**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (FOIA)/ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 (EIR)**

**- Charles Street floor murals and Victoria Park tennis courts**

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council’s response to your questions is shown below.

**You asked:**

**May I please request dated copies of the equality impact assessments undertaken for the change to pedestrian crossing to coloured floor murals on Charles street,**

Answer:

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the murals on Charles Street was not carried out for the following reasons:

1. The scheme did not affect the crossing locations or reduce the number of traffic signal controlled crossing points at the junction.
2. The layout and operation of the signal-controlled crossings remain in accordance with the necessary regulations.

This letter therefore acts as a refusal notice under Section 17(1) of the FOIA and Regulation 14 of the EIR because, in accordance with Section 1(1) of the FOIA and Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, this information is not held by the Council.

**and for the decision to start charging for the tennis courts on Victoria park? The deputy mayor was involved in the first scheme.**

The EIA for the tennis courts on Victoria Park (enclosed with this response), was released to you in relation to your recent FOIA request No. 21813.

You may re-use the information under an Open Government Licence.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, please write, explaining your grounds of appeal, to:

**Internal Review**

**Information Governance & Risk Email:** [info.requests@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:info.requests@leicester.gov.uk)

**Enclosures:**

Equality Impact Assessment,

Operating Model for Victoria Park Tennis Courts, August 2018

**Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Template: Service Reviews/Service Changes**

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| Title of spending review/service change/proposal | Operating Model for Victoria Park Tennis Courts | | |
| Name of division/service | Public | Health / Sports Services | |
| Name of lead officer completing this assessment |  |  |  |
| Date EIA assessment completed | August 2018 | | |
| Decision maker |  | | |
| Date decision taken |  | | |

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| **EIA sign off on completion:** | **Signature** | **Date** |
| Lead officer |  |  |
| Equalities officer |  |  |
| Divisional director |  |  |

**Please ensure the following:**

### That the document is understandableto a reader who has not read any other documents,and explains (on its own) how the Public Sector Equality Duty is met. This does not need to be lengthy,but must be complete.

* 1. That available support information and data is identified and where it can be found. Also be clear about highlighting gaps in existing data or evidence that you hold, and how you have sought to address these knowledge gaps.
  2. That the equality impacts are capable of aggregation with those of other EIAs to identify the cumulative impact of all service changes made by the council on different groups of people.

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| **1. Setting the context**  Describe the proposal, the reasons it is being made, and the intended change or outcome. Will current service users' needs continue to be met? |
| Sport Services are proposing the addition of access gates and a membership package for the tennis courts on Victoria Park. The courts are currently gated, but not locked, and free to access without a booking. Users may book a court to ensure availability, at a cost of £6 per/hr.  An online booking system, ClubSpark, will manage the bookings and membership.  The access gates and ClubSpark will be linked so that when a booking is made on ClubSpark the customer will be issued with a unique code that will allow them to access the courts via a keypad that is installed on the gate. Codes are only valid for a specified period of time and can only be used once. The gate can be opened from inside the courts without a code for emergency/health and safety reasons.  It is recommended that the annual membership is made available to a 'household' (one address), rather than individual membership. This should encourage more people to play tennis and create a simpler pricing model to manage. It is proposed that the cost of a household membership is £42 per annum. This will allow unlimited access to the courts for the entire household 365 days a year, subject to court availability. It does not include any coached sessions or access to equipment. |

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| There will still be an element of free access available for users at various days and times during the week. (30hrs a week, at least one free session every day of the week at different times)    As a condition of the LTA’s funding to resurface the tennis courts back in 2017, LCC agreed to investigate potential operational management options to maximise court use and bring in an income to continue the maintenance of the courts and protect the investment. |

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| **2. Equality implications/obligations**  Which aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) are likely be relevant to the proposal? In this question, consider both the current service and the proposed changes. | |
|  | **Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?** |
| **Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation**  How does the proposal/service ensure that there is no barrier or disproportionate impact for anyone with a particular protected characteristic | Cost for a household membership is affordable and comparable to similar programs in other nearby authorities. However free access still available on courts (at least 30 hrs a week, there are free slots available every day of the week at various times)  Bookings system has passed accessibility testing carried out by IT Services. For customers who can't access the online booking there will be a phone number that they call to book.  Other courts in nearby parks that offer free access at all times:  *Abbey Park* - *2 miles, 17 minute bus journey (1 bus) Evington Park* - *2.1 miles, 18 minute bus journey (1 bus) Knighton Park* - *2.6 miles, 24 minute bus journey (1 bus)*  *Aylestone Hall Gardens* - *3.4 miles, 30 minutes bus journey* |

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|  | *(2 buses)*  Courts and gate are compliant with accessibility standards and there have been no issues raised previously regarding access to the court via the gate. |
| **Advance equality of opportunity between different groups** How does the proposal/service ensure that its intended outcomes promote equality of opportunity for users? Identify inequalities faced by those with specific protected characteristic(s). | The new proposal will provide an effective and efficient way of the council managing the use of Victoria Park tennis courts and maximising the use.  Affected users will still have access to free sessions (30 hrs per week) at Victoria Park or alternatively can access courts at various park sites across the city (see distances and travel times above).  The change to the access gates is not likely to affect current users as there is already a gate on the courts and LCC have not received any complaints or concerns regarding access previously. |
| **Foster good relations between different groups**  Does the service contribute to good relations or to broader community cohesion objectives? How does it achieve this aim? | Community programmes such as ‘Tennis for Free’ sessions, Holiday camps , tennis leagues and coached group sessions will all form part of the new programme and will encourage community cohesion.  Sport Services is an inclusive public service. Physical Activity and sport is offered to all people, from across all protected characteristics. Where evidence exists that more specific |

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|  | provision is required, for an example an under representation of a particular protected characteristic participating in sport, then we will look to work with the coaching provider to offer specific sessions and increase targeted promotion. As we don't currently collect data on the courts, this information will only be established if users with PCs raise concerns/issues with access. |

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| **3. Who is affected?**  Outl ine who could be affected, and how they could be affected by the proposal/service change. Include current service users and those who could benefit from but do not currently access the service. |
| Current users - previously courts were open access unless booked. Under the new proposal they will have to book a court to gain access.  Current users- previously courts were free (unless pre booking required). Under the new proposal there will be 30 hrs a week of free access. (30hrs a week, at least one free session every day of the week at different times) The rest will be membership or pay and play options.  New users/current users - not aware of the booking process. Signage will be displayed around the courts and on LCC website. |

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| Communicat ions plan will be implemented prior to change. Option to call council for booking will remain. |
| **4. Information used to inform the equality impact assessment**  What **data, research, or trend analysis** have you used? Describe how you have got your information and what it tells you. Are there any gaps or limitations in the information you currently hold, and how you have sought to address this, e.g. proxy data, national trends, etc. |
| The Lawn Tennis Association (National governing body for tennis) and Sport England have completed various research on the addition of access gates and membership packages. Their data has shown that tennis participation in parks has the biggest potential for growth in the sport. Leicester City Council currently have no data to show the usage on the tennis courts (due to the current access and lack of booking system). This proposal will allow us to collect meaningful data on the use of the courts and tennis participation of the site.  Other nearby authorities who have adopted the same proposals have seen increases in participation on their park sites. (Coventry, Birmingham and Nottingham) |
| 1. **Consultation**   What **consultation** have you undertaken about the proposal with current service users, potential users and other stakeholders? What did they say about:   * + What is important to them regarding the current service?   + How does (or could) the service meet their needs?   + How will they be affected by the proposal? What potential impacts did they identify because of their protected |

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| characteris tic(s)?   * Did they identify any potential barriers they may face in accessing services/other opportunities that meet their needs? |
| No public consultation has been carried out. Friends of Victoria Park and Local Ward Cllrs will be made aware of the changes prior to installation.  Approval was given/decision was approved by Deputy Mayor (in March 2018) - users/general public will be made aware of the changes 4 weeks before new booking system is in place. When the courts were redeveloped by the LTA in 2017 reviewing the access and booking system were a condition of the funding. |

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| **6. Potential equality Impact** | | | |
| Based on your understanding of the service area, any specific evidence you may have on service users and potential service users, and the findings of any consultation you have undertaken, use the table below to explain which individuals or community groups are likely to be affected by the proposal because of their protected characteristic(s}. Describe what the impact is likely to be, how significant that impact is for individual or group well-being, and what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove negative impacts.  Looking at potential impacts from a different perspective, this section also asks you to consider whether any other particular groups, especially vulnerable groups, are likely to be affected by the proposal. List the relevant that may be affected, along with their likely impact, potential risks and mitigating actions that would reduce or remove any negative impacts. These groups do not have to be defined by their protected characteristic(s). | | | |
| **Protected** | **Impact of proposal:**  Describe the likely impact of the proposal on people because of their protected characteristic and how they may be affected.  Why is this protected  characteristic relevant to the | **Risk of negative impact:** How likely is it that people with this protected characteristic will be negatively affected?  How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will  determine who will be neqativelv | **Mitigating actions:**  For negative impacts, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove this impact?  These should be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA. |

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| **characteristics** | proposal?  How does the protected characteristic determine/shape the potential impact of the  proposal? | affected? |  |
| **Age1** | We have no data on the different age groups currently using the facility so difficult to assess the potential impact based on age.  According to national statistics, older people are less likely to be recent users of the internet (Internet Users in the UK 2018, ONS). If older people are accessing the courts currently then they may have issues with using the online booking system and gate entry system.  Young children they may have issues with using the online booking system and gate entry system.  Working age and students are restricted to what times they can play tennis. | Less technical awareness/ difficulty with using the online booking system  Changes to tennis habits (less participation)  Changes to location of play.  Additional travel time to other courts | Accessibility testing of booking programme completed by IT.  Option remains to call LCC and book courts.  Clear signage explaining booking programme and a contact number to call if any queries or concerns.  Coaches present at junior sessions to help with access.  Household membership means young children have the opportunity to access with parents/older siblings.  Free sessions across the week will be offered at various times to ensure there is plenty of opportunity for working people and  students to access the courts. |

1 Age: Indica te whic h age gro up is most affected, eit her s pecify gene ral age group - children, young people working age people or older people or specific age bands

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| **Disability2** | National statistics show that people who have a disability are less likely than the general population to be recent users of the internet (Internet Users in the UK 2018, ONS).  Physical impairment - might have issues accessing the booking system and court/opening the gate using a code  SensoryN isual impairment - might have issues accessing the court/opening the gate using a code or accessing the booking system  Cognitive impairments and specific learning disabilities, difficulties or differences - might have issues accessing the booking system and use of code to open the gate | Difficulty with using the online booking system  Difficulty opening the gate  Understanding the booking process  Changes to tennis habits (less participation)  Changes to location of play.  Additional travel time to other courts | Accessibility testing of booking programme completed by IT.  As hardware is not yet installed on the site, testing has not been completed on using keypad entry system but multiple other LA's have this system is place and have no issues. LCC have been liaising closely with LTA officers and Coventry LA to check this. Once installation is complete the key code entry will be tested prior to launch/switch on.  Option remains to call LCC and book courts.  Courts currently have gates on them) and no evidence of any issues previously raised.  Nature of tennis means that the majority of participation is not individual and therefore support will usually be available. |

2 Disa bility : if specific im pairme nts are affec t ed by t he proposal, s pecify which t hese a re. Our standa rd categories are on our equa lit y mon itor ing form - physical impa irment, se nso ry im pair ment, me nta l hea lt h condit io n, lea rning disa bility , long standi ng illness o r health condit io n.

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|  |  |  | Location of courts is a busy area with a lot of passing people who could provide support if required.  Park wardens on site during the day can help with access where required.  Clear signage on display and a number to call for support |
| **Gender Reassignment3** | There will no disproportionate  impact in relation to their protected characteristic | N/a | N/a |
| **Marriage and**  **Civil Partnership** | There will no disproportionate  impact in relation to their protected characteristic. | N/a | N/a |
| **Pregnancy and Maternity** | There will no disproportionate impact in relation to their protected characteristic. | N/a | N/a |
| **Race4** | There will no disproportionate  impact in relation to their | N/a | N/a |

3 Ge nder reassignme nt : indicate whet her the proposal has potent ial impact on t rans men or t rans women, and if so, whic h group is affected.

4 Race: give n the city' s racia l dive rsit y it is usef ul that we collect informatio n on which racial groups a re affected by the proposal. Ou r eq ua lit ies mo nito ring form follows ONS general cens us categories and uses broad categories in the first instance wit h t he o pportunity to identify more specific racial groups such as Gypsies *ff* ra velle rs. Use the most relevant

class ificatio n for the proposal.

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|  | protected characte ristic. |  |  |
| **Religion or Beliet5** | There will no disproportionate impac t in relation to their protected characteristic. | N/a | N/a |
| **Sex6** | There will no disproportionate impact in relation to their  protected characteristic. | N/a | N/a |
| **Sexual Orientation7** | There will no disproportionate impact in relation to their protected characteristic. | N/a | N/a |
| **Summarise why the protected characteristics you have commented on, are relevant to the proposal?**  Difficult to access as we have no data on the current users of the facility, so we have accessed the potential impact for any protected characteristic that could be affected by the changes.  **Summarise why the protected characteristics you have not commented on, are not relevant to the proposal?** | | | |

5 Re lig io n or Be lie f: If s pecific religious o r fait h groups are affected by t he proposal, our eq ualit ies mon ito ring form sets out categories reflect ive of t he city's popula t ion . Given t he diversity o f t he city t here is a lways sco pe to include a ny group t hat is not list e d.

6 Sex: Indicat e whet he r t his has pote nt ia l impact on e it her males o r females

7 Sexual Orienta tion : It is importa nt to remem ber when considering the potential impact of t he proposal o n LGBT comm unit ies , t hat they a re each se parat e communit ies wit h differi ng need s. Les bia n, gay, bis e xua l a nd t ransgende r people s ho uld be considered se parat ely a nd not as one group. The gende r reassig nme nt category *above* cons iders t he needs of t ra ns men and trans women.

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| The proposal will not affect any of these groups different based on their protected characteristics. The courts and bookings system will be open to all and will be promoted across the city.  There is no reason why these characteristics should be affected by the proposals. |

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| **Other groups** | **Impact of proposal:**  Describe the likely impact of the proposal on children in poverty or any other people who we consider to be vulnerable. List any vulnerable groups likely to be affected. Will their needs continue to be met? What issues will affect their take up of services/other opportunities that meet their needs/address inequalities they  face? | **Risk of negative impact:**  How likely is it that this group of people will be negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected? | **Mitigating actions:**  For negative impacts, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove this impact for this vulnerable group of people? These should be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA. |
| **Children in poverty** | Children in poverty might not be able to access the booking system or afford the  membership/additional travel | Access to booking system  Charge to use courts during some hours | Option to call LCC to book courts.  Access to booking system via free computers at public libraries |
|  | costs to other sites. |  |  |
|  |  | Changes to tennis habits (less | Can attend tennis for free bookings |
|  |  | participation) | (coached session) |
|  |  | Changes to location of play. | Free access spread across the |
|  |  |  | week- 30 hrs total |
|  |  | Additional travel time to other |  |

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|  |  | courts |  |
| **Other vulnerable groups** | Low income families might not be able to access the booking system, afford the membership option or the additional travel to other sites. | Access to booking system  Charge to use courts during some hours  Changes to tennis habits (less participation)  Changes to location of play.  Additional travel time to other courts | Option to call LCC to book courts.  Access to booking system via free computers at public libraries  Can attend tennis for free bookings (coached session)  Free access spread across the week- 30 hrs total  Can also access courts on ad-hoc basis at £6 per court/per hour. |
| **Other (describe)** | None | None | None |
| **7. Other sources of potential negative impacts**  Are there any other potential negative impacts external to the service that could further disadvantage service users over the next three years that should be considered? For example, these could include: other proposed changes to council services that would affect the same group of service users; Government policies or proposed changes to current provision by public agencies (such as new benefit arranqements) that would neqativelv affect residents; external economic impacts such as an economic downturn.  **If the programme is a success at Victoria Park then the access gates could be rolled out across other park tennis courts as well, but those courts will be refurbished prior to any gate installation, so would improve the overall offer of tennis. Unlikely to be within the next 3 years though, as Sports Services are piloting Victoria Park for 2 years and significant work would need to be undertaken by officers to secure funding and make arrangements for work at additional sites. If any access issues or disproportionate negative impacts on any protected characteristic groups were** | | | |

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| **noted in the rollout of the programme at Victoria Park, this would be considered as part of the decision making about any future plans to roll out across other park tennis courts.** |
| **8. Human Rights Implications**  Are there any human rights implications which need to be considered (please see the list at the end of the template), if so please complete the Human Rights Template and list the main implications below: |
| **None** |
| 1. **Monitoring Impact**   You will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics and human rights after the decision has been implemented. Describe the systems which are set up to:   * + monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups   + monitor barriers for different groups   + enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities   + ensure that the EIA action plan (below) is delivered. |
| ClubSpark will collect individual data on users and members who access the free court courts, the membership package or the pay and play option. The Service Provider/ coaching company will collect information on participants. We can work with ClubSpark to identify the exact data we want to collect, so we can collect data on protected characteristics if required.  Feedback opportunities will be available through ClubSpark and through the Councils online and phone systems.  Officers will review the EIA action plans on an annual basis or in the event that an unexpected equalities impact is identified. |
| **10. EIA action plan**  Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from this Assessment (continue on separate sheets as |



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| necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes. | | | | |
| **Equality Outcome** | **Action** | **Officer Responsible** | | **Completion date**  Monthly  October 2018 |
| All affected users have continued to use the courts | Monitor impact on proposed changes to affected users, including those with protected characteristics. If any concerns or barriers are raised then steps will be taken to address. These users will only be identified if they make themselves known to LCC (or partners) through our customer complaint system as we currently have no information on current users. |  |  |
| New users are aware of the facility and how to access | Clear signage displayed around courts to explain process. ClubSpark website provides clear and simple instructions.  Contact number provided on signage to provide additional support if required.  Contact number will also be provided will be  on any marketing material and online (LCC website and ClubSpark)  Communications plans put in place 4 weeks prior to installation of gates and post installation to promote. |  |

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| All current users are made aware of the changes and how to access the courts | Clear signage displayed around courts to explain process. ClubSpark website provides clear and simple instructions. Contact number provided on signage to provide additional support if required.  Contact number will also be provided will be on any marketing material and online (LCC website and ClubSpark)  Communications plans put in place 4 weeks prior to installation of gates and post installation to promote. |  | October 2018 |
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# Human Rights Articles:

**Part 1: The Convention Rights and Freedoms Article 2:** Right to Life

## **Article 3:** Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way

**Article 4:** Right not to be subjected to slavery/forced labour

**Article 5:** Right to liberty and security

**Article 6:** Right to a fair trial

**Article 7:** No punishment without law

## **Article 8:** Right to respect for private and family life

**Article 9:** Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

**Article 10:** Right to freedom of expression

**Article 11:** Right to freedom of assembly and association

**Article 12:** Right to marry

**Article 14:** Right not to be discriminated against

# Part 2: First Protocol

**Article 1:** Protection of property/peaceful enjoyment

**Article 2:** Right to education

**Article 3:** Right to free elections