



Report of the Director of Learning and Leisure

Executive Board

Date: 14th March 2007

Subject: ROUNDHAY PARK GOLF COURSE

Electoral Wards Affected:
Roundhay

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

Executive Summary

The Executive Board at its meeting on 18th May 2005 approved the disposal of the Roundhay Park Golf Course to a preferred bidder following a marketing and tender exercise for a 75 year lease of golf courses in Leeds.

Negotiations with the preferred bidder have taken place during 2005 and 2006. The preferred bidder has now declared that they no longer wish to proceed with the leasing of the golf course and have withdrawn from the negotiations.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Executive Board the current position with regard to the bid for a 75 year lease of the Roundhay Park Golf Course, which was last reported to the Board on 18th May 2005.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 On 13th February, 2004 the Executive Board considered a comprehensive report outlining a market testing exercise for the Council's five municipal golf courses, and the offers received for 75 year leases as a result of the exercise.

2.2 A further report was requested by the Board which presented more detailed information on the preferred bidder's submission that had been made for Roundhay Park Municipal Golf Course. This was presented to the Board at its meeting on 18th

May 2005, and approval was given to proceed with the disposal of the Roundhay Park Municipal Golf Course to the preferred bidder.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Following the Executive Boards recommendations to proceed with the disposal of Roundhay Park Golf Course, a number of negotiation meetings took place between Council officers and representatives of the preferred bidder.

3.2 These negotiations culminated in a final meeting in January 2007 when the preferred bidders representatives declared that the people they represented were no longer as enthusiastic about the leasing of the golf course as they had formerly been. They no longer wanted to proceed with the 75 year leasing exercise and a declaration to this effect has since been received from the preferred bidder, attached at Appendix One.

3.3 Since receiving the decision from the Golf Club, officers have spoken to Humberts, the company which assisted the City Council in the original marketing exercise, to seek their views on whether there would be a market should the Roundhay course be advertised again. Their view is that if a Course was marketed with vacant possession (i.e. no golf club and golf professional on site), and if planning conditions were fairly flexible, there would be interest in the Roundhay course from the corporate sector.

However, given the information about vacant possession, planning conditions, and corporate interest, it is considered appropriate to recommend that the course remains with the City Council.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

4.1 None.

5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The City Council will continue to maintain the Course along with the Council's remaining courses at Gotts Park, Middleton and Temple Newsam.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That the Executive Board acknowledges the 75 year leasing of the Roundhay Golf Course will not now proceed, and management and maintenance of the Course will remain with the City Council's Parks and Countryside service.