

**Report to the Active and Cohesive Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Keele Golf Course
Procurement of a new Tenant to
Manage, Develop and Maintain the Facility**

3 October 2013

Background

On 21 March 2013 the operating company at Keele Golf Course went into voluntary liquidation but continued to operate until the liquidator passed back the lease to the Council on 1 May 2013.

Glendale Managed Services were asked to quote for grounds maintenance at the course and also separately for managing the golf course. As an existing grounds maintenance contractor to the Council, a variation to their existing contract was approved following evaluation of their quote. In relation to the golf course management, two quotes were obtained, and following evaluation the work was awarded to Glendale.

Both contracts are for an initial 4 months with the option to extend monthly for a further two months. These arrangements commenced on 2 May 2013. On 1 May 2013 the course was staffed by Council senior officers to ensure a continuation of service and gave the opportunity to audit the operation prior to the interim contractor starting. The next step is for the Council to find an operating company to maintain and manage the course in the long-term.

Scrutiny Process

The purpose of this report is to give the Members of this committee the opportunity to scrutinise and review the provisions made within the process for ensuring the appropriate golf development, course grounds maintenance and golf facilities management.

Key extracts from the invitation to bid are attached for Members information and officers will be in attendance at your meeting to supplement this information.

Members are asked to consider whether the process followed and provisions in the tender documentation in respect of golf development and course grounds maintenance are appropriate and suitable in order to ensure that the required standards of golf provision, course maintenance and golf facilities management can be achieved over the period of the lease.

Members of this committee should be aware that the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee met to consider the overall process of procuring a

new Tenant to manage, develop and maintain Keele Golf Course at its meeting on 24 September 2013.

A copy of a set of slides prepared for the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is attached as an appendix to this report to give Members of this committee an overview of the entire process.

In addition, the financial and value-for-money issues of the process will be reviewed at a special meeting of the Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 October 2013.

Recommendations:

- a) That the Scrutiny Committee considers the golf development and course grounds maintenance aspects of the tender process undertaken.
- b) That the committee make recommendations to the Cabinet in respect of the appropriateness of these aspects in ensuring that the required standards of golf provision, course maintenance and golf facilities management can be achieved over the period of the lease.

Dave Adams
Executive Director – Operational Services
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council