REPORT OF: DIRECTOR (RB) – 19/230

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

SUBJECT: TENNIS STRATEGY

RECOMMENDATION (S):

It is recommended that:

a) the Council adopts the Scarborough Borough Tennis Strategy (October 2019) as part of the Council’s Policy Framework.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

The new policy provides an evidence base and strategic framework against which current and future tennis provision can be supported and developed.

HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:

Lack of strategic development for tennis provision, leading to inadequate and poorly planned provision and constraint to any redevelopment of the former Filey Road Sports Centre. Reduction in ability to access external funding to develop facilities within the Borough and decline in public participation in sporting activity.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The new Tennis Strategy is a framework for the development of tennis within Scarborough borough for a 15 year period. It provides an understanding of need and demand and the facilities that are required now and in the future.
The Strategy provides direction as to how identified needs could be met and helps providers to develop funding bids and influence investment decisions.

2. CORPORATE AIMS/PRIORITIES AND THE COMMUNITY PLAN

2.1 The Plan supports the People theme of the Corporate Plan.

3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

3.1 The Council has adopted a positive and proactive approach to the planning and provision of sports facilities across the Borough. However, there are a number of issues relating to tennis provision that require further investigation and resolution. Most notably the absence of dedicated tennis provision at the Scarborough Sports Village (which opened in June 2017) and the closure of the Filey Road Sports Centre which resulted in loss of courts in the area.

3.2 Although the decision not to include tennis courts in the sports village development was accepted as part of the funding bid and business plan, both the Lawn tennis Association (LTA) and Sport England have raised concerns over the loss of the courts. As a result they have identified a need for a clear and deliverable strategy to be developed in order to understand how the loss of the courts has impacted (and may impact in the future) tennis provision in the Borough.

3.3 In addition the Strategy supports wider sports development objectives around the promotion of participation. The Strategy also supports the assessment of planning applications that involve tennis courts e.g. where development would result in loss of courts, as it provides evidence of surplus or deficit of provision and can assist in identifying whether, for example, facilities need to be reprovided.

3.4 The Strategy enables any investment opportunities to be maximised as it provides a robust analysis of need and enables local Clubs and providers to more effectively access funding opportunities.

3.5 The Strategy covers the whole of the Borough, however, to ensure the strategy can take account of local needs and issues, the Borough has been split into two separate analysis areas – Scarborough, Filey and the Derwent Valley and Whitby and the North York Moors National Park.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The Strategy has been developed in partnership with the LTA.

4.2 Discussions have been held with key stakeholders during the development of the strategy and specific consultation was undertaken with local clubs and stakeholders, including town and parish councils, on the draft strategy between 29th July and 23rd September 2019. Responses were received from the following organisations
• Scalby Tennis Club
• Filey Tennis Club
• Whitby Tennis Club
• Fylingdales Parish Council

4.3 Key issues raised during the consultation included:

• There is a lack of junior tennis development opportunities across the Borough and this could be improved by being linked to schools delivery and effective coaching programmes.
• LTA affiliation is not universal across the Borough
• Access to ‘pay and play’ facilities is limited in both Scarborough and Whitby
• Clubs based on school sites have restricted access and schools are looking to utilise courts for other revenue streams, i.e. caravans, etc.
• Opportunity to improve facilities in Whitby (West Cliff) and develop a new amalgamated club
• Opportunity to improve existing facility stock, i.e. resurfacing and floodlighting
• Introduce booking access system to available courts
• Pindar Indoor Tennis Centre is underutilised and needs to be more accessible and drive tennis development
• Good league structure that offers playing opportunities for existing players
• The existing coaching workforce is limited and should be developed.

4.4 Whitby Town Council have also raised concerns previously about the disused tennis courts at Whitby Leisure Centre and their desire to see the area retained as recreational use.

4.5 A further tennis stakeholder meeting is scheduled on 22 October 2019 with the LTA and local clubs and stakeholders to further develop the action plan and consider potential funding options.

5. ASSESSMENT

5.1 The Strategy provides an analysis of supply and demand for tennis, now and in the future. It looks at the quality and quantity of the current provision and assesses issues such as availability and accessibility of facilities. It makes a number of key recommendations and actions which are set out in Chapter 7.

5.2 The action plan is ambitious and sets a framework for action over the lifetime of the strategy. Further work is required with partners to develop the action plan further and consider the feasibility and potential funding options for the
schemes identified. Funding is likely to be a key constraining factor in relation to a number of the schemes.

5.3 There are two specific schemes which are the responsibility of the Borough Council (provision of pay and play courts in Whitby and Scarborough). The Whitby scheme relates to the disused tennis courts at Whitby Leisure Centre. These are currently outside of the Leisure Operating Contract with Everyone Active, although there is provision within the contract for the management of the courts to be included in the contract if these are brought back into use at any point in the future. Funding options for this scheme will be the subject of a separate report.

5.4 An option to develop four new “pay and play” courts on the Scarborough College site is currently being considered as part of the development proposals for the Filey Road Development. This is currently being assessed through the Planning process. Notwithstanding the outcome of that process, the Strategy recognises that four “pay and play” would be required as appropriate replacement court provision in order to ‘unlock’ the Filey Road Sports Centre site for redevelopment purposes. All options for making such provision, including the present proposal, should be further explored off the back of the Strategy.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy
This plan has regard to national policy guidelines and recommendations of good practice. It supports the expectations of national governing bodies such as Sport England and the LTA in respect of areas having clear strategies to inform the planning and development of sporting provision. This tennis strategy will supersede the relevant parts (those directly related to tennis) of the Council’s adopted Playing Pitch Strategy (2013).

6.2 Legal
No identified implication.

6.3 Financial
There are no direct financial issues arising from the development of the strategy. However, the implementation of specific actions may have financial implications. These will be the subject of separate approvals.

6.4 Equalities and Diversity
The Strategy aims to provide appropriate and inclusive provision to encourage participation for all ages and abilities.

6.5 Staffing Implications
This Policy has been prepared by staff from the Council’s Planning Policy and Sports Development teams. The Council’s Sports Development Manager and other relevant staff will continue to support the implementation of the strategy.

6.6 Planning Implications
This Strategy has been prepared with significant input from the Council’s Planning Service. The Strategy will provide a robust framework for the assessment of planning matters that relate to tennis courts.

6.7 Crime and Disorder Implications
No identified implication.

6.8 Health and Safety Implications
No identified implication.

6.9 Environmental Implications
The Strategy includes recommendations to improve the quality of tennis courts across the Borough.

7. ACTION PLAN

7.1 An action plan is attached as section 7 of the Strategy. This will be further developed over the lifetime of the strategy as targeted work is undertaken in respect of the individual actions.

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Director

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Background Papers:
None

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT OR WISH TO INSPECT ANY OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT Jo Ireland ON 01723 384315, e-mail jo.ireland@scarborough.gov.uk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Ref</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Risk Description</th>
<th>Consequences</th>
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<th>Target Score</th>
<th>Service Unit Manager/ Responsible Officer</th>
<th>Action Plan</th>
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<td>Oct 2019</td>
<td>Failure to adopt the tennis strategy</td>
<td>- Reduced opportunities to access external funding&lt;br&gt;- Lack of planned provision&lt;br&gt;- No framework against which to assess planning applications relating to tennis&lt;br&gt;- Poor quality facilities and reduced participation</td>
<td>Adopt the strategy as recommended&lt;br&gt;Consider strategy when considering investment decisions</td>
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<td>A4</td>
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