



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Adur Executive Member for  
Environment & Worthing Executive  
Member for Digital & Environment  
25 May 2018

Decision to be taken on or after  
5 June 2018

Key Decision: No

Ward Affected: Central Ward

## **Award of Homefield Park Tennis Court Refurbishment**

**Director for Communities**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Executive Member to award a tender in relation to the planned capital works scheme for the refurbishment of the tennis courts at Homefield Park Worthing, submitted 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by ETC Sports Surfaces Limited in the value of £225,148.00.
- 1.2 To seek the approval of the Executive Member to vire £20,000.00 from the 2017/18 Capital Programme Environment Portfolio underspend to cover the shortfall on the overall project.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Executive Member is recommended to approve the award of the tender to ETC Sports Surfaces Limited.
- 2.2 The Executive Member is recommended to approve the virement of £20,000.00 from the 2017/18 Capital Programme Environment Portfolio underspend.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The 6No. bituminous tennis courts at Homefield Park were constructed in 1994 and were being regularly repaired and colour coated from 2007, until 2010.
- 3.2 The court's current condition was assessed as being substandard both by the Engineers of the Technical Services section and more recently by an independent Consultant commissioned by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). The courts have officially been closed to the public since 2014 due to their substandard condition.
- 3.3 In 2016, a bid was submitted and subsequently approved by JSC to Worthing Borough Council's 2016/17 capital funded programme for £205,000 including Technical Service fees to convert 4 of the 6 tennis courts at Homefield Park into a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) facility with a 3G surface.
- 3.4 The proposal was that the day to day management of the MUGA facility would be carried out by the local junior football club Worthing Town FC, in partnership with the Council. However after extensive negotiations the football confirmed they were withdrawing from the project.
- 3.5 Discussions initially with Sport England and subsequently in more detail with the LTA regarding Worthing Borough Council's tennis facilities in general, led to a review of the original proposal. The LTA demonstrated using a data modelling exercise, that there is both current and latent demand in central and east Worthing within a radius of between 1km and 2.5km of the park, for good tennis facilities. Consequently their view was that if good quality courts were provided and well maintained, they would be well used.
- 3.6 In July 2017 a report was submitted and subsequently approved by JSC to reallocate the existing capital funding, including the request for additional funding for the refurbishment of all six tennis courts.
- 3.7 The amended proposal to refurbish the tennis courts includes the installation of the LTA supported Club Spark remote booking access system and electronically operated access gates to manage the court bookings and maximise the potential usage of the courts.

3.8 Technical Services Engineers have prepared contract documentation and tendered the project in line with the Councils Standing Orders. Three tenders were returned and assessed, with the lowest tender submitted by ETC Sports Surfaces Limited being proposed for acceptance.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 The revised Homefield Park tennis court refurbishment scheme was estimated in the July 2017 JSC Report at £250,000, including professional fees.

4.2 The recent tendering exercise has led to the recommendation of Technical Services Officers in the awarding of a Contract in the sum of £225,148.00 (the lowest tender). Based on the recommended tender value, the revised project total is total estimated at £270,000.00, including fee's, a shortfall of £20,000.00.

4.3 The shortfall is proposed to be met by a £20,000.00 virement from the Environment Portfolio in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme under spend.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 Section 19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allow the Council to provide recreational facilities as it thinks fit and that includes the power to provide buildings, facilities, equipment, supplies and assistance of any kind, either without charge or on such payment as the authority thinks fit.

5.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything which is intended to facilitate or is conducive to or ancillary to any of its functions.

5.3 The Council must comply with its contract standing orders in spending the approved funds.

## **Background Papers**

- JSC Report papers, dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- Capital and Projects Outturn for 2016/17

### **Officer Contact Details:-**

Martyn Payne

Senior Engineer

01903 221375

[martyn.payne@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:martyn.payne@adur-worthing.gov.uk)

## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

- Revenue raised from use can be reinvested into the maintenance and upkeep of the facility and Homefield Park.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

- This proposal supports the Council's ongoing commitment to the health and well being of its community and the development of our sports strategy, as outlined in Platforms for our Places.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

- The reopening of the tennis courts at Homefield Park will be open and accessible to all members of our community.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

- Matter considered and no issues identified.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

- Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3. Environmental**

- Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4. Governance**

- This proposal supports the Council's development of its sports strategy, as outlined in Platforms for our Places.
- The Council may receive criticism and reputational damaged if the tennis courts are not refurbished and remain unopened.
- Future external match funding opportunities with the Lawn Tennis Association may also jeopardised on other sites throughout Adur and Worthing, if the project is not realised.
- If the courts are not refurbished, they will need to remain closed and unavailable for public use. There will also be the need to carry out any required on-going repairs to keep the facility secure and in a safe condition.