

<b>Subject:</b>	Improvements to Whitaker and Stubblelee Parks Tennis Courts	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b>	28/02/23
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Communities	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Environment and Corporate Services
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
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## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Council approves the acceptance of the grant of £103,541.02 from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to fund improvements to the tennis courts at Whitaker and Stubblelee Parks.
- 1.2 That Council authorises officers to appoint Fosse Contracts Limited as contractor to carry out the refurbishment works and CIA Fire and Security Limited for the supply and installation of the gate system both having been appointed by the LTA as the national delivery partner framework contractor.
- 1.3 That Council approves an addition to the capital programme of a new fully funded capital scheme totalling £103,541.02.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- These sites have been identified by the LTA as ones for improvement works under their national Parks Investment Programme.
- Improvements include resurfacing, repairs to fencing and replacement of nets and posts and provision of gate access systems.
- The work is scheduled to start on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and is due to be completed by 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- The Council is required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement for the scheme and appoint the nominated contractor to carry out the works.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2021, the LTA launched a national Parks Improvement Programme to invest £30m into improving Local Authority tennis courts in order to increase participation in tennis.
- 3.2 In Rossendale, the courts at Whitaker and Stubblelee Parks qualified for LTA investment through the programme. Improvements include resurfacing and repairs to fencing, nets, and installation of access gates.
- 3.3 At the meeting of Council in December 2022, a new vision for Leisure and Wellbeing facilities was agreed. This vision includes an outdoor offer which aims to increase participation in our outdoor settings. Improving our tennis courts is an essential part of achieving our vision.
- 3.4 The sites will use the LTA's online booking system which will mean a charge for peak court times of £6 per hour, with off-peak times being free of charge. Alternatively, an annual pass will be available to purchase at a cost of £30.

- 3.5 Rossendale Leisure Trust will operate the booking and charging systems and the Council will carry out the maintenance tasks to keep courts in a playable condition.
- 3.6 The sustainability of the courts was a criteria for being awarded the grant, therefore the income from the bookings will go into a sinking fund to cover the cost of any works that the Council is obliged to carry out under the terms of the grant funding agreement together with the annual charge payable for the gate access system and the cost of providing the free tennis coaching outlined in 3.7 below.
- 3.7 The offer of free tennis coaching is also a condition of the grant. This will be offered at various times by one of the RLT's qualified Sports Coaches in compliance of the grant.

#### **4. DETAILS**

- 4.1 The total funding of £103,541.02 is provided by the LTA in the form of a grant to the Council. This grant covers the entire cost of the project and there is no requirement for any match funding from the Council.
- 4.2 The LTA have appointed Fosse Contracts Limited and CIA Fire and Security Limited via framework agreements to carry out the construction and associated works on a national scale. It is a requirement on the grant that the Council uses the approved contractors to deliver the works.
- 4.3 Construction works are scheduled to begin on 1<sup>st</sup> March at Stubbylee and 6<sup>th</sup> March at Whitaker. Works will be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- 4.4 The grant contract requires the Council to ensure that the courts are well maintained, repaired and refurbished in accordance with the grant conditions.

#### **5. RISK**

- 5.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- Failure to invest in the site will risk further deterioration leading to increased maintenance liability and health and safety issues.
  - Failure to comply with the terms of the legal agreements. This will be mitigate by close project management and ongoing monitoring within the specified periods.
  - Failure to deliver the works within the cost budget. This will be mitigated by close project management. Any unforeseen costs will be discussed with the LTA with a view to agreeing an uplift in grant funding.

#### **6. FINANCE**

- 6.1 The works are funded entirely by the LTA and will be an addition to the capital programme. The scheme requires close monitoring to ensure the cost envelope is not exceeded and is in line with the terms of the grant funding agreement
- 6.2 The Council and Rossendale Leisure Trust will introduce a charging system which will create a sinking fund for each court to ensure their sustainability. The sinking fund will seek to cover the cost of any works that the Council is obliged to carry out under the terms of the grant funding agreement together with the annual charge payable for the gate access system and the cost of providing the free tennis coaching outlined in 3.7 above.

#### **7. LEGAL**

- 7.1 The Council is required to enter into the grant funding agreement to release the funding. Officers will ensure compliance of the terms of the agreement in order to mitigate against a breach of the agreement and the clawback of all or any funding.
- 7.2 The Council will further enter into call-off building and associated works contracts as required by the framework agreements in order to deliver the works.
- 7.3 Full Council is required to authorise officers to accept the funding and enter into the relevant agreements with the appointed contractors.

**8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 No additional implications arise from this report.

**9. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 9.1 The development of these tennis facilities will provide further excellent facilities at Rossendale's two main parks and the operation model carried out by the Rossendale Leisure Trust will help encourage participation in tennis as a form of physical exercise. This will support the Council's new vision for Leisure and Wellbeing in the borough.

No Background Papers