

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2013
REPORT ON: PROMOTION AND UPGRADE OF TENNIS COURTS IN DUNDEE
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
REPORT NO: 196-2013

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update committee on a recent review of tennis court provision in the city and to seek authority for the implementation of a prioritised Action Plan of improvements.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee is asked to agree the five point strategy set out in 4.7 and remit the Director of Environment to implement the Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 including instructing Tayside Contracts to undertake the capital improvement works identified in 2013/14.
- 2.2 Provision be included in the next review of the Capital Plan to meet the future proposed capital works referred to in the enclosed Action Plan 2013-2016.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Director of Corporate Services advises that the capital improvement works of £42,290 can be met from allowances within the capital plan 2013/14. The minor improvements noted can be met from the Environment Department's revenue budget 2013/14.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following an increase in interest in tennis as a sport and as a leisure pursuit, the Environment Department have been working with Tennis Scotland to review the quality of tennis provision within the city. Working in conjunction with other partners, including Active Schools and Leisure and Culture Dundee, a five point strategy and action plan has been prepared for the development of public tennis facilities within the City.
- 4.2 There are currently eight Council managed tennis courts in the city, with a mixture of blaise and tarmac surfaces. Generally the condition of these courts is acceptable for recreational tennis however are limited in making provision for coaching and competitive tennis.
- 4.3 The three blaise courts have very high maintenance costs due to the nature of the surface. These courts are badly affected by adverse weather conditions and are very susceptible to vandalism. The courts with bituminous surfacing are generally in better condition although some of the surfacing is in need of repair or replacement. The bituminous surfacing used is variable and is not of a porous nature which limits the court utilisation.
- 4.4 The bituminous surfaced courts at South Road were effectively taken out of service several years ago due to high levels of vandalism. These courts were surrounded by dense shrubbery and the fencing was in a poor state of repair making it difficult to monitor and control activity.
- 4.5 Utilisation of the tennis courts by casual users throughout the city has been increasing in recent years. In addition, there has been a significant uptake in the delivery of tennis coaching through Tennis Scotland involving Sport Development and Active Schools. This coaching is part of a nationwide programme supported by funding from Tennis Scotland and the British Lawn Tennis Association. This coaching is delivered at Dawson Park and Baxter Park.

- 4.6 Following consultation with Tennis Scotland, the Lawn Tennis Association and other key partners, there was an aspiration to develop tennis centres in both the east and west of the city. Tennis Scotland have confirmed that some external funding would be available to support such a project. At this stage there is no obvious facility in the west which meets the necessary criteria. In the east of the city the courts at Dawson Park are currently well used for both coaching and recreational tennis and are capable of meeting the required criteria. It is therefore proposed that the courts at Dawson Park are developed as a tennis centre and to a standard where coaching and competition can be fully delivered. It is also proposed to further explore a suitable location covering the west of the city.
- 4.7 Following consultation with Tennis Scotland and other partners, a five point strategy has been developed for the improvement of tennis facilities, these are:
- Undertake a general upgrade of all facilities ensuring surfaces are safe, fencing is repaired and secure;
 - Seek to replace all blaise courts with a porous macadam all weather surface;
 - Seek to replace or overlay all bituminous surfaced courts with a porous macadam all weather surface;
 - Develop an all-weather facility at Dawson Park as a tennis centre with floodlighting and provision for coaching and competition together with the development of an option appraisal for such facility in the west of the city; and
 - Seek to develop an in-doors facility at Camperdown Park as part of the bid proposals for the National Performance Centre.
- 4.8 An Action Plan has been prepared and is included within Appendix 1 that sets out the planned improvement works at each facility. In formulating the Action Plan, consideration was given to extending the opportunities for play by ensuring the surfaces are in good condition, can be used all year and where appropriate, floodlighting is provided.
- 4.8 The minor improvements noted in 2013/14 will be undertaken by the Director of Environment and will be met from allowances within the department's revenue budget. An offer has been received by Tayside Contracts to provide a new porous surfacing at Fairmuir and South Road Park at a total cost of £42,290.
- 4.9 The marketing, promotion and maximising the potential of the facilities is vitally important and the Director of the Environment will work with key partners in order to ensure optimum utilisation of the facilities.
- 4.10 It is proposed that the Director of Environment work closely with partners, including Tennis Scotland, Education Department, Active Schools, Leisure and Culture Dundee, to take forward the strategy. This will include developing external funding bids, noting that there is a modest capital provision for improving tennis facilities identified within the Environment Department's budget.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Education and Head of Democratic and Legal Services has been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Ken Laing
Director of Environment

Gary Robertson
Head of Environmental Management

8th May 2013

APPENDIX 1

TENNIS COURT ACTION PLAN 2013-2016

REF	LOCATION/SITUATION	EARLY ACTIONS 2013/14	MEDIUM TERM IMPROVEMENTS 2014/16	LONG TERM IMPROVEMENTS 2016 >
1.	Tennis Centres in East and West			
1.1	Dawson Park - East This is a well used facility with four courts on a bituminous surface. There are existing changing facilities adjacent to site although these are generally of a poor standard. The facility is used by Grove Academy as well as casual users and has been a venue for tennis development in the past. This site offers the potential to develop a high quality tennis centre to include an all-weather surface, floodlighting, appropriate changing and in-door coaching. Strong potential of developing partnerships with existing users including Active Schools and the Grove Academy along with the Dundee East Community Sports Hub.	Carry out feasibility study. Identify outline costs and development programme. Work in partnership to submit external funding applications Seek to carry out physical improvements to the courts and playing surface		Develop opportunity for new pavilion to incorporate changing facilities along with Community/Social/Coaching capability.
1.2	West The development of the National Performance Centre at Camperdown would clearly fulfil any such requirements and it is proposed to continue to monitor the position.	Monitor development of bid for National Performance Centre		
2.	Blaize Surface Courts			
2.1	Broughty Ferry Esplanade Blaize surface with three courts	Undertake minor fence repairs		Replace blaize with an all-weather porous macadam

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	<p>This facility is relative popular. The condition is fair and 50% of the fence was recently replaced. There is a redundant pavilion adjacent to the facility.</p> <p>Recent minor improvements have been made to the blaize surface and part of the fencing was replaced last year.</p>	Review redundant pavilion with City Development		surface. Develop long term proposals in consultation with local community and other stakeholders.
2.2	<p>Dudhope Park</p> <p>Blaize surface with two courts</p> <p>Fencing and surface have been recently improved in partnership with Criminal Justice.</p>			Replace blaize with an all-weather porous macadam surface.
2.3	<p>Victoria Park</p> <p>Blaize surface with three courts.</p> <p>Fair condition noting that fresh 'blaize' applied this year.</p>		<p>Replace blaize with an all-weather porous macadam surface.</p> <p>Replacement of perimeter fence</p>	Develop long term proposals in consultation with local community and other stakeholders
3.	Bituminous Surface Courts			
3.1	<p>Baxter Park</p> <p>Bituminous surface with three courts</p> <p>Surface requires some minor treatment and fence ultimately to be renewed.</p>	Undertake minor repairs to the surface and renew lines, nets etc.		Replace current surface with an all-weather porous macadam. Evaluate the potential of including new fencing and floodlighting.
3.2	<p>Camperdown Park</p> <p>Bituminous surface with three courts</p> <p>Area is used for the Dundee Flower & Food</p>	Undertake minor repairs to the surface and renew lines, nets etc.	Undertake feasibility study to consider relocation to a new site adjacent to Play Complex	Subject to feasibility study, look to relocate new all-weather courts with the active area of

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	Festival so recommended that surface remains the same to facilitate multi use.			the park
3.3	Fairmuir Park Bituminous surface with four courts. Improvements to the surface are required.	Replace current surface with an all-weather porous macadam – Capital cost £26,490 (tbc).	Carry out a review of the facility and identify improvement programme	Evaluate the potential of including new fencing and floodlighting
3.4	South Road Park Bituminous surface with two courts This is in poor condition and was effectively closed a number of years ago following vandalism. The site is enclosed with trees and shrubs and effectively hidden away.	Replace current surface with an all-weather porous macadam – Capital cost £15,800 (tbc). Removal of excess vegetation surrounding the facility, Link management of courts into Leisure & Culture Dundee's facilities.		Evaluate the potential of including new fencing and floodlighting and quality surface.