

Subject:	Management of Hove Park Tennis Courts		
Date of Meeting:	26 June 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Culture		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Robert Walker	Tel: 01273 294349
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Ward(s) affected:	Hove Park		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 Councillors have expressed an interest in being involved in the decision about the future management of Hove Park tennis courts. For this reason a proposal for the self-management of Hove Park tennis courts is being brought to this committee for a decision as to whether to accept it or not, rather than being decide under delegated authority.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee accept in principle the proposal put forward by Hove Park Tennis Alliance [HPTA] for the self-management of Hove Park Tennis Courts as set out at Appendix 1;
- 2.2 The Committee note that should the proposal be accepted in principle the proposal willll be publicly advertised and any objections considered
- 2.3 That the Committee delegate the agreement of the final detail of the lease/license to the Executive Director Economy Environment and Culture

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In November 17 a similar proposal was accepted in principle by this committee this followed on from an agreement on the direction of travel for tennis made by the committee in June 17. The Committee was advised to expect further self-management proposals by individual site based clubs but this is slightly different as it comes from an alliance of long standing clubs from Hove Park. The clubs involved are Hove Park Tennis Club, Welbeck Tennis Club and Top Cats Tennis Club.
- 3.2 The Hove Park Tennis Alliance [HPTA] has not been formally set up yet and should this proposal be accepted it would be set up as a Company Limited by Guarantee and registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club.
- 3.3 The full proposal from the HPTA has been included in appendix 1.

- 3.4 The proposal highlights the need for some immediate work on the courts the Council has allocated funding to tennis court surface work and some fence repair this spend will be subject to approval of this proposal.
- 3.5 The HPTA identify possible issues with court availability should their proposal be accepted. Some artificial grass courts that were available for tennis in the summer had fallen into disrepair and have been converted to a 3G football surface. Full court usage is not something that is reflected in the council's income for the site currently and it will be a great improvement if the HPTA are able to fill the courts with paying players.
- 3.6 Officers have discussed the proposal in detail with the Alliance and believe that the HPTA has a good understanding of potential usage and that the proposal is financially viable.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Other methods of managing the cities tennis courts have been considered at one point it was hoped that there would be a Citywide proposal for tennis user self-management but that proved to be unachievable. Management proposals need to meet the council's budgetary reduction targets and preference is being given to proposals backed by facility users.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Extensive consultation has taken place with representatives of tennis clubs, coaches and the Lawn Tennis Association [LTA] about the future management of tennis in the city. Specific consultation has taken place with Cubs and Coaches based in Hove Park about Hove Park. The Alliance has been in direct discussions with the Friends of Hove Park and has their support.
- 5.2 The proposals have also been discussed with Ward Members who support the proposal and have provided a statement of support which is included within the Hove Park Tennis Alliance Proposal in appendix 1.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The proposal from HPTA provides an opportunity to sustain the use of Hove Park tennis courts.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Since 2016/17 budget reductions of £0.250m have been applied to sports facilities in parks across the city. The current Targeted Budget Monitoring (TBM) forecast includes service pressures where a part of these savings has not been met. As a result, the current management arrangements are no longer sustainable for Hove Park tennis courts.
- 7.2 CityParks currently receive income from Hove Park tennis courts but the associated costs such as fee collection, repairs and grounds maintenance exceed the level of income received.

- 7.3 The proposal from HPTA to manage the courts within Hove Park is expected to be financially and operationally viable and will protect the facilities for public use. All direct running costs and liabilities including upkeep and maintenance will be the responsibility of HPTA and any income generated from operating the courts will remain with the HPTA. The long-term ownership of the assets will remain with the Council and a lease/license would be granted to the HPTA for the operation of the courts. There will be no financial receipt to the Council in respect of the transfer of the lease/license.
- 7.4 As a result of the report recommendations there will be staff time required from legal and property services for the preparation and transfer of the lease/licence.
- 7.5 There are currently plans for court resurfacing and fence repairs at the Hove Park tennis courts in 2018/19. The works are scheduled to take place in advance of the proposed transfer to HPTA therefore any savings to council budgets as a result of the report recommendations will be long term.

Finance Officer Consulted: Gemma Jackson

Date: 23/05/18

Legal Implications:

- 7.6 The proposed lease/license with the HPTA will be completed following advice from the Council's legal and property services teams.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 28th May 2018

Equalities Implications:

- 7.7 The HPTA aims to involve a wide range of users and has targeted proposals for less well-off youngsters, people suffering from mental health problems and the elderly

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.8 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Hove Park Tennis Alliance Tennis Proposal for Brighton and Hove City Council 2018

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

