

## **WOKING PARK TENNIS COURT IMPROVEMENTS**

### **Executive Summary**

This report describes a current proposal to improve the Tennis Courts at Woking Park as part of a joint exercise with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). The project will be completed in two phases;

Phase 1 will be developed throughout 2018 for implementation in Spring 2019. It will include resurfacing of 5 courts in Woking Park, the installation of a sophisticated access system, online booking functionality and a variety of community based tennis products.

Phase 2 will be developed and implemented throughout the summer/autumn of 2019. This will include floodlight installation and increased product offering.

The project is being driven by the Council's 2017 Playing Pitch and Outdoor Facilities Strategy which identified the need for improved tennis facilities in the Borough and the LTA's mission to have 'More people playing tennis, more often.'

The improvements are expected to positively impact Woking's local community with improved tennis facilities which are open longer hours, an easy to use booking system, casual pay and play, affordable Household Memberships and coaching sessions.

The attached Project Workbook describes the current offering, the changes recommended and the total estimated cost of the project at £235,440. Funding from the LTA has already been secured for 50% of Phase 1 of the project at a total of £72,000. Initial conversations with the LTA for further part funding for Phase 2 have been favourable however this cannot be confirmed until spring/summer 2019.

The Project is included within the Council's Investment Programme, with funding earmarked to be from grant/contribution. In order to progress the project and to not lose the LTA's funding it is considered appropriate to fund the remaining requirement for the entire project at this stage by borrowing. This would equate to 50% of Phase 1 and potentially all funding required for Phase 2 (subject to planning). Any grant received from the LTA for Phase 2, potentially £46,000, would reduce the need to borrow. Additionally it may be that S106 funding can be identified in due course which would further reduce the borrowing required. Approval is therefore sought to access funding via the PWLB upto a maximum of £164,000 recognising that should the LTA agree funding for Phase 2, the borrowing required will reduce to £118,000. Assuming a 10 year life the annual financing and repayment cost for the full proposed borrowing is £20,000.

The project will firmly place Woking Park's Tennis Courts into an elite majority. Out of 600+outdoor courts in the South East only 79 currently have floodlights.

### **Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:

#### **RESOLVE That**

- (i) Phase 1 and Phase 2 (subject to planning consent) of the project to be part funded by borrowing up to a maximum of £164,000;

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- (ii) Officers be authorised to pursue planning permission and external funding for Phase 2 of the project from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA); and
- (iii) the Strategic Director (People Services) be delegated authority, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to agree the fees and charges to apply for the use of the facilities once the works have been completed.

### Reasons for Decision

Reason: A decision is sought to allow the Woking Park Tennis Court Improvements project to progress to the next stage of development.

The Executive has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	<a href="#">2017 Playing Pitch and Outdoor Facilities Strategy</a>
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<b>Date Published:</b>	4 July 2018

**Appendix Title**

Tennis in Woking Park Workbook Final 27 March 18