

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Chris Fennell – Head of Service

Service Area: Communities and Leisure

Title of Decision: Approval to sign a Grant Funding Agreement with the Lawn Tennis Association – Round 2 - Tring Pound Meadow

Decision made and reasons:

Decision: The approval to sign the Grant Funding Agreement with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to access £49,769.95 funding to renovate two Dacorum tennis courts located in Tring.

Reason:

LTA have confirmed their offer to completely refurbish courts at Tring Pound Meadow and to provide gate access hardware and technology courts. To release the funding, the council is required to sign a Grant Agreement.

The LTA have contractors ready start carrying out the works in this financial year if agreement can be signed by mid August 2024.

Reports considered:

Report to SLT - 7 August 2024

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

James Doe

Mark Brookes

Fiona Jump

Chris Fennell

Ian Ross

Cllr Sheron Wilkie – Portfolio Holder Place

Financial Comments:

As part of the grant funding conditions, the Council is expected to make revenue financial provision for the maintenance of the courts. The LTA have undertaken modelling based on their experience of similar facilities elsewhere that sets out a charging regime for use of the courts that is expected to cover this annual expenditure, estimated at £20k per annum. The Council does not currently charge for the use of the tennis courts at Tring Pound Meadow.

Deputy Monitoring Officer Comments:

Further to section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure, which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its residents.

Deputy S151 Officers Comments:

The introduction of fees for the use of Tring Pound Meadow is part of the medium-term approach to meeting the costs of running the facility and meeting LTA grant conditions. The introduction of such charges will require Member engagement and approval by Cabinet and Full Council.

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Implications

Value for Money: The funding will provide much needed refurbishment of the tennis courts and the cost of this refurbishment would otherwise have to be budgeted for.

Financial: The cost of maintaining the courts, if the grant is accepted, is approximately £20,000 pa including a sinking fund contribution. The Tring project aims to be self-financing e.g. the ongoing project maintenance costs and sinking fund will be financed through the pay and play fees and season ticket charges for the facility.

Risk: The funding would not be awarded if the Grant Agreement is not signed.

Officer Signature:

Chris Fennell – Head of Communities and Leisure

Date: 12 Aug. 24