC do not have security of tenure. A contingency plan is required if these were ever lost.	Recommendations for new pitches from 2017 PPS to be fulfilled: one full size 11v11 grass pitch at Westacott.	At least equivalent full size WR22 compliant floodlit 3G AGP with secured community use to serve Barnstaple and Braunton and meet some demand from Ilfracombe for both football and rugby training.	Protection and maintenance of sustainable, high quality, appropriate and securely accessible facilities for hockey to serve North Devon and Torridge.
Ilfracombe	Enhancement of ground facilities	Access to training facilities (through peak access to new WR22 3G AGP and/or new sports lighting to existing pitches subject to planning constraints).	Additional pitch at Southern Extension to be fulfilled. Keep watching brief on community availability of two adult pitches at Killacleave (Ilfracombe Academy).		
South Molton	Filleigh CC may grow in the future but has the capacity to cut more wickets.	Gaining secured access to additional pitch at the school and new sports lighting to clubs existing grass pitches	Limers Lane development to address South Molton issues Youth pitches for Chulmleigh YFC		