



REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	Tuesday, 6 June 2023
SUBJECT:	Refurbishment of Tennis Courts in Ayscoughfee Gardens
PURPOSE:	To accept the grant funding from DCMS via Lawn Tennis Association and approve the necessary budgets.
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Gary Taylor- PFH for Strategic Housing, Leisure Centre Delivery & Spalding Town Improvement
REPORT OF:	Phil Perry, Assistant Director – Leisure & Culture
REPORT AUTHOR:	Julia Knight, Museum Manager
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Spalding St Mary's;
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

In October 2021 the Government and Lawn Tennis Association announced a £30 million funding package to refurbish more than 4,500 public tennis courts throughout the United Kingdom; having initially been brought to the attention of the LTA by a local tennis coach, the courts in Ayscoughfee Gardens were subsequently identified by the LTA as meeting their criteria for full refurbishment.

In order to qualify for grant funding initially, the Council had to confirm that it would provide £20,000 match; that match was duly approved by the s151 Officer from SHDC reserves under delegated authority. As a consequence of that approval, the Council has received a grant funding offer of **£101,442.88** from the LTA to effect the full refurbishment of the courts at Ayscoughfee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Accept the grant award from the LTA of £101k to refurbish the tennis courts at Ayscoughfee.

2. Accept the grant conditions attached to the award.
3. Note that the s151 Officer has previously already approved the necessary match funding of £20k using their delegated powers.
4. Adds the scheme to the Council's Capital Programme given that the s151 Officer has confirmed that in doing so there will be no '*material impact on the Council's budget*'.
5. Approves the necessary Exemption to Contract Procedure Rules as delivery of the works will be undertaken by a contractor directly appointed by the LTA.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the tennis courts in Ayscoughfee Gardens to be refurbished to a high standard, working with the LTA to promote them and broaden access and participation.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. Do nothing- the courts to remain in existing state with no additional budget and decreasing usage due to lack of engagement and promotion.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** In April 2021, the Communities Team were approached by the LTA with a view to exploring the refurbishment of the tennis courts in Ayscoughfee Gardens. The LTA had been contacted by a local tennis coach, who highlighted the courts as being ideal for a coaching programme and summer holiday tennis camps, due to the popularity and central location of Ayscoughfee.
- 1.2** Having initially expressed an interest in a grant funding scheme launched by Government and the LTA in 2021 to the LTA in June 2022, the Association worked closely with the Communities and Assets Teams to plan the refurbishment and promotion of the tennis courts that has led to the production of this report.

2. REPORT

- 2.1** Following initial contact with the LTA in April 2021, conversations began to develop in June 2021 between the LTA, SHDC's Community Development Manager and Ayscoughfee Manager exploring what options there may be to access any funding from the LTA to support the refurbishment of the Ayscoughfee courts.
- 2.2** Following those initial discussions, in October 2021 the Government and Lawn Tennis Association announced the launch of a £30 million funding package to refurbish more than 4,500 public tennis courts throughout the United Kingdom.
- 2.3** As a consequence of the funding, the Communities team and LTA began more formal discussions in April 2022 about the potential for Ayscoughfee benefiting from a grant to support the refurbishment of the courts on the site. However, in order to benefit from grant funding the Council needed to commit £20,000 match that has been approved by the

s151 Officer from reserves under delegated authority; the confirmation of that match then led to a formal offer of grant funding being made to the Council in May 2023. The LTA Park Tennis presentation provides further details on the project, and is attached for reference, as Appendix A.

- 2.4** The formal offer to the Council from the LTA that Cabinet is being asked to accept is £101,442.88 grant funding to fully refurbish the courts, during June/July 2023/24 financial year, including the installation of an electric gate, access lock and associated online App that the LTA wish to see used by the community to book and access the newly refurbished courts. The conditions of the grant are attached at Appendix B that Cabinet are being asked to accept.
- 2.5** In terms of the works, the LTA has undertaken its own national procurement exercise for the delivery of the projects it has agreed to fund and is proposing to appoint a contractor for this scheme through that Procurement Framework. Officers have therefore prepared a Contract Exemption Notice in line with the Council's Contract Procedure rules, attached at Appendix C that Cabinet is being asked to approve.
- 2.6** In terms of the match funding required by the LTA, upon inspection, it identified that the existing fencing whilst 'serviceable' was poor and as the maximum grant it can award is limited to £100,000, it would not be able to fund its replacement which it considered necessary. The Assets Team subsequently sought to secure the £20,000 match required that was agreed and signed off by the s151 Officer using delegated powers which, if Cabinet take all decisions recommended, will ensure the full refurbishment of the tennis offer at Ayscoughfee.
- 2.7** If Cabinet adopt the recommendations, officers will work with relevant portfolio holders to explore options for the future management of the tennis courts to ensure their ongoing sustainability, value to the community and of course value for money to the Council.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1** The funding on offer provides a unique opportunity to secure the refurbishment of a key leisure resource in South Holland in order to increase engagement and participation in physical activity and further enhance the offer and draw to the magnificent Hall and Gardens at Ayscoughfee.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1** To improve access to tennis within Spalding, South Holland and the sub-region, increasing participation and activity levels.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

5.1.1 As set out at 'Expected Benefits to the Partnership'. This delivers on one of the top ten priorities in the Partnership's agreed Work Programme ("Health and Leisure offer across the sub-region").

5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.2.1 Working with partners to deliver against the Lincolnshire District Health and Wellbeing Strategy and SELCP Healthy Living Action Plan.

5.3 STAFFING

5.3.1 None

5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.4.1 None

5.5 DATA PROTECTION

5.5.1 None

5.6 FINANCIAL

5.6.1 The funding includes £100,000 capital funding to fully refurbish the courts, £1,442.88 revenue funding for the 2023/24 financial year to install an electric gate, access lock and associated online App, for an access and booking system.

Additional funding from SHDC budgets has been agreed to support works to the fencing, which are outside the scope of the LTA funding totalling £20,000.00.

5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.7.1 The main risk would be a lack of ongoing investment into the tennis courts, meaning possible negative publicity and withdrawal of operational support from LTA.

5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

5.8.1 No consultation undertaken.

5.9 REPUTATION

5.9.1 This will have a positive impact on reputation, with SHDC seen as an exemplar in refurbishing and promoting the use of community tennis courts.

5.10 CONTRACTS

5.10.1 An ongoing contract with the LTA for provision of the electronic gate system.

5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER

5.11.1 None

5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

5.12.1 None

5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

5.13.1 This will provide access to high quality tennis courts within South Holland, with promotion of targeted sessions for a wide range of users, including walking tennis, wheelchair tennis and so on.

5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.14.1 None

5.15 LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

6. ACRONYMS

6.1 DCMS- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

LTA- Lawn Tennis Association

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	LTA Parks Tennis Presentation
APPENDIX B	LTA Grant Funding Conditions
APPENDIX C	Contract Exemption Notice

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Julia Knight jknight@sholland.gov.uk
Signed off by:	Phil Perry, AD – Leisure & Culture phil.perry@boston.gov.uk
Approved for publication:	Cllr Gary Taylor, Strategic Housing, Leisure Centre Delivery & Spalding Town Improvement garytaylor@sholland.gov.uk

FINANCE PROFORMA

PROFORMA FOR APPROVAL OF THE RELEASE OF RESOURCES

(CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS)

FROM:

THIS PROFORMA PROVIDES THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
IN RESPECT OF THE ATTACHED

REPORT:

REPORT DATE:

OPTION 1	£ Year 1 2020/21	£ Year 2 2021/22	£ Year 3 2022/23	£ Year 4 2023/24	£ Year 5 2024/25
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Revenue

Total Revenue Cost

Funding required:

Total capital cost
£116,427.50

Considered by:

Colin Awcock

Date:

25/5/23

LTA Grant funding
(£101,442.88) income

Matched funding
£14,984.62 but
£20,000 approved by
S151 using delegated
powers.

Total capital cost £

Enter committee here

Revenue cost £

Enter Council or
Cabinet/Executive here

Financial Services Comments

Risk

Procurement

Value for Money Efficiency

This FP is valid for 3 months from FP date	If this FP is no longer required please advise Finance	If there are changes to the original report it may invalidate this document, it must be reviewed by Finance.