

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

VALUE FOR MONEY & CUSTOMER SERVICES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9 SEPTEMBER 2020

Title:

Broadwater Golf Course – Options Appraisal: Call In

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mark Merryweather, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Assets and Commercial

Head of Service: Peter Vickers, Head of Finance and Property

Key decision: No

Access: Part Exempt

Note pursuant to Section 100B(5) of the Local Government Act 1972

An Annexe attached to this report contains exempt information by virtue of which the public is likely to be excluded during the item to which the report relates, as specified in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, namely:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

1. Purpose and summary

- 1.1 On 8 July 2020 the Executive approved the recommendation set out in the report “Property Matter – Broadwater Golf Course Options Appraisal”. The report (attached at Annexe 1, plus Exempt annexe to that report) set out a proposal to use the Investment Advisory Board Reserve to fund an Options Appraisal on the site at a cost of £50,000, and legal fees of £20,000.
- 1.2 On 14 July 2020, a call in of that decision was received from Cllrs Julia Potts, Stephen Mulliner, John Gray and Simon Dear, of the Value for Money & Customer Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Their reasons for calling in the decision are detailed in the call in form (Annexe 2).
- 1.3 Upon receiving the call in from the requisite number of committee members, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that paragraphs 1a and 1b of the call in form related directly to recent Executive decisions that could be called in under the O&S call in arrangements.
- 1.4 Paragraph 1c on the other hand referred to an Executive decision made in December 2018 and to a subsequent decision taken by an Officer under the Scheme of Delegation. Whilst those decisions were considered by members calling this matter to be contextual information and relevant to the recent Executive decisions that could be called in, it is important to note that neither can,

in themselves, be called in or scrutinised under the O&S call in arrangements.

2. Recommendation

That, having considered the call in, the Committee agrees one to the following options:

EITHER:

1. To resolve not to refer the decision back to the Executive;

OR:

2. To resolve not to refer the decision back to the Executive but nevertheless to make such recommendations to the Executive as it sees fit;

OR:

3. To resolve to refer the decision to the Executive for reconsideration with a written explanation setting out the nature of the committee's concerns;

OR:

4. To resolve to refer the matter to Full Council if it is felt that the decision is contrary to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

3. Reason for the recommendation

In accordance with the constitutional provisions relating to call in (Part 4 – Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules) this report presents a call-in relating to the Executive report "Property Matter – Broadwater Golf Course Options Appraisal", which was approved on 8 July 2020. The Committee is invited to consider the call in and decide what action it wishes to take.

4. Background

4.1 Not required.

5. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

5.1 The call in process is a statutory role of the Overview and Scrutiny function and an important part of holding the Executive to account. It supports the corporate priority of 'open, transparent and participative governance'.

6. Implications of decision

6.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report. The financial implications of the original decision are set out in the Executive report (Annexe 1).

6.2 Risk management

N/A

6.3 Legal

The legal implications of the Executive decision are set out in the report at Annexe 1.

6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report. Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

6.5 Climate emergency declaration

There are no climate emergency implications arising as a direct result of this report. The climate emergency implications of the original decision are set out in the Executive report (Annexe 1).

7. Consultation and engagement

7.1 N/A

8. Other options considered

8.1 None. The arrangements for a call in meeting of Overview and Scrutiny are set out in the Constitution (Part 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules).

9. Governance journey

9.1 This may end with the Value for Money & Customer Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be referred back to the Executive, or be referred to Full Council.

Annexes:

Annexe 1 – Executive report “Property Matter – Broadwater Golf Course Options Appraisal” 8 July 2020 and Exempt annexe

Annexe 2 – Call in form

Annexe 3 – Response by officers

Background Papers

There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972).

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