

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

Subject: Portsmouth Tennis Pilot Initiative

Date of meeting: 23 March 2012

Report by: Head of Cultural Services

Wards affected: All Wards

1. Requested by

1.1 Councillor Hunt – Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport.

2. Purpose

2.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the proposed financial investment by the Lawn Tennis Association as part of their national pilot initiative.

3. Information requested

3.1 As a consequence of Portsmouth City Council's commitment to tennis, which has included most recently an allocation of £295,000 capital funding towards a new £1 Million indoor tennis centre at the Mountbatten Centre, the sports governing body, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), are currently working with Council officers to develop the Portsmouth Tennis Pilot. Funding from the LTA will total £1.25M including £750,000 towards the new indoor tennis centre, plus £500,000 for coaching and improvement to outdoor tennis courts.

3.2 The Portsmouth Pilot is one of eight joint LTA and Tennis Foundation (TF) projects being undertaken over the next two years. The aim of each pilot is to identify ways of increasing participation in the sport and help shape future strategy nationally. The Portsmouth Pilot has four specific objectives;

- Establish a comprehensive curricular and extra-curricular schools tennis programme within the City.
- Develop sustainable parks tennis sites which offer appropriate tennis opportunities to local people.
- Create a City wide disability tennis programme with progression opportunities for talented athletes.
- Work with non traditional tennis people to take tennis to the masses and engage a new market of potential players.

3.3 A comprehensive YouGov survey was conducted in the City. In total 1,000 face to face interviews took place and the findings have helped to shape the plan for the City.

3.4 All of the objectives and actions within the Portsmouth Pilot are aimed to increase the number of people playing tennis.

3.5 It is envisaged that £1.25m will be invested by the LTA into the City through this project.

3.6 The pilot project is underway and will run for two years. It will feature the LTA and TF working closely at the following locations across the city.

3.6.1 Priory Indoor Tennis Centre

- Investment into new Head Coach role at facility in Fratton.
- Aim to create one of the most inclusive, progressive and successful schools tennis programmes in the UK

3.6.2 Mountbatten Tennis Centre

- New build £1m indoor centre with 4 indoor and 4 outdoor courts to replace existing facility.
- Public access pay & play facility with coaching and competition for all ages and abilities.
- Disability development programme for the City of Portsmouth.
- Completion programmed for.

3.6.3 Southsea Tennis Club

- 2 existing courts to be resurfaced, and new floodlights to 4 courts.
- Investment into new Head Coach and coaching team.

3.6.4 Milton Park

- 5 existing courts to be resurfaced.
- Free to use park site for people on Portsmouth.
- Investment into new low cost coaching programme.

3.6.5 Bransbury Park (existing outdoor courts)

- Investment into new LTA apprentice.
- New community focussed coaching programme.
- Disability programme via RESPECTability.

3.6.6 King Richard School

- Investment into new build Club facility with 4 outdoor floodlit courts and clubhouse.

3.7 Within the Pilot both capital and revenue funding will be invested into each of the sites. In addition, each site will work closely with the LTA’s newly appointed Community Tennis Project Manager to deliver the objectives outlined above, and increase participation in tennis. This new post will work alongside the existing workforce at the sites, as well as recruit and train new people to support the delivery of the plan. There will also be new working relationships with non traditional tennis people, social inclusion charities, other sports, and others who can help to deliver the objectives.

.....
Signed by
Stephen Baily
Head of Cultural Services

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
None	