

Leisure and Active Lifestyles Service Delivery Plan

2026 to 2027

Overview of the service

Leisure and Active Lifestyles Services provides an important function of promoting physical activity and wellbeing to our residents. The service raises the profile of the benefits of regular physical activity on both physical and mental health. Significant research shows that the most effective preventative measure for ill health and wellbeing is being active. Physical Activity and exercise are good not just for our physical health it is good for our mental wellbeing, connects and strengthens communities, and boosts the nation's (and local) economy.

The service has a specific focus on getting the less active more active and addressing health inequalities through targeted physical activity programmes. Working collaboratively with various individuals, community groups and leisure providers to enable those who are currently inactive, to start their physical activity journey and enter the behaviour change model. This is often used by residents to enable them to become an active member of a leisure centre or community group.

The service has the responsibility for ownership of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to deliver against the action plan. Working collaboratively with partners such as the Integrated neighbourhood team, Primary Care Network, NHS, County Council Public Health and community providers. The plan has a targeted focus on key health prevention issues such as healthier weight and frailty.

The other core focus of the service is supporting the leisure providers across the district to ensure they are sustainable and delivering to their local communities.

The scope of the team's work is:

- Collaborating with partners to support physical activity levels across the district
- Accountable for the delivery of the Council's [Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan](#) working towards the shared priorities

Appendix 1(i)

- Working with the Leisure operator to optimise the outcomes of The Hive for the community, while also ensuring that the facility will remain financially viable over the long term
- Supporting, where required, the district's independent leisure centres to develop their financial sustainability and maximise their value to the community
- Active environments - creating the places and spaces for people to be more active.
- Raising the profile of health and wellbeing support and the benefits of physical activity to residents and communities.

Cost of service

The cost of service for 2026/27 is £140,454.

This does not include income or expenditure relating to the Hive, as that is treated as a self-contained project for budgetary purpose.

Additional funding to support focused strength and balance programmes for older adults is currently up until 30 June 2026

Staffing Information

The Leisure and Active Lifestyles Services team comprises of two members of staff.

Leisure and Active Lifestyles Manager (full time)

Project Coordinator (Health & Wellbeing) (full time)

The service utilises leisure and physical activity professionals across the district to support programmes. Volunteers support programmes such as the Wellbeing Walks.

Forward planning for Councillors

Proposed item	Proposed date of decision	Committee
Half year report 2026 to 2027	November 2026	Operational Services
End of year report 2026 to 2027	March 2027	Operational Services
Service Delivery Plan 2027 to 2028	March 2027	Operational Services

Leisure and Active Lifestyles Service Delivery Plan 2026 to 2027

This Service Delivery Plan describes what Leisure and Active Lifestyles Services will be doing to deliver continuous improvement (service objectives). Each performance measure relates to the Council's strategic outcomes and Corporate Plan 2023 to 2027

Council's strategic outcome: Safe, Vibrant and Inclusive Communities. Community Sustainability

Leisure Services' strategic objective: Support the district to create more places and spaces to be active.

Link to Corporate Plan: Sustainable Communities

Performance measure	Target and reporting timescale	Baseline/output from 2025 to 2026	Owner and co-owners
Supporting the district leisure facilities with their delivery plans and facility developments	<p>Work with facilities that require support and advice up to March 2027.</p> <p>Annual review, annually</p>	<p>The district facilities have been supported as requested by signposting to funding opportunities, business cases and support with delivery programmes running out of some of the facilities to engage with those physically inactive.</p> <p>Partnership meeting was held in November 2025.</p> <p>Ely Outdoor Sports Association awarded £10k for new Padel courts which opened in September 2025.</p> <p>Burwell Community Sports Centre application submitted in February 2026 for new sports hall floor to be considered by the Operational Services committee in March 2026.</p>	Leisure and Active Lifestyles Manager
Deliver the Council's Health and Wellbeing strategy and action plan 2024 – 27 and raise the profile of healthier lifestyles	<p>To complete the relevant actions within the strategy and plan required by March 2027.</p> <p>Attend 10 events to raise the profile of healthier lifestyles by March 2026</p> <p>6-monthly review, annually</p>	<p>Key actions from within the strategy have been delivered, including the Health & Welfare event in Soham, targeted physical activity programmes for those with health inequalities and to reduce medical waiting lists for healthier weights and frailty.</p> <p>Community Appointment Day for parents with children on neurodevelopmental waiting lists planned for March 2026.</p> <p>Over 20 events attended to promote Health & Wellbeing services through talks and practical sessions.</p>	Leisure and Active Lifestyles Manager Project Coordinator (Health & Wellbeing)

Council's strategic outcome: Customers at the heart of everything we do

Leisure Services' strategic objective: Developing physical activity opportunities to address health inequalities and inactivity.

Link to Corporate Plan: Sustainable communities.

Performance measure	Target and reporting timescale	Baseline/output from 2025 to 2026	Owner and co-owners
Development of programmes and services to support health inequalities and social inclusion through physical activity	<p>Support the delivery of physical activity programmes across the district over the next 12 months.</p> <p>Deliver the wellbeing walks scheme during 26/27</p> <p>6-monthly review, annually</p>	<p>Active for Health programmes have again been very popular with sessions taking place in Ely, Littleport and Bottisham. Aqua for Health at the Hive has had regular waiting lists.</p> <p>112 residents have benefitted from the six programmes delivered. Case studies have detailed the significant positive impact the programmes have had on people's health and overall wellbeing.</p> <p>A staff member at the Hive is undergoing Level 4 Cancer Rehab qualification to be able to deliver a targeted programme at the centre once qualified. Potential start date in March 26.</p>	Leisure and Active Lifestyles Manager Project Coordinator (Health & Wellbeing)

Council's strategic outcome: Safe, vibrant and inclusive communities. Community sustainability.

Leisure Services' strategic objective: Support the operation of the Hive to ensure that it meets the Council's strategic objectives.

Link to Corporate Plan: Sound financial management.

Performance measure	Target and reporting timescale	Baseline/output from 2025 to 2026	Owner and co-owners
Develop and implement operational arrangements and service plans in consultation with the appointed Operator GLL at The Hive; ensure continuing high performance and service standards compliance	<p>Meet monthly with the operator and. Carry out a yearly full site inspection</p> <p>Monthly reviews</p>	<p>Monthly meetings held to discuss ongoing performance and delivery.</p> <p>Support provided with healthier weight Aqua programmes.</p> <p>Formal annual site inspection planned for February 2026.</p>	Leisure and Active Lifestyles Manager

Council’s strategic outcome: Be an excellent employer.

Leisure Services’ strategic objective: Ensure that the Council’s corporate risks are managed effectively and mitigations are put in place to reduce impact.

Link to Corporate Plan: Sound financial management.

Performance measure	Target and reporting timescale	Baseline/output from 2025 to 2026	Owner and co-owners
<p>Regularly review risks associated with Leisure Services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of facilities or services of trust operated centres • regulatory breaches at Council or trust-operated facilities 	<p>Ongoing risk reviews of services, utilising monthly meetings with operator to manage.</p> <p>Report annually</p>	<p>Services reviewed and no issues</p> <p>Healthy You contract ended 30th November 2025. Impact and options are being explored whilst new contract is still in mobilisation phase.</p>	<p>Leisure and Active Lifestyles Manager</p>

Council’s Strategic Outcome: Customers at the heart of everything we do, maintain sound finances, improve systems and practices, be an excellent employer

Leisure Service Strategic Objective: Support the health and wellbeing of residents, with a focus on leisure and physical activity


Link to Corporate Plan: Sound Financial Management

Performance measure	Target and reporting timescale	Baseline/output from 2025 to 2026	Owner and co-owners
<p>To actively facilitate and engage with the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme and be operationally ready to transition into the new authority model without service disruption.</p>	<p>Support staff with training requirements ahead of LGR, review skills and capacity against future requirements.</p> <p>Identify data ownership and retention requirements</p>	<p>New performance measure</p>	<p>Leisure & Active Lifestyles Manager</p>

Council’s strategic outcome: A clean, green and attractive place.

Leisure Services’ strategic objective: Undertake activities which help to mitigate/adapt to climate change.

Link to Corporate Plan: Cleaner, greener East Cambridgeshire.

Performance measure	Target and reporting timescale	Baseline/output from 2025 to 2026	Owner and co-owners
<p>Monitor the net impact/improvement of the solar panels at The Hive during 2026/7</p>	<p> Review quarterly reports with GLL to assess the impact and measure energy and cost savings.</p> <p>Quarterly review</p>	<p>The Solar panels were installed in April with works completed on 25/04/25. To the 4 Feb 2026 the panels have generated 84,732kwh of energy with a saving of £16,975.</p> <p>Performance is on track to achieve the estimated savings in year one.</p>	<p>Leisure and Active Lifestyles Manager</p>