

Chief Executive's response

The website provides the reason for the restriction – Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. There is information in the report relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

As the proper officer of the Council my paramount consideration is accountability, openness and transparency in the decision making process. However there are situations where it is appropriate to restrict agenda items given the nature of the information contained in an officer's report. This is such a situation. The report contains sensitive information which could result in misleading the public and affect potential commercial transactions. The nature of the report and associated documents are such that by being public at this stage could have an adverse affect on the proposed development. It is my opinion that this report should be confidential at this early stage in the disposal process.

This is the first time any agenda item regarding the golf course has been confidential. This is to ensure potential purchasers do not have an unfair advantage once the land is for sale.

In addition, elements of which parts of the site will be for sale - along with the Section 106 Agreements - are still in draft and subject to change.

Full details of the documents will be released at the earliest opportunities to potential purchasers and the public once the information is no longer considered commercially sensitive. This is likely to be early next year when the final details regarding the site have been released to the market place.

The purpose of next week's Cabinet report is to set out the methods of how the land could be disposed of. Councillors will also be discussing what could be included in the Section 106 Agreement at the point of sale. These agreements are financial contributions to areas such as education, highways, open space and providing health, to name just a few.

A planning application for outline permission is likely to be submitted later this year. This will include changes made to the masterplan following last month's consultation.

Recommendations being put to Tamworth Borough Council's Cabinet include:

- *Money from the sale of the land to be either be held for future regeneration or invest to save projects*
- *Using the Home and Communities Agency framework to appoint specialist sales and marketing agents*
- *Key head of terms – these include which part of the site is for sale, what conditions will be imposed and what land will be retained within the council's ownership*
- *The Leader of the Council, Cabinet member and key senior council officers to approve final sale documentation*

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