

additional papers 2

Executive Committee

Wed 29th Sept
2010
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

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- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
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- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
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**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact
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Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

Decisions

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

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Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.

Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST" ?

- Where the item relates or is likely to affect your **registered interests** (what you have declared on the formal Register of Interests)

OR

- Where a decision in relation to the item might reasonably be regarded as affecting **your own** well-being or financial position, or that of your **family**, or your **close associates** more than most other people affected by the issue,

you have a personal interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare the existence, and nature, of your interest and stay**

- The declaration must relate to specific business being decided - a general scattergun approach is not needed
- **Exception** - where interest arises only because of your membership of another **public body**, there is no need to declare unless you **speak** on the matter.
- You **can vote** on the matter.

IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest **and**
- The item affects your **financial position** (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your **family, close associates** or bodies through which you have a **registered interest** (or relates to the exercise of **regulatory functions** in relation to these groups)

and

- A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare and Withdraw**

BUT you may make representations to the meeting before withdrawing, **if** the public have similar rights (such as the right to speak at Planning Committee).



Executive

Committee

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Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs: Carole Gandy (Chair)
Michael Braley
Juliet Brunner
Greg Chance
Brandon Clayton
Malcolm Hall
Gay Hopkins
Jinny Pearce
Debbie Taylor

8. Pitcheroak Golf Course - Operational Options Referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(Pages 98 - 103)

Head of Leisure and Cultural Services

To consider a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the review of the operation of Pitcheroak Golf Course over the previous 18 months and the options for future provision.

(Report attached)

All Wards

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**PITCHEROAK GOLF COURSE – OPERATIONAL OPTIONS – REFERRAL
REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Gay Hopkins
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation on the subject of the future operational options for Pitcheroak Golf Course at a meeting on 21st September. The Committee agreed that, based on the information provided in this presentation, the first option for the operation of the service that had been proposed by Officers should be endorsed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND

to extend the current arrangements for a further operating period to enable Redditch Borough Council to:

- a) determine the long-term commitment of the Hereford and Worcestershire Golf Partnership; and**
- b) review the non-golf related elements of the operation; and**

to RESOLVE that

the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny plays an important role in policy development at the Council. Increasingly, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is reviewing important strategies and policies relating to both key and non-key decisions that are scheduled for consideration by the Executive Committee and / or the Council. The aim of the Committee is to scrutinise the issue in detail and to help the Executive by: identifying areas for improvement; assessing the feasibility of proposed actions; and ultimately advising on the validity of proposed decisions.

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- 3.2 As part of this process the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation on the subject of the operational options for Pitcheroak Golf Course at a meeting on 21st September. The presentation provided further information about the history of the Golf Course's operation; the national context for participation in golf; and the performance of the Hereford and Worcestershire Golf Partnership.
- 3.3 The Committee concluded that, based on the information provided in this presentation, there was one preferable course of action that could be undertaken for the management of the Pitcheroak Golf Course: to extend the current arrangements for a further 12 month operating period. Members concurred that this arrangement would be preferable as it would provide Officers with an appropriate amount of time to review the long-term position with regards to the involvement of the Hereford and Worcestershire Partnership with the golf course as well as to review non-golf related elements.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Committee were advised that the arrangements in place with the Hereford and Worcestershire Partnership had initially been secured as part of an 18 month trial agreement. During the period of operation under the management of the Partnership the membership of the golf club had increased. Whilst this increase had not enabled the Council to meet performance targets the performance of the partnership had impressed the Committee as this increase in membership contrasted with a decline in golf club membership during the same period at the national scale. Moreover, the Partnership had managed to attract a larger proportion of younger members (aged under 30 years) to become members, with 30 per cent of members in this age group compared to 11 per cent nationally.
- 4.2 The Committee were advised that Hereford and Worcestershire Partnership were potentially not in a position to manage the golf club on behalf of the Council indefinitely. However, in the short-term the Council had been able to benefit from the expertise of the Partnership to improve participation in the sport and was still facilitating improvements to the service. There were some concerns that the positive work of the Partnership had not been accompanied, however, by improvements to some of the additional facilities that were available at the golf course, such as the catering facilities. It was agreed by the Committee that before any further action was taken with regards to management of the facility these further areas for development should first be addressed.

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- 4.3 The Committee discussed the different operational options that could potentially be pursued for Pitcheroak Golf Course which had been outlined by Officers for their consideration. There were a number of concerns that full open market procurement, another option available to the Council, would not be a feasible option to pursue. In particular, the current economic climate and declining participation in golf was considered to be incompatible with this option. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Council might struggle to effectively manage the golf course in a manner comparable to the Partnership if the service was to be brought back in-house.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications outlined in this report. Further detailed information about the financial position of the Pitcheroak Golf course is provided in the Management Options Appraisal for Pitcheroak Golf Course report which is provided in the first additional papers pack for this meeting.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees that the action they have recommended corresponds with the Council's objective to be a well managed organisation.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no risk management including health and safety implications.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

The action that has been recommended by the Committee would not have an adverse impact on customers.

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11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no equalities and diversity implications.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

12.1 Members have been advised that by supporting this option to undertake a service review there would be the potential to provide greater value for money.

12.2 There are no asset management implications.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

There are no climate change, carbon management or biodiversity implications.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources implications.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There would be a number of governance and performance management implications to the adoption of this operational option for the Pitcheroak Golf Course. These are outlined in further detail in the report on the Management Options Appraisal for Pitcheroak Golf Course which is provided in the first additional papers pack for this meeting.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

There are no community safety implications.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was impressed by the progress that had been made to increase the membership of the golf club, particularly in a national context where participation in golf is on the decline. This active participation in a sporting activity may have health benefits for a number of residents and could help to address obesity levels.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
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No lessons have been learned during the production of this report.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Consideration of this presentation by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee formed part of the consultation process for the Pitcheroak Golf Course – Operation Options item, which is due to be considered by the Executive Committee on 29th September.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Not directly, though the Director was present at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when the matter was discussed.
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No.
Head of Service	Yes. The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services attended the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to help deliver the

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	presentation on the subject of the Pitcheroak Golf Course.
Head of Resources	No.
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No.
Corporate Procurement Team	No.

21. WARDS AFFECTED

The recommendations contained within this report would affect Central ward.

22. APPENDICES

There are no appendices.

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Hereford and Worcestershire Golf Partnership: 18 Month Performance Appraisal, Presentation delivered for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 21st September.

Management Options Appraisal for Pitcheroak Golf Course, Report to the Executive Committee on 29th September 2010.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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