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The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the measures taken to provide a tennis floor at the WestpacTrust Centre for the forthcoming Davis Cup Tie and for other tennis events.

The awarding of the Davis Cup Tie to Christchurch was recently confirmed by New Zealand Tennis. Following discussions regarding tennis surfaces with the Executive Director of Canterbury Tennis, Mr David Blackwell, it was considered more cost effective and timely to provide a 'Plexipave' court marked out permanently on the arena floor than a synthetic and portable roll-out mat.

A budget estimate for the roll-out mat of approximately \$60,000 is provided for in the 1999/00 projected capital provision. The 'Plexipave' court can be provided for a budget estimate of \$30,000 and the surface has been endorsed by Canterbury Tennis, New Zealand Tennis and the Davis Cup captain. The same surface is used at Mystery Creek, Hamilton. NCC (NZ) Ltd and the Leisure Unit Manager have also confirmed their acceptance of the surface.

The 'Plexipave' court is expected to be laid in early March in time for use at the Davis Cup Tie. It is hoped that with a tennis surface permanently available at the WestpacTrust Centre, it will be more attractive to promoters to stage tennis events at the Centre.

Approval is sought to advance \$30,000 of the \$60,000 funding currently in the 1999/00 year, to allow for court preparation, court installation (including line markings and net) and building costs for court curing. The remaining \$30,000 will still be sought in 1999/00 through the budget process as part of the FF&E requirement to allow for a possible court overlay (to protect the surface) and/or future court maintenance. A period of assessment is required before deciding on the best course of action for protection and/or maintenance.

Recommendation: That \$30,000 be made available for the installation of a 'Plexipave' tennis court and that the corresponding amount be reduced from the projected capital provision in the 1999/00 financial year.