

Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed
Please state if the IIA is interim or final

1. Title of proposal

Framework for sports clubs involvement in pitches and facility management.

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

Sports facilities play a key role in the health and wellbeing of communities across Edinburgh and the Council regularly receives enquiries from clubs and organisations about ambitions to manage and develop a Council sport facility.

Enquiries can be received by different service areas within the Council and from discussions with Edinburgh Leisure, leading to differing feedback, advice and guidance on approaches to progress along with a lack of communication and co-ordination across service areas.

A new framework will manage development enquiries for Council-owned sports facilities including pitches, improving co-ordination, communication and support for clubs and organisations.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

There has been no public involvement in the development of this proposal. However, the proposal has been shaped by ongoing communication with sports clubs and key stakeholders on the challenges they experience when requesting additional involvement in the management of pitches and facilities.

In addition, learning was taken from previous engagement with key stakeholders which was undertaken to shape the development of the Sports Pitch Strategy. This engagement process involved a wide range of local and national stakeholders with a direct role and/or interest in sports pitches with over 50 individuals across 21 organisations engaged in individual one- 2 to-one interviews and an online survey circulated to over 300 sports clubs with 42 responses received.

The draft framework is scheduled to go to Culture and Communities Committee on 11 February 2026 for approval.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

No

5. Date of IIA

14th January 2026

6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Graham Croucher	Sports Partnership Development Manager	November 2023
Evelyn Kilmurry	Head of Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing	August 2023
Neil Russell	Sports Partnership Development Officer	
Sean Webster	Sports Partnership Development Officer	
Jen Holland	Chief Executive, Edinburgh Leisure	

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need – where available use disaggregated data	Edinburgh Poverty Commission Edinburgh by Numbers 2023	<p>Edinburgh is an affluent city with high average incomes and employment rates and low unemployment.</p> <p>Information detailed within Edinburgh by Numbers shows that compared to other major UK cities, Edinburgh also performs well when measuring personal wellbeing.</p> <p>The city, however, has a high number of residents that fall into the high poverty risk groups. The 2018 report by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission estimates that 82,000 people live in relative poverty, 16% of the total population.</p> <p>The poverty rates vary across from 5% to 27%. It is also estimated that 22% of all children in Edinburgh live in poverty while some areas record child poverty rates as high as 35%.</p> <p>People from minority ethnic groups are also more likely to be in poverty compared to those within the White – British group. Asian and Asian – British groups along with other minority ethnic groups have between 35% and 38% living in poverty (across Scotland) compared to 18% of the White – British group.</p> <p>Poverty rates are also higher for families in which someone is disabled. Households without a disabled child or adult living in</p>

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		poverty sit at 19% and 17% respectively compared to 25% and 24% for those households with a disabled child/adult.
Data on service uptake/access	<p>Edinburgh People's Survey 2018</p> <p>Data current sports pitch supply, demand and usage was gathered in the development of the new pitch strategy.</p> <p>(Culture and Communities Committee 27 February 2025- Sports Pitch Strategy Report Appendix)</p>	<p>Edinburgh People's Survey results from 2018 indicated that 72% of those interviewed engaged in at least one activity in the last 4 weeks.</p> <p>In the 45-64 age group this was 49% and for the 65+ age group it was 54%. The figure reduced to 52% for those with a disability or long-term illness and low levels of activity were also reported for the retired, unemployed and people within lower social economic groups.</p> <p>The Council and Edinburgh Leisure operate the majority of sports pitches across Edinburgh (89%).</p> <p>The SIMD Quintile 1 population within the city has a higher level of accessibility to sports pitches than the overall population of the City of Edinburgh. Access to 3G pitches, in particular, when accessed via public transport or walking is higher than the average and is indicative of the proximity of these facilities to areas of higher deprivation.</p>
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material	Edinburgh by numbers	Between 2019 and 2022 17% of households in Edinburgh had equivalised income below 60% of the UK median income in the same year for all ages and after housing

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deprivation, area deprivation		<p>costs. This is below the Scotland average of 21%.</p> <p>Survey results from the Scottish Household Survey in 2022 show that 33% of residents living in the most deprived areas of Edinburgh took part in sport in the last four weeks, compared to 63% in the least deprived areas. Sport and physical activity participation levels across the city have remained static over the years, with a significant gap in participation between the least and most deprived areas of the city.</p>
Data on equality outcomes	<u>Scottish Household Survey 2022</u>	<p>Survey results from the Scottish Household Survey 2022 shows that men and boys are more likely to participate in sport than women and girls. Male participation in sport has steadily reduced in Edinburgh from 68% in 2013 to 62% in 2022. Female participation has remained stable, with 53% participating in 2013 increasing to 54% in 2022.</p> <p>There is also inequality when considering participation by those with lower levels of qualification. With 69% of those who have achieved an HNC or higher taking part in sport compared to 21% with no qualifications. This shows a widening gap between those participating in sport with higher qualifications and those with no qualifications in the last three years.</p> <p>Similar patterns exist for people with disabilities and those from ethnic minority communities. In the</p>

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		<p>2022 Scottish Household Survey, 42% of people surveyed with a disability took part in sport at least once in four weeks compared to 62% of people without a disability. When reviewing figures against ethnicity, 53% of those identifying as White Scottish and 72% of White British had participated in sport at least once in the last four weeks compared to 46% of those from ethnic minorities.</p> <p>In summary, sport and physical activity participation levels across the city have remained static over the years, with a significant gap in participation between the least and most deprived areas of the city. This picture remains the same when we take educational achievement, disability, and ethnicity into account. There is also an increasing number of residents in Edinburgh who do not have access to networks or opportunities. For physical activity such as walking, 60% of people living in the most deprived areas participated in recreational walking for at least 30 minutes in the last four weeks in 2019, increasing slightly to 63% in 2022. This compares to 86% of people who participated in the least deprived areas in 2019, decreasing slightly to 82% participation in 2022.</p> <p>Additional evidence obtained on a national level for Scotland (see below) also shows differentials for those living in poverty, gender, disability and ethnicity.</p>

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Research/literature evidence	<p><u>NEW REPORT SHOWS THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ON SCOTLAND'S YOUNG PEOPLE - Scottish Sports Futures (ssf.org.uk)</u></p> <p><u>On Track: Research & data spotlight (sportscotland.org.uk)</u></p> <p><u>Disability-Sport-Review-Aug-2021-final.pdf (oss.scot)</u></p>	<p>Poverty Children born into poverty are more likely to experience a wide range of health problems, including poor nutrition, chronic disease and mental health problems. Poverty puts an additional strain on families, which can lead to parental mental health and relationship problems, financial problems and substance misuse.</p> <p>One in four children in Scotland live in poverty and one in five live in absolute poverty. These young people are more likely to be less physically active; are at higher risk of obesity; have higher levels of stress and depression; and experience social isolation, shame and stigma.</p> <p>Girls Boys are more likely to meet recommended physical activity levels than girls, including school-based activities (76% of boys compared to 67% of girls) and excluding school-based activities (66% and 55% respectively).</p> <p>Disability Disability and sport participation data from national surveys. From the Scottish Health Survey (2018) it is possible to link limiting longstanding illness (disability) to sporting activity to assess the extent by which disability impacts on sporting participation compared to the able-bodied population. In the younger age group (2-15 years old) the proportion of children who undertook any sporting activity in</p>

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		<p>the disabled group was 12% vs 81% for those who reported no limiting longstanding illness. For adults (16-74 years old) the corresponding participation was 33.4% vs 52.7%. This data for Scotland is comparable to that for England and Wales (29.3% vs 51.4%, Taking Part Survey, 2012/13).</p> <p>Ethnicity</p> <p>Provision of tackling racism and racial inequality in sport - data gathering and analysis services, Sheffield Hallam on behalf of UK Sport, 2021 – see attached 14.2 In the <i>Scottish Health Survey 2012</i>¹³², Pakistani respondents were the least likely to achieve the recommended physical activity levels (27% did so compared to the national average of 38%) and were also the least likely to participate in sport (30% compared to 49% on average). This finding corresponds with other research (2010)¹³³ that found that, in Britain, Pakistani individuals and south Asian ethnic groups generally, are less likely to be sufficiently active. An earlier study (2007)¹³⁴ highlighted gender differences in the levels of physical activity within ethnic groups: Pakistani respondents were found to be less active overall, but also with a gender difference most prominent in the younger age groups. No other ethnic groups in the <i>Scottish Health Survey</i> were significantly different from the national average in relation to</p>

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		<p>physical activity or sport participation.</p> <p>14.3 In a summary of sports equality research in the UK covering a period of 15 years¹³⁵, the EHRC reports that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall participation rate for ethnic minority people in sport was 40%, compared with the national average of 46%; and • The lowest participation rates were among Indian (31%), Pakistani (21%) and Bangladeshi (19%) women (citing the <i>National Survey of Ethnic Minorities and Sport</i>, 1999).
Public/patient/client experience information		<p>From the public consultation completed as part of the Sports Pitch Strategy development, feedback on current provision was mixed:</p> <p>There was positive feedback from clubs relating: ease of booking pitches and accessibility, mixed feedback on quality of pitches, quality of the playing surface, and availability of pitches with negative feedback received on the quality of pavilions and wider ancillary provision such as: social space, kitchen or catering space, changing accommodation, showers, and toilets, as well as wider concerns relating to anti-social behaviour at some pitches.</p>

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		Almost all clubs that responded to the engagement survey aspired to grow what they do over the short-term, most notably through increasing membership and the number of teams. Some clubs also expressed a desire to develop community, social, and health activities or explore lease or ownership opportunities for pitches.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	<p>Data current sports pitch supply, demand and usage was gathered in the development of the new Sports Pitch Strategy through information gathering and engagement. (Culture and Communities Committee 27 February 2025- Sports Pitch Strategy Report Appendix)</p> <p>Culture and Communities Committee 5 December 2024- Physical Activity and Sport Strategy: Appendix 2- Consultation Feedback Summary Report.</p>	<p>Online survey reached out to 300 sports clubs across the city and feedback from users was captured, detailed within the strategy and informed conclusions and actions.</p> <p>In addition, a public consultation process on the wider Physical Activity and Sport Strategy was completed where over 1,000 individuals and organisations participated in the process. Views were gathered on sports facilities, places and spaces and informed the city's Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2025-2035.</p>
Evidence of unmet need		Levels of utilisation from the Pitch Demand Analysis exercise suggest there is ample room to make better use of existing pitches, especially during peak demand times. Many grass pitches are either well-used

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		<p>or overplayed, requiring enhanced maintenance to maintain their quality.</p> <p>The city's existing sport's pitch hub sites (e.g. Meggetland) experience disproportionately high demand, possibly due to better quality pitches and facilities.</p> <p>Clubs expressed a growing need for pitches, either due to existing demand or future growth aspirations. As clubs diversify or expand provision to target under-represented groups (for example women, older people), the need for appropriate ancillary facilities (such as changing rooms, toilets) will also grow.</p> <p>Some clubs also expressed interest in undertaking additional management responsibilities for pitches and facilities with the aim of increasing investment and upgrading the facilities, developing community, social and health activities, supporting increased membership and optimising the use of pitches.</p>
Good practice guidelines	Fields in Trust's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play Scotland (2020) report	Fields in Trust's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play Scotland (2020) report recommends that there should be 1.20 hectares of outdoor pitch facilities per 1,000 population. Currently Edinburgh has 2.4 hectares per 1000 of population (CEC Open Space 2021). Additionally, the guidelines suggest that there should be playing pitches within a 1,200 metre (walking distance) from

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		residential areas. Currently 50% of the Edinburgh population are within a 10-minute walk of a sports pitch.
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	No	
Environmental data	No	
Risk from cumulative impacts	No	
Other (please specify)		
Additional evidence required		

8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>The Framework aims to improve the current process and will provide co-ordinated support for clubs and organisations looking to manage and develop sport facilities for the benefit of communities across Edinburgh.</p> <p>The Framework will also ensure responses to requests received from clubs are considered within the wider strategic context of the Sports Pitch Strategy and the Physical Activity and Sports Strategy which both place emphasis on increasing participation in sports for those who are traditionally less likely to be involved and who would benefit the most from being active. The overall aim is to improve sports pitch provision across the city, improve equalities and the health and wellbeing of the city's population.</p>	All

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
<p>Negative</p> <p>The promotion of the new framework along with the consistency of implementation will require careful consideration to ensure that any decisions reached to change the management of sports facilities and pitches result in positive impact for communities.</p>	All
<p>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>Club and voluntary organisation management of Council venues could lead to increased external investment in upgrading facilities with improved energy efficiency.</p> <p>Clubs granted increased management opportunities and access to a “home ground” pitch may be able to reduce the amount of travelling for club members to other pitches thereby reducing travel time and carbon footprint.</p>	All
<p>Negative</p> <p>Further increase in synthetic (3G) pitches in place of grass pitches could lead to environmental impact from the SBR rubber in-fill used to support the carpet pile. SBR in-fill can be washed away with rainwater and cling to player's kit resulting in the microplastics ending up in local waterways.</p> <p>In September 2023 the European Commission completed the adoption of the EU REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) restriction on the sale of intentionally added microplastics onto the European market, which includes rubber infill for 3G pitches. This ban comes into effect from September 2031 but does not apply to the UK.</p>	All

Economic	Affected populations
Positive <p>Voluntary and third sector operation of Council sports facilities will boost capacity for clubs offering opportunities to improve physical, mental and social health across communities. In-turn this will boost employability and confidence leading to reductions in unemployment and growth for the city.</p>	All
Negative	

9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children's rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

No

10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

Consideration will be given to specific communication requirements for specific groups such as those where English is not their primary language.

11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.

No

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

No further evidence required.

13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Review of current live projects to ensure alignment to new framework and advice provided is consistent across all projects.	Graham Croucher, Sports Partnership Development Manager	April 2026	September 2026
Ensure clubs and stakeholders are aware of new framework.	Graham Croucher, Sports Partnership Development Manager	May 2026	October 2026
Review of guidance on in-fill for synthetic pitches.	Graham Croucher, Sports Partnership Development Manager	May 2026	October 2026

14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

No

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

A Pitch Development Working Group will manage and monitor the review of existing and oversight of new projects. The Working Group will monitor IIA implications as part of its standard approach to reviewing existing and new projects.

16. Sign off by Head of Service

Name Evelyn Kilmurry- Head of Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing

Date 19 January 2026

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:
integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care
sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published at
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