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**Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2021**

**Report of the Interim Director of Public Realm**

**Update on future investment by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) in tennis facilities across the Borough**

**Purpose**

1. To inform the Management Committee of progress of regarding future investment by the LTA in tennis facilities across the Borough.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that:-
  - The Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee note the content of the report.

**Background**

3. Following the Committee meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, the Parks Development Team are continuing to work with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) regarding future investment in tennis facilities across the Borough.
4. The LTA were grateful for their invitation to the last meeting and were delighted that the Committee supported the project not just for the sites, which are held in trust, but for the positive comments to the programme as a borough wide aspiration.
5. Since the 4<sup>th</sup> April Committee meeting, the LTA have shared information from technical surveys that they have undertaken, which have identified the following sites as being viable for facility investment:

- Buffery Park – court re-binding, painting, fencing works and gate access
- Huntingtree Park – court resurfacing, fencing works and gate access
- King George V Park – court resurfacing, fencing and gate access
- Mary Stevens Park – gate access
- Priory Park – court re-binding/reconstruction, painting and gate access
- Silver Jubilee Park – court re-binding, painting and gate access

6. Since 4<sup>th</sup> April, discussions have been ongoing with the LTA to better understand the viable operating models for each of the above sites. Officers have been using a feasibility tool developed by the LTA to forecast potential usage and income levels, taking into account the local deprivation index and market penetration rates.
7. This work is still ongoing and will be the subject of a future report, but in return for the LTA investment there is an understanding that the Council will introduce a viable operating model that will ensure sufficient funding is generated to create a sinking fund to finance future maintenance of the courts. However, this needs to be balanced against ensuring affordable access to local users to encourage increased participation. Consideration also needs to be given for those sites, which are covered by the deed of gift.

### **Finance**

8. Although the funding from LTA does not require any match funding apart from Officer time, there is an understanding that the Council will introduce a viable operating model that will ensure sufficient funding is generated to create a sinking fund to finance future maintenance of the courts.

### **Law**

9. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides Councils with the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to Sections 2 to 4, and Section 105, 117-123 of the Charities Act 2011 gives power to authorise dealings with charity property (as amended by the Charities Act 2022).

### **Risk Management**

10. There are no material risks presented by this project.

## **Equality Impact**

11. The proposals contained in this report are consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

## **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

12. None applicable to this report.

## **Commercial/Procurement**

13. Any procurement of goods or services made by the Council will comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and governance arrangements in place which could include submission of options to Procurement Management Group (PMG).

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

14. This decision will improve the quality of the green spaces.

*Developing Green Space: Providing a framework of good quality and accessible community space, parks & nature reserves with interconnecting green networks.*

15. This proposal is not anticipated to have any implications for current activity.

**Andy Vaughan**  
**Interim Director of Public Realm**

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## **Appendices**

*None.*

## **List of background documents**

*None.*