

# DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 19 April 2004

**REPORT ON:** Leisure and Arts Facilities – Future of Tennis Courts in Parks

**REPORT BY:** Director of Leisure and Arts

**REPORT NO:** 207-2004

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the current status of tennis courts in the City's parks and to outline improvement proposals together with estimated costs in enhancing the leisure value of tennis courts and extending their usage and appeal to the general public.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that members agreed to:-

- 2.1 The principle of conversion of existing tennis courts to more flexible outdoor multi sport zones.
- 2.2 Note that in the short term minor improvements will be undertaken to ensure facilities remain operational for tennis

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The costs of minor works will be contained within the existing Leisure and Arts Department revenue budgets for 2004/05 and subsequent years.
- 3.2 The conversions to multi sport zones will be subject to bids for sports lottery funding, and appropriate Council funding being provided in future years' Capital Plans.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The report will assist in the provision of access to facilities by ensuring that there is a balance of all year provision throughout the City.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The report through providing a diversity of provision for all will enhance leisure opportunity for all.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

### **6.1 Introduction**

Following a number of enquiries in 2003 an audit was conducted on the current condition and future potential of tennis courts in the City's parks. There are currently 9 tennis court areas within the City's parks. The quality of the surfaces, fencing surrounds, together with the pavilions for each of the facilities, varies and there has been no capital investment in the

courts for a number of years due to financial constraints and the fact that as there is no income from the facilities, improvements were deemed low priority.

## 6.2 Key Issues from the Audit

### 6.2.1 Usage

At the present moment the tennis courts are free. Facilities are not bookable and are generally available with nets and marking from approximately June until September.

The actual use varies although it is noted that during the Wimbledon Fortnight and the immediate month after that there is an upturn in terms of the usage. However outwith these periods in addition to being weather dependent the use is fairly limited.

In the past some of the tennis courts have been used by Sports Development for tennis coaching.

### 6.2.2 Conditions and Update on Initiatives

As part of the audit a number of minor improvements have been identified ranging from improvements to fencing, playing surface and court lining. These improvements will be taken forward within the Department's Revenue Budget so that the facilities are in the required condition for tennis for the Summer of 2004.

The Mill of Mains tennis court has recently been converted into a multi-sports surface which is also floodlit. This has been made possible through community support and external funding. This facility allows greater use throughout the year and has proven to be well used.

## 6.3 Proposals and Way Forward

### 6.3.1 Maintenance and Management of Existing Facilities

Existing facilities will continue to be managed as per current standards including undertaking minor improvements to fences and surfaces. These enhancements will be carried out leading up to June 2004 with all works contained within existing revenue budgets.

### 6.3.2 Long Term Development

In trying to encourage greater usage and, ideally, a year round facility it is proposed that the tennis courts are developed to incorporate a multi-sports use. A typical multi-sports facility would include an all weather surface, sport specific markings and be capable of facilitating football, basketball and tennis etc. These facilities usually have a low rebound fence. While the facility can be used in the main for informal and ad hoc use, it would be possible to book out the facility for sport development taster sessions. Where relevant this could be augmented by the use of floodlights with a review of any associated facilities such as the pavilion.

The benefits of moving to a multi-sports court include:-

- Create and enhance recreation opportunities for all but particularly young people
- Respond to the needs and promote the independence of young people
- Give people a sense of ownership in their community and improve links with communities and of parks
- Endorse healthy living initiatives
- Reduce the threat of vandalism and street crime through encouraging active recreation

- Extend and maximise the use of the facilities

It is proposed that as part of the formulation of Parks Development Plans this change of use is taken into account and detailed proposals are brought forward to a subsequent Committee for consideration. It should be noted that very limited resources are available in the existing 3 Year Capital Plan. It is proposed external lottery funding is sought from **sportscotland** to support the proposed programme of multi sport zones. In addition consideration will be given to making appropriate provision for Council funding in future years' Capital Plans.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

**STEVE GRIMMOND**  
**DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ARTS**  
**16 March 2004**