

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

## Report

**Subject** : Victoria Park Padel Proposal  
**Committee** : Full Council  
**Date** : 12 May 2025  
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### 1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report discusses of the proposal submitted by Victoria Park Tennis Ltd (VPTL) to develop a new community-focused Padel facility in Victoria Park. The initiative seeks to introduce a rapidly growing, inclusive sport to Salisbury, further enhancing the city's recreational offerings.
- 1.2. Officers seek the mandate to fully explore the proposal before bringing it back to full council for final decision.

### 2. Background:

- 2.1. Victoria Park Tennis Ltd has been a longstanding community partner of Salisbury City Council for over 25 years. They have a proven track record of delivering accessible and affordable tennis facilities and programmes.
- 2.2. This proposal builds on that foundation with the aim of introducing Padel, a sport that combines elements of tennis and squash, into the park's infrastructure
- 2.3. With full financial backing and project delivery from VPTL, this proposal represents a low-risk opportunity for the Council to support community well-being, sport participation, and long-term sustainability of green spaces.

### 3. Key Considerations:

- 3.1. The proposal includes the following primary components:
  - **Full Project Funding:** VPTL will finance construction, operation, and maintenance of the Padel facility.
  - **Community-Focused Operation:** The "pay-and-play" model ensures affordability, with off-peak pricing, discounts, and free taster sessions for residents.
  - **Site Options:** The MUGA has been identified within Victoria Park (this backs onto the current tennis court facilities) with the costs of its relocation elsewhere in the park to be covered by VPTL.

- **LTA Endorsement:** The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), the national governing body for Padel, fully supports the project and has provided guidance throughout its development.
- **Phased Development:** Construction will begin with three courts, with an option to expand to a fourth court based on demand.
- **Lease Structure:** To be determined if Cllrs support this proposal.

#### **4. Environmental, Social, and Governance Benefits:**

- 4.1. Inklusivity and Accessibility: Padel will be available to all age groups and abilities, with tailored programmes for youth, women, and those with disabilities.
- 4.2. Sustainability: LED lighting and eco-conscious infrastructure contribute to the Council's climate objectives.
- 4.3. Community Engagement: Strengthens Victoria Park as a central hub for sports and social interaction.
- 4.4. Job Creation: The new facility will support local employment and training opportunities.

#### **5. Guidelines & Maintenance:**

- 5.1. Construction Standards: All work will follow Sport England and LTA standards, including separation from residential areas and integration with existing tennis operations.
- 5.2. Maintenance Responsibilities: VPTL assumes full responsibility for internal pavilion refurbishments and court upkeep; the Council retains responsibility for structural security.
- 5.3. Review Process: Ongoing monitoring by VPTL, supported by the LTA, to ensure sustained service quality and community impact.

#### **6. Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Authorise Council Officers to work with Victoria Park Tennis Ltd to progress the development of the Padel facility proposal, including lease negotiations, planning processes, and site assessment before bringing back to full council for final decision.

#### **7. Wards Affected:** The proposal primarily affects the ward encompassing Victoria Park (St Francis & Stratford) but offers citywide benefit through open access and programming.

## 6. Implications:

- 6.1. **Financial:** Increased revenue through rental income (TBC). No capital expenditure required from the Council.
- 6.2. **Personnel:** Potential Council liaison during lease and planning phases. No direct staff impact.
- 6.3. **Environmental Impact:** Improved use of green space with environmentally sensitive infrastructure.
- 6.4. **Equalities Impact:** Strong commitment to accessibility and inclusion across socio-economic, age, and ability groups.