

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Cllr Julie McManus

KEY DECISION: NO

PORTFOLIO AREA: COMMUNITY SERVICES

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: COMMUNITY SERVICES

WARDS AFFECTED: WALLASEY, PENSBY & THINGWALL

SUBJECT: LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES – FUTURE PROVISION OF GOLF COURSES

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the recommended preferred provider and authorise the Corporate Director of Delivery Services to commence negotiations on a lease transfer of Arrowe Park golf course and The Warren golf course (including The Grange); on the basis that if negotiations do not progress satisfactorily with the preferred provider that the Corporate Director of Delivery Services may instead commence negotiations with the second preferred provider;
- (2) Agree that statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, in relation to the golf courses be commenced once negotiations are concluded;

And

- (3) Note that the results of the negotiation and the statutory consultation be reported to Cabinet for a final decision.

2. REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 Golf facilities are an important component of the provision of leisure and cultural facilities in the Wirral. They provide affordable opportunities for a diverse range of people of all ages to participate in golf and to benefit from healthy physical activity. As with many other publicly operated sports facilities, there are several

issues facing councils in the current financial climate including the need for continued capital investment in facilities and meeting lifecycle costs.




- 2.2 Wirral Council is striving to continue to offer excellent opportunities for local people and visitors to benefit from participation in golf; but they are faced with extremely challenging financial constraints.
- 2.3 Budget Council on the 4th March agreed the Council's budget for the year 2019/20. Included within the budget was a proposal to seek an experienced alternative provider for Arrowe Park Golf Course and The Warren Golf Course via a lease transfer.
- 2.4 Suitable alternative operators were sought via advertising on The Chest and in two Golf Journals. In addition, those operators who had previously expressed an interest in Wirral's municipal golf courses as a part of a Golf Soft Market Test, undertaken in January 2018, were also advised of the opportunity. Arrowe Park golf course and The Warren golf course were advertised commencing on Tuesday 12th March 2019 with a closing date of 12 (noon) on Friday 5th April 2019.
- 2.5 21 potential providers viewed the opportunity on The Chest with 4 making a submission. All submissions were considered and evaluated by a panel of officers drawn from Legal Service, Financial Management, Asset Management and Community Services in order to make a recommendation to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder on the preferred provider to enter into negotiations with on the transfer of the golf courses via a lease.
- 2.6 The key areas considered by the panel have been tabulated with responses from each provider. It was considered by the Evaluation Panel that the submission made by the preferred provider offered the best value over the first 10 years. These are provided in the exempt item to this Executive Member Decision form; Exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 as it contains commercially sensitive information.
- 2.7 The results of negotiations with the preferred provider will be reported to Cabinet for a final decision before any transfer takes place. A statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, in relation to the two golf courses will also be undertaken once negotiations are concluded. The results of the statutory consultation will also be reported to Cabinet for a final decision.

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

Signed:  Executive Member: Cllr Julie McManus Date: 30-05-2019 Also present: 	Signed:  Chief Officer: Nicki Butterworth / David Armstrong Date: 30-05-2019.
Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):	

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Matthew Humble
Date: 10-05-2019

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:

Form Reference: Executive Member Decision Form May 2012 v 1.0

