

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 23RD FEBRUARY 2005

REVIEW OF GOLF COURSE PROVISION

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present further information on the review of golf course provision.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 2nd February 2005, the Committee agreed to note the recommendations of the Council's Member Officer Working Group established to review golf course provision and requested a further report from the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The working group proposals specifically related to transferring management responsibility for the golf courses at Patna and Caprington to the resident golf clubs with an offer of interim financial support to the clubs.
- 3.2 These proposals were in line with the Community Plan Aim of supporting local organisations to manage their own facilities.
- 3.3 Consultation with both clubs has taken place and it is clear that neither club is willing to take responsibility for the respective courses although Caprington Golf Club have indicated that they would be prepared to take responsibility for the Caprington 18 hole course from April 2007 subject to certain conditions being met.
- 3.4 Representatives of Patna Golf Club have advised that while they would not be able to take full management responsibility for the course at this time, they would be prepared to support a cost reduction exercise for the course. They have also indicated that they will work with the Council to promote the course and further reduce costs.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Reductions in the cost of provision of golf are included in the report on the review of Outdoor Amenities elsewhere on this agenda.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY/COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Both Patna and Caprington Golf Clubs are now aware of the Council's costs related to the provision of golf courses and the issues facing the Council in sustaining the current level of investment in course management and maintenance. Caprington Golf Club remain committed to taking responsibility for the Caprington Golf Course in 2007 and negotiations will continue with this club with further reports to this Committee as appropriate. Officers will work with Patna Golf Club on a range of issues to develop the club and course usage.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KH
14th February 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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