

Report to the Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

9 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 that the Council has complied with its own procurement rules; and
- ensuring that the Council is getting the best financial return and value for money.

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. Also, the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 3 October 2013 to consider the golf development and course grounds maintenance aspects of the tender process. The views of all three committees will be fed back to the Cabinet who will make their decision on 16 October.

A number of documents are attached to assist the committee:

- A copy of a set of slides prepared for the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give Members of this committee an overview of the entire process.
- Key extracts from the Invitation to Bid document.
- A draft report that has been prepared for the Cabinet to make a decision on 16 October. This includes a confidential financial appendix which is key for this committee's scrutiny.

Recommendations:

- a) That the Committee considers the procurement process undertaken and confirms that the Council is in compliance with its own rules.
- b.) That the Committee make recommendations to the Cabinet in respect of the financial aspects of the process.

Kelvin Turner
Executive Director – Resources and Support Services
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council