

The Lawn Tennis Association Parks Tennis Investment Scheme secured £206,426.94 of external funding for Kirklees Council, resulting in the refurbishment of 19 tennis courts across Greenhead Park, Wilton Park, Crow Nest Park and Firth Park. The investment was conditional upon the Council maintaining the facilities to agreed standards over the long term.

The proposal has been subject to extensive Member engagement, business case development, funding negotiations and governance approvals since 2022. During this process, a range of charging options were considered and assessed using LTA modelling. Only the £5 charging model demonstrated a sustainable long-term financial position capable of creating an appropriate maintenance sinking fund.

The charging model was approved through the Council's delegated decision-making process in August 2024 and formed the basis of the funding agreement, financial appraisal and operator procurement process.

The refurbishment works were completed during 2025 and a competitive procurement process for a specialist operating contractor was successfully concluded in 2026. The courts are now operational and community participation activity is underway. The implementation of the approved charging model is the remaining element required to fully establish the sustainable operating model approved as part of the project.

Failure to implement the agreed charging arrangements would create uncertainty regarding long-term maintenance funding, potentially require future Council subsidy and could undermine confidence in the Council's ability to deliver externally funded investment programmes. Charging for sports and leisure participation is also consistent with arrangements applied elsewhere across the Council's wider leisure offer and across many neighbouring authorities.