

Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed
Please state if the IIA is interim or final

1. Title of proposal

Lawn Tennis Association Investment in Park's Tennis Courts –
Project Update - 4 December 2025

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

A Park's Tennis Project was delivered in 2023 with £140,000 investment by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) which saw four park tennis sites (13 courts) across the city upgraded with improvements including resurfacing and new fences. The project introduced Smart Gates and a new booking system to allow players to reserve court space through the week. A small administration charge of £1 per booking was introduced at that time to support the cost to the Council for operating the booking system, place value on a court booking and to limit courts being booked and not used.

The sites which received the upgrade and the introduction of the small administration charge for access were:

- Inverleith Park
- Leith Links
- St Margaret's Park
- Victoria Park

The proposed cost of playing a game of tennis will change with the introduction of peak and off-peak times and rates, with an increased cost for peak times. The off-peak charge would remain at £1, and peak charges would increase from £1 to £3 per hour. Off-peak hours would be before 4 pm, Monday to Friday, with peak hours after 4 pm and at weekends.

As the parks venues do not have floodlighting, peak hour access would start to reduce between August and October and not be available through the week when the clocks return to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) at the end of October. This would mean that in Winter, all weekday use would be off-peak and would remain at £1 per hour.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned.

The public have not been consulted on these changes to the charges.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

Although the proposed action does not directly address this duty, approximately 50% of the court time in the summer will remain at £1, and in winter, this will be two-thirds of the access hours.

5. Date of IIA

22/10/2025

6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Sean Webster	Sports Partnership Development Officer	
Graham Croucher	Sports Partnership Development Manager	November 2023

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need – where available use disaggregated data	Edinburgh by Numbers 2024	<p>Edinburgh is an affluent city with high average incomes and employment rates and low unemployment. Information detailed within Edinburgh by Numbers shows that compared to other major UK cities, Edinburgh also performs well when measuring personal wellbeing.</p> <p>The city, however, has a high number of residents that fall into the high poverty risk groups. The 2018 report by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission estimates that 82,000 people live in relative poverty, 16% of the total population.</p> <p>The poverty rates vary across from 5% to 27%. It is also estimated that 22% of all children in Edinburgh live in poverty while some areas record child poverty rates as high as 35%.</p> <p>People from minority ethnic groups are also more likely to be in poverty compared to those within the White – British group. Asian and Asian – British groups along with other minority ethnic groups have between 35% and 38% living in poverty (across Scotland) compared to 18% of the White – British group.</p> <p>Poverty rates are also higher for families in which someone is disabled. Households without a disabled child or adult living in poverty sit at 19% and 17% respectively compared to 25% and 24% for those households with a disabled child/adult.</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		<p>We have courts at four sites around the city. Leith Links (3 courts), Inverleith (4 courts), St Margaret's Park (3 courts) and Victoria Park (2 courts).</p> <p>The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 report lists the Leith area as one of the most deprived communities in the city.</p>
Data on service uptake/access	<p>Data of last 2 years tennis court use across the 4 sites was gathered throughout 2023- 2024.</p> <p>(Culture and Communities Committee 4 December 2025- Lawn Tennis Association Investment in Parks Tennis Courts – Project Update Report Appendix 1)</p>	<p>Tennis Court Useage- years 1 and 2</p> <p>In the first year of operation with the £1 booking fee applied, (15 September 2023 to 31 August 2024) 4834 users were registered to access the tennis court booking system. For the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 (Year 2), this grew to 8527 registered users (76% increase).</p> <p>The total number of games played in Year 1 was 12,895 and this increased to 19,585 in Year 2 (52% increase). Inverleith Park was the busiest venue with 4941 games in 23/24 and 7217 games in 24/25.</p> <p>Inverleith tennis court use grew from 2,054 to 3,685 registered players (+1,631; +79%) with games rising from 4,941 to 7,217 (+46%).</p> <p>Leith saw registrations increase from 1,151 to 2,012 (+861; +75%), alongside a growth in games from 3,744 to 5,474 (+46%).</p> <p>St. Margaret's grew its registered users from 646 to 1,211 (+565; +87%) with games played increasing from 2,034 to 3,913 (+92%).</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		<p>Victoria Park rose from 983 to 1,619 registered users (+636; +65%) and from 2,176 to 2,981 games (+37%).</p> <p>The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 report lists the Leith area as one of the most deprived communities in the city. The court use in this area has grown in line with the other locations.</p>
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation		<p>Three of the venues are in relatively affluent areas. However, Leith remains one of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas in Edinburgh. Using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020, several data zones surrounding Leith Links and the Kirkgate/Leith Walk corridor fall within the most deprived 20% of areas in Scotland, reflecting high levels of income and employment deprivation, poorer health outcomes, and lower educational attainment (Scottish Government, 2020). Leith consistently performs worse than the Edinburgh average across most of these indicators.</p> <p>The City of Edinburgh Council's Poverty and Inequality Report (2024) notes that child poverty in parts of Leith exceeds 30%, significantly higher than the citywide average of around 20%. This highlights persistent issues of low income, limited wealth, and material deprivation among households in the area (City of Edinburgh Council, 2024). The presence of SIMD decile 1–2 data zones immediately adjacent to Leith Links further evidences a concentration of economic disadvantage within walking distance</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		of key community sports spaces, including our courts.
Data on equality outcomes		<p>Sport and physical activity participation levels across the city have remained static over the years, with a significant gap in participation between the least and most deprived areas of the city. This picture remains the same when we take educational achievement, disability, and ethnicity into account. There is also an increasing number of residents in Edinburgh who do not have access to networks or opportunities. For physical activity such as walking, 60% of people living in the most deprived areas participated in recreational walking for at least 30 minutes in the last four weeks in 2019, increasing slightly to 63% in 2022. This compares to 86% of people who participated in the least deprived areas in 2019, decreasing slightly to 82% participation in 2022.</p> <p>Additional evidence obtained on a national level for Scotland also shows differentials for those living in poverty, gender, disability and ethnicity.</p>
Research/literature evidence		Desktop research of comparable Local Authorities and Trusts would indicate that our service would be charging at the lower end of the range of charges in Scotland.
Public/patient/client experience information		Officers currently receive approximately 30 enquiries/ issues per month regarding access to the courts. The majority of these relate to enquiries for use of the booking system. Officers have provided support to customers and resolved any issues that have arisen.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		Repeat bookings of the court and the relatively low level of complaints and enquiries would indicate reasonable customer satisfaction with the service.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings		Although we have not engaged with the specific 4 tennis court service users to inform this review of charges, previous engagement/ consultation was undertaken on general access to facilities to inform the development of the city's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2025- 2035 where over 1,000 individuals and organisations provided feedback.
Evidence of unmet need		There is no current evidence of unmet need. We continue to have the lowest charges for access in Scotland to ensure the financial barrier to access remains managed.
Good practice guidelines		We follow the national guidance issued by the Lawn Tennis Association and also from Tennis Scotland, the national governing body.
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data		None
Environmental data		We currently operate a recycling scheme for used tennis balls.
Risk from cumulative impacts		We do not foresee any unidentified risks
Other (please specify)		N/A
Additional evidence required		N/A

8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>Our charges for the courts will remain amongst the lowest in the country. Usage for the tennis courts which have been refurbished, and which have introduced the £1 administration cost have continued to increase over the project's lifespan.</p> <p>We have been running an engagement program with the Council's Raquet Development Officer at local schools. The site activity includes delivery of Free Park Tennis, an LTA initiative and national scheme which takes place every weekend where sessions are led by qualified coaches and volunteer activators providing an hour of free social tennis.</p> <p>The LTA Open Court Programme – provides ASN pupils with curriculum and after-school tennis activity. This has been delivered within Prospect Bank Special School, offering six weeks of curriculum sessions with follow up extra-curricular sessions available at Leith Links. A further six weeks of school sessions are planned for Pilrig Park Special School.</p> <p>The Serving Aces schools' programme will be introduced through 2025/26 with the intention of providing pupils in the lowest SIMD schools that are local to park venues with tennis activity during the school day in winter months, with a pathway into spring and summer park tennis programmes.</p> <p>The change in charges will enable the establishment of a budget to support the delivery of this work. The Community Sports Hub Team are also developing programmes in this location and going forward. We anticipate using the facilities to deliver targeted work at all the sites, but especially in Leith. Increased income will support further development of engagement programmes for young people.</p> <p>Income will be reinvested into courts through maintenance and life cycle programmes, ensuring courts are in best condition and available all year round for sport and physical activity.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Local children and young people</p> <p>Local ASN pupils</p> <p>Local children and young people from the lowest SIMD schools</p> <p>All, especially those who experience increased barriers to access and those from Leith.</p> <p>All</p>
<p>Negative</p>	

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
There are increased costs for matches played at approximately half of the available hours, but this should be offset by a more active programme of targeted coaching and maintenance/ free access, which can be supported through additional income.	All, especially those who experience financial barriers to access.

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
Positive Increased income will be used to ensure courts are maintained reducing the need for major refurbishment works and replacement of key parts of the court infrastructure.	All
Negative	None

Economic	Affected populations
Positive Continued extension of the targeted tennis development projects and initiatives for schools through Active Schools and the Council's Racquet Development Officer will assist to support local children and young people's access to facilities.	Local children and young people especially those from the lowest SIMD schools.
Negative Proposed increase to charges for games at peak times.	All, especially those who experience financial barriers to access

9. **Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children's rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?**

No.

- 10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.**

The charges will be advertised on the Parks Tennis website and the Clubspark app.

- 11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.**

N/A

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

No further evidence required.

- 13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:**

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Use of targeted promotional codes for communities	Community Sports Hub team and Rackets Development Officer	Nov 26	May 26

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date

14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

No

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

We monitor usage of the course on a weekly basis and have contact details of the services involved on the website and app.

16. Sign off by Head of Service

Name Evelyn Kilmurry- Head of Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing

Date 10/11/2025

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:
integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care
sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published at
www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/