

## Leisure East Devon reports healthy gym numbers

East Devon residents and visitors are jogging to the gym in ever increasing numbers as sports centres and swimming pools across the region report growing attendances.

Visits to East Devon's 13 sports centres, swimming pools, leisure parks and Exmouth Pavilion were up across the board in 2007. Take-up for exercise classes was also on the rise.

In unveiling its 2007 annual report, Leisure East Devon (LED), which manages the facilities, said last year saw 744,000 visits to the 13 facilities, 40,000 more than 2006.

More specialist classes such as boxercise, salsa and pilates also helped boost numbers at the facilities. Use of gyms across the district went up to 115,000 from 102,000.

LED said enhancing facilities at its Exmouth, Ottery St Mary and Axe Valley centres last year had paid dividends with increased visits. Honiton Sports Centre will open a newly upgraded gym on June 2 to help satisfy the growing demand.

The district's swimming pools at Exmouth, Sidmouth and Honiton saw a 7% rise to 296,000 users.

Exmouth Pavilion continues to prove popular with locals and visitors and showed an annual increase of 10,000 in audience numbers to 82,000. The Pavilion has invested in new equipment to attract the conference market whilst continuing to offer a diverse range of entertainment options.

LED chief executive David Pagett said: "The second year of LED's management has seen a very pleasing increase of activities at the centres, swimming pools and Pavilion.

"But we do not rest on our laurels and further investment this year, notably brand new health and fitness facilities at Honiton Sports Centre and Exmouth Tennis Centre, will make our facilities even more attractive to visitors."

LED is committed to investing £1 million on new equipment at the facilities in its first five years, while continuing to offer a new and varied programme of courses and classes.

The company also works with the Devon Primary Care Trust through the PULSE (medical referral) scheme to help people improve their health through supervised exercise sessions. LED has pledged to continue to provide opportunities for people with disabilities and one-to-one swimming lessons for youngsters with special needs.

Ends

Notes to editors:

1. Leisure East Devon Ltd was established on 1 January 2006. East Devon District Council's leisure facilities and equipment assets are leased to it. [www.ledleisure.co.uk](http://www.ledleisure.co.uk)  
<<http://www.ledleisure.co.uk>>
2. The facilities are: Axe Valley Sports Centre; Broadclyst Sports Hall; Colyton Sports Centre; Colin Tooze Sports Centre (Ottery St Mary); East Devon Tennis Centre; Exmouth Sports Centre and Swimming Pool; Exmouth Pavilion; Exmouth's Phear Park; Honiton Sports Centre and Swimming Pool; Seaton's Seafield Gardens; Sidmouth's Coburg Road; Sidmouth Sports Centre and Sidmouth Swimming Pool.
3. Picture caption: new Honiton gym.

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