

To: City Executive Board
Date: 15 September 2016
Report of: Head of Community Services
Title of Report: Leisure investments

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To seek project approval to improve tennis provision at Florence Park and the car parking to the sports facilities at Court Place Farm.
Key decision:	Yes
Executive Board Member:	Cllr Linda Smith, Leisure and Parks and Sport
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Active Communities Efficient, Effective Council
Policy Framework:	Leisure & Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020
Recommendations: That the City Executive Board resolves to:	
1.	<p>Grant project approval for the improvements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis provision at Florence Park • The car park at Court Place Farm <p>as outlined in this report</p>
2	<p>Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Community Services, in consultation with the Board Member, Head of Financial Services and Head of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary agreements or contracts to complete the works.</p>

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Risk Register
Appendix 2	Equality Impact Assessment

Introduction and background

1. The Council's investments in leisure centres have proven very successful. Leisure centre usage has increased by 71 per cent over this period, with the biggest increase being in our target groups.

2. As we have now made a wide range of improvements to our leisure centres finding new opportunities is increasingly difficult.
3. The 2016/17 budget included £500,000 to invest further in the city's leisure provision; the intention is that this money helps secure match funding and or enables further revenue streams to be generated whilst continuing to improve participation.
4. This report recommends that part of this money be used to improve the tennis provision at Florence Park and improve car parking to the sports facilities at Court Place Park.

Broader benefits of sport and leisure

5. Sport and leisure are not only great ways to create strong communities, but these activities deliver significant social value which needs to be borne in mind when considering investments:
 - Young people who are active have numeracy scores, on average, 8% higher than those who are not.¹
 - The health gains of a 30-49 year old who regularly plays football are valued at £27,600 over their lifetime.²
 - The health cost of inactivity in Oxford is £2.1 million per year³

Proposals

Match funding to improve the tennis provision at Florence Park

6. Discussions have taken place with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to see how we can make better use of the city's tennis courts and get more people playing tennis. We have a partnership agreement with the LTA which has led to them investing in our tennis coaching programmes. This programme combined with the coaching and development contract with Premier Tennis has been very successful and participation in tennis has significantly increased and we now have over 5,338 court bookings and 3,660 coaching sessions each year.
7. A provisional agreement is in place with the LTA to fund £133,000 to improve tennis provision at Florence Park, if it is match funded by the Council. The scheme involves adding lighting and improving the quality of the courts. There are no publicly accessible tennis courts in the city that have lighting so this investment will enable tennis to be played at more times throughout the year which is seen as a key to increasing non-club based tennis participation in the city.

Court Place Farm car park

8. The car park at the entrance to Court Place Farm, owned and occupied by the Council is in poor condition. There are two adjoining car parks, one is within the

¹ Department of Culture Media and Sport - Culture and Sport Evidence programme research, 2010

² Culture and Sport Evidence programme research

³ Department of Health – Be active Be Healthy, 2006/07, measure: cost of inactivity

lease of OXRAD (a sports charity) and the other falls within the lease of Oxford City Football Club. The OXRAD car park is in reasonable condition and the one within the Oxford City Football Club lease is in good condition.

9. The Council has £75,000 in its budget to improve the surface of its car park at the entrance to Court Place Farm. Having carried out ground surveys the car park requires a drainage scheme and also ticket machines which requires a further c£117,000 inclusive of fees and contingency.
10. The car parks are all currently free of restrictions and charges. This has led to them being used by commuters as informal park and ride during the week as well as the legitimate sports and social uses primarily in the evenings and at weekends. We are proposing the introduction of a paid parking scheme across the three car parks with low charges for facility users and commercial charges for commuters.
11. The new parking scheme will generate a new revenue stream, once the capital cost of introducing the scheme is repaid then the income will be split based on the usage of the bays in each area of the car park.

Level of Risk

12. The risk register is shown in appendix one.

Environmental

13. We will maximise the low carbon opportunities within both schemes such as low energy lighting.

Equalities Impact

14. The Equalities Impact Assessment is shown in appendix two.

Financial Implications

Tennis Provision at Florence Park

15. The total scheme cost is estimated to be £266,000, this will be funded by £133,000 from the Council and £133,000 match funding contribution from the Lawn Tennis Association. Initial estimates show a minimum of £5,000 income per annum that could be generated. Further work on the business case will be undertaken to look at opportunities to increase this income figure further and also to get more people active due to the availability of an additional 5,000 court hours.

Court Place Farm Car Park

16. The total scheme cost is estimated to be approximately £192,000, this will be funded by the existing £75,000 on the capital programme for Court Place Farm car park increased by £117,000 from the Leisure Investment budget. Initial estimates suggest that the net income could be £18,000, but this is subject to consultation on fees and charges and finalisation of the business case.

Legal Implications

17. An agreement will be required with the Lawn Tennis Association which will include conditions as to how the funding will be spent. An agreement will also be required regarding the use and potential income split in respect of Court Place Farm.

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Background Papers: None