

Appendix Two

Tennis: - Background and Context

1. The Council owns four tennis venues across the District. The current provision is summarised as below:-

Location	Courts	Management arrangements
Victoria Park – Leamington	10 courts, 5 floodlit with changing pavilion	Operated by VP Tennis under licence, offering membership scheme and court hire for non-members (£5ph)
Abbey Fields – Kenilworth	5 courts (with basketball hoop on one court)	None
Christchurch Gardens – Leamington	4 courts (court x used for basketball)	None
St Nicholas Park – Warwick	2 courts	Operated by Everyone Active as part of wider leisure contract Court hire at £12 ph.

2. The facilities at Victoria Park, Christchurch Gardens and Abbey Fields need improvement and a programme of refurbishment is currently in place to address this. Work is ongoing with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to deliver these improvements.
3. The courts at Christchurch Gardens and some courts at Victoria Park were resurfaced in 2020. The remaining courts at Victoria Park are due to be resurfaced following the Commonwealth Games next year. In Abbey Fields the courts will be resurfaced following the completion of the new swimming pool in 2023.
4. In addition to the booking and gate access system allowing residents to pre-book courts and the Council is also aiming to install new fencing at Victoria Park and Christchurch Gardens.
5. A funding application is being submitted to the LTA for additional funding for these improvements to supplement the allocation in the Council's Assets Reserve for the resurfacing of Victoria Park courts.
6. The current costs to the Council to run the tennis venues far outweighs the income generated as summarised in the table below.

Expenditure for 2019/20	
Victoria Park Pavilion	£33,038
Grounds maintenance Victoria Park	£12,338
Grounds maintenance Abbey Fields, St Nicholas Park, Christchurch Gardens	£12,495
Total Expenditure	£57,871
Income	
VP Tennis licence fee	£2,100
VP Tennis flood lights	£822
Total income	£2,922
Total annual deficit	£54,949

7. Given the limited income currently realised from the venues, there is no scope to establish a reserve to fund either annual maintenance or future refurbishments for works such as resurfacing. For reference: the recent refurbishment work at Christchurch Gardens totalled approx. £58,000.
 Whilst there is currently funding available from the LTA, there is no guarantee of future funding and the LTA are keen to ensure that Local Authorities adopt sustainable financial models, as part of their assessment of current funding applications.
8. The Options Appraisal report identified several other issues relating to the current tennis offer as described below.
9. There is no consistent service delivery model for tennis from the 4 venues. Victoria Park is the only Council venue to offer a programme of activities including coaching. Charges apply at Victoria Park and St Nicholas Park at different rates, and the courts at Abbey Fields and Christchurch Gardens are free.
10. There is also limited opportunity to collect data about how the courts are currently used, making service planning difficult. There is no current strategy for tennis development, despite feedback from the LTA and SLL that there is significant potential to grow participation in tennis in the District.