

**Further Background Information**

**Parks Tennis Operating Model**

1. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is working with Bristol City Council to introduce a sustainable tennis operating model for the city. The tennis facilities at the Ardagh are not currently part of this initiative but the LTA and Council are keen that six courts are brought into the scheme. If this is agreed, the LTA can provide some match funding for the capital investment required. The Council would need to agree to support this with its own capital funding. The (LTA) have surveyed all eleven courts at the Ardagh identifying a need for around £800,000 of investment. This would be reduced for just six. Projected to be c.£550,000
2. So far the current parks tennis model includes Canford, Eastville and St George, and includes facility improvements of £140,000. £50,000 contribution from Bristol City Council has already been committed across these three parks. This is taken from a reserved tennis court fund set up specifically under terms of a previous LTA grant and funded purely through income generated from courts. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has also awarded £90,000 towards the project. All ongoing costs for the operation including lifecycle and maintenance will be the responsibility of a new operator appointed through a tender process.
3. The parks tennis court proposal focusses on how parks tennis courts are managed and funded in the future, and looking into a sustainable way to maintain good quality tennis provision in the city, mitigating budget pressures for Bristol City Council in the future.
4. The more courts across Bristol Parks which are included in the model the more sustainable and robust it is likely to be. It is envisaged some courts will have a higher throughput than others.
5. The benefit of a parks tennis model is that courts with a higher throughput and hence higher income generation will cross subsidise those courts with lower throughput or with higher concessionary users. This means quality of provision can be maintained across the city rather than only in those areas which can afford to pay.
6. The project includes re-surfacing and installation of key fob technology at park sites to encourage increased usage through improved facilities.
7. The project includes the appointment of a tennis court operator, who will manage the courts on behalf of BCC. The operator will be responsible for maintaining court technology and bookings systems, promotion of the courts, tennis coaching opportunities plus lifecycle and ongoing maintenance of the courts. A fob/code system on court gates will allow residents to buy one fob per household, which will provide access to all parks tennis courts included in the model for a low fee of c.£35p.a; alongside an online booking system to register courts through either the fob system or on a pay and play basis at c.£5 per court per hour.

8. The online booking system will be on a city wide web page and enables technology such as smart phones to be used to book the courts, making it easier for people to book. The system allows for people wanting to turn up and play or book via their computer if they want to book in advance.
9. The proposal takes into consideration those on lower incomes with concessionary prices alongside a number of free play sessions where people can turn up and play for free. The court technology system will be supplemented by coaching, free play opportunities and competitive opportunities to provide a wide ranging programme of tennis offers in the city.
10. Under the current number of courts (15 excluding the Ardagh) in the model the tennis court operator will be required to pay the council a sum of £18,000 per annum to create a sinking fund, which will be maintained to resurface the courts in the future and for other maintenance work as required. This will relieve any budget pressure currently covered by the Parks department and secure the long term future of the tennis offer within Bristol Parks.

#### **Inclusion of the Ardagh Tennis Courts**

11. Inclusion of six courts at the Ardagh adds to strengthen the citywide model and will support the Council in the ongoing provision of high quality and sustainable parks tennis across the city.
12. Inclusion of six of the Ardagh courts will mean the model is more appealing for operators to bid for as the model will generate more income opportunities.
13. The rationale for Council (sports) capital funding to be invested on the Ardagh tennis courts is subject to them being part of the wider parks tennis operating model as their inclusion will contribute strongly towards a high quality and sustainable parks tennis provision for the whole city.