

24th October 2013

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY AND EDUCATION****TAMWORTH GOLF COURSE FUTURE OPTIONS SHORTLIST****EXEMPT INFORMATION**

N/A

**PURPOSE**

To seek Members approval for the proposed short listed options for Tamworth Golf Course and to develop the short listed options through the next stage of the process.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1, That Members approve the short listed options as detailed in this report and the attached report by FMG Consulting**
- 2. That Members endorse the progression (including further soft market testing with developers and service providers) of the short list to enable Cabinet to make a decision on a final preferred option**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Following Cabinet approval the Council took on the interim operational management of the Golf Course in March 2013 for a period of two years till April 2015 and in parallel began work to consider the future options for the facility. In consultation with the Portfolio Holder officers initiated work streams and established a project group to develop the long list of options which were approved by Cabinet on 30th May 2013.

An external consultancy service FMG Consulting was appointed to provide additional capacity and specialist advice. Working with the internal project group the external consultancy has under taken an evaluation of the long listed development options and the three management options associated with each option (Cabinet Report May 2013).

Officers have also held two consultation workshops with users and non users of the Golf Course and the discussions and findings of these workshops have been fed into the process. The evaluation process took into account the key issues relating to each option and assessed them against a set criteria which produced the following recommended options for short listing. The short listed options if approved by Cabinet will move to the next stage and be examined in more detail and be financially modelled to explore the capital and revenue costs / income and overall financial impact on the Council.

## **Recommended Short list**

- **Option G** - Part disposal of the site, retention of 18 – hole golf course through remodelling of holes to reduce land take ( all 3 management options to be assessed)
- **Option I** - Complete disposal of the entire site to generate capital receipt to be utilised for wider strategic aims.
- **Option B** – Retention of a 18 hole golf course, plus development of ancillary provision ( only outsourced management option to be considered)
- **Options D / F** – Disposal of 9 holes for development, with the retention of 9 holes plus development of ancillary provision using part of any capital receipt. (in – house and outsourced management options to be assessed)

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Cabinet approved a £50k budget to support the options appraisal and implementation of the preferred option once selected. Stage 1 and stage 2 of the project are currently within budget. The costs identified with stage three- implementation, still remain indicative as previously reported in May 2013.

The project will continue to draw heavily on existing officer time.

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

As previously identified there will be significant risk involved in the process specifically at the implementation stage. These risks will be determined by the nature of the option selected but good project management and consideration of future implications can be used to help mitigate such risks. Specialist legal and procurement advice will be sought at the appropriate stages. There is also a significant risk to the Councils reputation and this will be managed by operating a transparent process with appropriate communication and consultation with stakeholders and the public.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There will be sustainability issues arising from the options which will be addressed and considered by the project and in the decision making process.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Cabinet 26/3/13

Cabinet 30/5/13

FMG – Needs Analysis

## **REPORT AUTHOR**

Neil Mason – Head of Community Leisure

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 FMG – Stage 2 long list options evaluation