

ITEM No ...6.....

REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 12 JUNE 2023
REPORT ON: LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION PARKS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
REPORT NO. 157-2023

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the Committee on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Parks Investment Programme and gain approval to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Tennis Scotland in order to allow further refurbishment of Dundee’s external tennis courts citywide.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that approval is granted for progressing a Partnership Agreement between Dundee City Council and Tennis Scotland to support the upgrade of the Council’s external tennis courts through direct funding provided by LTA. It is further recommended that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services is remitted to progress to the next stage of the process, to allow this programme to be taken forward.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The amount of investment being planned to be spent through external LTA funding to further upgrade Dundee’s external tennis Courts is circa £110k. There are no initial funding implications to Dundee City Council and ongoing maintenance costs will be contained within existing revenue budgets.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Investment Programme

In October 2021, the Government announced it was investing £21.9m into public tennis courts across Britain. This funding, together with an investment from the LTA of £8.4m is aimed at bringing public park tennis courts back to life, for the benefit of their local community. The initiative is also aimed at engaging 1 million more players in tennis, supporting health and wellbeing outcomes.

4.2 Parks provide the greatest opportunity for people to play tennis. Across Britain, there are currently 1.7million adults and many more children who play tennis in a local park every year, and park tennis courts are particularly important in providing affordable, engaging, and accessible opportunities for more female players and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, as well as being the most popular venue for women to play after they have left education. LTA insight shows that, nationally, just 16% of park users are satisfied with the ability and opportunity to book tennis courts and 40% of people are unaware of where their nearest local park tennis facility is. Nearly three quarters of park players, however, report that they would be keen to play more often, if barriers around court quality, booking journey and programming were addressed.

4.3 The aim of the LTA Park Investment programme is to “Open Up” tennis in parks by offering a turnkey solution to Local Authorities that will fund and secure the future of courts and drive physical and social outcomes for the local communities. The project consists of:

- Provision of an online court booking solution and website search engine to facilitate a participant finding and booking a court or programmed activity (group or competition) to overcome many of the current barriers to play.

- Provision of grant funding for gate access technology to facilitate participation growth across priority parks where there is a penetration of a target audience of 1000 potential players within a 10-minute drivetime and ensure sustainability.
- Provision of grant funding for court refurbishment and fencing to ensure that all park courts are playable.
- Facilitation of a local or national operator to provide programmed activity including a weekly free community tennis session – LTA Park Tennis and a Recreational Competition – Local Tennis Leagues.

The goal of LTA is to deliver a sustainable tennis offering in parks securing the future of the courts, driving participation growth, and supporting physical and social outcomes for local communities in Scotland. To successfully deliver this one in a generation opportunity in Dundee, there needs to be an element of partnership working across Dundee City Council, the LTA and Tennis Scotland.

4.4 Dundee Context

There are currently 24 courts in Dundee City Council parks. Projects to upgrade courts at Camperdown Park, Baxter Park and Broughty Ferry Esplanade in recent years are noted. This programme will ensure that all remaining courts will be brought up to a standard consistent with LTA values.

Venue Name	No. Courts
Baxter Park	3
Dawson Park	4
Dudhope Park	3
Fairmuir Park	4
South Road	2
Victoria Park	3
Broughty Ferry Esplanade	2
Camperdown Park	3

Reference is made to Article III of the minute of the meeting of the Environment Committee on 20 May 2013, report no. **196-2013**, where the Committee agreed a strategy to deliver short, medium- and long-term actions to promote and upgrade Dundee’s public tennis courts. A wider sports pitch strategy is currently being updated which will include consideration of external tennis court provision. It is considered that the LTA external funding programme provides the opportunity to make significant progress in ensuring a full refurbishment programme for all tennis courts citywide.

In the past Leisure and Culture Dundee (LACD) ran tennis programmes in Dundee’s greenspaces and had an officer specifically dedicated to developing tennis in Dundee including coaching programmes, which was partly funded by Tennis Scotland. However, in 2019, Leisure and Culture Dundee withdrew from tennis to focus on other priorities. Dundee City Council Environment Service now have responsibility for the ClubSpark booking system previously managed by LACD, although there is no defined resource for this. Currently, all of the venues outlined in the table above can be booked via ClubSpark.

Apart from independent coaches delivering private coaching programmes on Dundee City Council tennis courts, there have been no public opportunities for local people to access tennis skill development and local competitions on park courts. However, all courts have been available to the public to play tennis.

By entering into a partnership agreement with Tennis Scotland, not only would Tennis Scotland manage the booking system, but they will deliver training, coaching, competition and bespoke

opportunities for local people. Added to this they would ensure that local people have access to programmes such as 'Tennis For Free' (LTA programme), as well as ringfencing time for free access by the public to play tennis.

4.5 Current project status

The LTA have assessed all public tennis courts in Dundee and have costed improvements for each. For courts which have undergone refurbishment in the last few years these are considerably less than those which have not.

On the basis of their investment assessment, the LTA are proposing that Dundee City Council accepts an offer of grant, subject to certain terms and conditions. If this is accepted the courts will be upgraded using a procurement route developed by the LTA. This entails an LTA prescribed contractor delivering the upgrades identified.

The terms and conditions of the grant and LTA procurement route have been assessed by officers, who have concluded that Dundee City Council can robustly accept the terms and conditions of the grant (subject to the partnership agreement with Tennis Scotland) and that the procurement route is compliant.

In order to comply with the LTA grant terms and conditions Dundee City Council must ensure that the LTA's court booking model, Clubspark, is used by players to book courts and that there is a process in place to encourage participation. To that end it is recommended that Dundee City Council enters into a partnership agreement with Tennis Scotland to deliver both the management of Clubspark and delivery of participation programme. Once the partnership agreement is signed, the programme of proposed upgrades will commence.

5.0 **Proposed Operating Model**

Dundee City Council commits to cover all operating/maintenance costs and set aside future refurbishment costs for all venues in approximately 10 years' time. This will ensure all courts can be refurbished which have accessed the LTA Parks Investment funding.

Through a partnership agreement Tennis Scotland will:

- Deliver participation and coaching programmes including Tennis for Free and other initiatives required by the LTA parks investment fund, as well as bespoke Tennis Scotland designed packages;
- Manage the Clubspark booking system on behalf of Dundee City Council, ensuring that access to the public wishing to play recreational tennis remains free and available at all times at each site.
- Ensure that income derived from the booking of floodlighting and hire of courts to independent operators and coaches is received by Dundee City Council.

5.1 **Commitments Required from Dundee City Council**

Commitment to utilise LTA procurement framework:

Commitment is required to utilise the LTA's own procurement framework to deliver the project.

Commitment to continue to utilise the LTA online booking system:

LTA insight shows that a key barrier to play for park users is the lack of, or an unclear booking journey. To be eligible for investment, therefore, Councils must commit to utilising the online booking system Clubspark, provided through the LTA, to enable residents to easily book courts and activities online.

Commitment to offer free tennis across the park network:

Free tennis – across the park network, the Council must commit to there being a free tennis offer. The purpose of this funding criteria is to ensure tennis remains accessible and affordable to all residents. This could be a weekly free tennis session. Tennis for Free, a charity that works closely with the LTA, provide a package of support (including coach costs and equipment) to Local Authorities to deliver a free, weekly coach-led session.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted on the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

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Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Tony Boyle
Head of Environment

10 May 2023

Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 157-2023

Document Title: LTA PARKS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Document Type: Other

Description:

Report to update the Committee on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Parks Investment Programme and gain approval to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Tennis Scotland in order to allow further refurbishment of external tennis courts citywide.

Intended Outcome:

It is recommended that approval is granted for progressing a Partnership Agreement between Dundee City Council and Tennis Scotland to support the upgrade of Council external tennis courts through direct funding provided by LTA. It is further recommended that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services is remitted to progress to the next stage of the process, to allow this programme to be taken forward.

Period Covered: 13/06/2023 to 01/06/2024

Monitoring:

The proposal will be monitored through ongoing discussion with LTA and Tennis Scotland through the development of a partnership agreement

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: No Impact

Disability: No Impact

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	Not Known
Lochee:	Not Known
Coldside:	Not Known
Maryfield:	Not Known
North East:	Not Known
East End:	Not Known
The Ferry:	Not Known
West End:	Not Known

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Carers: No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Lone Parent Families: No Impact

Single Female Households with Children: No Impact

Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: Not Known

Implications are not yet known, although it is considered that proposed upgrades and partnership with Tennis Scotland will impact positively, providing greater opportunity for residents to develop tennis skills.

Income: No Impact

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): No Impact

Affordability and accessibility of services: Not Known

Implications are not yet known, although it is considered that proposed upgrades and partnership with Tennis Scotland will impact positively, providing greater access/ opportunity for residents to play tennis.

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation No Impact

Employment Opportunities: Not Known

Implications are not yet known, although it is considered that proposed upgrades and partnership with Tennis Scotland will impact positively, providing greater opportunity for local tennis coaches.

Education: No Impact

Health: Not Known

Implications are not yet known, although it is considered that proposed upgrades and partnership with Tennis Scotland will impact positively, providing greater opportunity for residents to improve their health and wellbeing.

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: Not Known

Implications are not yet known, although it is considered that proposed upgrades and partnership with Tennis Scotland will impact positively, providing greater opportunity for residents to improve their health and wellbeing.

Overweight / Obesity: Not Known

Implications are not yet known, although it is considered that proposed upgrades and partnership with Tennis Scotland will impact positively, providing greater opportunity for residents to improve their health and wellbeing.

Child Health: Not Known

Implications are not yet known, although it is considered that proposed upgrades will impact positively, providing greater opportunity for children's health and wellbeing to be improved.

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: Not Known

Implications are not yet known, although it is considered that proposed upgrades and partnership with Tennis Scotland will impact positively as the programme will ensure that all of Dundee's public courts will be brought up to a standard consistent with LTA values.

Transport: No Impact

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: No Impact

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: Positive

Proposed upgrades will improve the appearance of the tennis courts within parks.

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: No Impact

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: No Impact

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: No Impact

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.

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