

Officer Executive Decision Form



DECISION DETAILS:

1. **Subject:** The Inclusion of Redcatch Park Tennis Courts into the Parks Tennis Operating Model

2. **Full details of the decision taken:**

That the operation, maintenance and funding of the tennis courts in Redcatch Park is incorporated within the Bristol Parks Tennis Operating Model.

3. **Monetary value involved (if any):**

Projected surplus after all income / expenditure estimated to be c.£5,000 per annum for the Operator (Wesport)

4. **Contract number (if applicable):** DN247240

5. **Reason for identifying as an OED:**

Deemed to be of high interest to public or councillors.

6. **Date of decision:**

1st September 2023

7. **Reasons for the decision:**

An opportunity has arisen to bring Redcatch Tennis Courts into the Bristol Parks Tennis Operating Model. This includes how the courts will operate, be maintained, and paid for. As part of this proposal the council has consulted with local people on this model.

Currently, the use of the tennis courts at Redcatch Park is free and people can turn up and play. There is no way of booking the courts. The council cannot afford to maintain Redcatch Park tennis courts in the way it does now.

Out of 287 responses received 200 (70%) are users of the courts either once or more than once a week.

The majority of respondents (57%) were opposed to the proposal to use the Parks Tennis Operating Model (selecting disagree or strongly disagree); 38% were in favour (agree or strongly agree); and 6% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Out of 199 respondents the most popular theme arising from free text responses was a preference for a system free at the point of access and that the current arrangements work well without a booking system.

The outcome of the consultation has been fully reviewed and considered in taking this decision. All other options have been carefully considered but rejected for the reasons set out below. It is noted that this approach is not supported by the feedback from the majority of residents who responded to the survey who currently use the courts.

This is understandable, as this is a significant change to the present situation and one that will result in those users who currently use the courts, having to pay in the future.

The council cannot however afford to operate and maintain the tennis courts to an adequate standard in the long term with the budgets available.

In the absence of an operating model the courts remain without a viable sustainable future and without funding will fall into a state of disrepair and an inevitable deterioration of the tennis courts. Inclusion in the model will help the council manage and mitigate its budget pressures and is aligned to its strategic direction of finding new ways of funding to support service provision and estate maintenance.

8. Details of alternative options considered and rejected:

Option 1: No change to the way we operate and maintain Redcatch Park tennis courts.

The options for Bristol City Council to continue to operate and maintain Redcatch Park tennis courts as it currently does have been considered, with the council being responsible for the cost of maintaining the courts, and where people can turn up and play without paying or booking.

This option was not pursued because going forwards this is no longer possible. The council cannot afford to operate and maintain the tennis courts to an adequate standard in the long term with the budgets available.

Option 2: Use other funds for a one-off maintenance, without adopting the Parks Tennis Operating model

Consideration has also been given to whether the council could use one-off funds to clean and re-mark the tennis courts now, and not adopt the Parks Tennis Operating Model. This would mean no charges and no change to the way people can use the courts.

This option was not pursued because it would not secure the long-term future of the tennis courts, nor provide the wider benefits of the Parks Tennis Operating Model.

This decision was taken in consultation with the Mayor.

Name: Hugh Evans -



Job title: Executive Director: Adults & Communities

