

SUBJECT:	Farnham Park Playing Fields and the South Buckinghamshire Golf Courses	
REPORT OF:	Officer Management Team	-Director of Services
	Prepared by	- Head of Community

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on The South Buckinghamshire Golf facilities.

2. Resource and wider policy implications

2.1 This report links in to the following strategies:

Community Plan

Improving health and well-being

Public services flexible and meeting the diverse needs of our community

Local Performance Plan

Thriving and sustainable South Bucks

Service Plan

Improving sports facilities

Improving customer service

Improving sporting opportunities for local residents

3. Background

3.1 Members have requested a further update on the activities associated with Farnham Park Trust and in particular The South Buckinghamshire golf facilities.

4. Discussion

4.1 Building works for the New Clubhouse.

The South Buckinghamshire Clubhouse project is in the final stages. The project is still near enough on programme and is currently scheduled to be handed over on 29th January 2014.

The quality, costs and programme, which are being carefully managed by the clients construction team, are still within the budget set and the quality is to a very good standard.

The project remains on target to be on budget and, weather permitting, it will open to public around the end of January /beginning of February 2014. Once the new building is open the existing clubhouse will be demolished.

The clubhouse furniture is being supplied as part of the project, but will be the longer term responsibility of the new caterer. The furniture is heavy duty commercial furniture with a 5 year guarantee and is being upholstered in severe contract use fabrics. Having said this both the style and aesthetics of the furniture fully support the high quality look that is being sought. The order for the furniture went into the manufacturers at the beginning of November and will provide high quality commercial fittings that will suit the new facility. One of the first big Council events to be held in the new facility will be the Chairman's Awards which are likely to be held in mid March.

4.2 Catering contract procurement

The new service procured and the contract has been awarded with a start date of 1st December. The contract will start shortly before the building is completed to give the company time to start marketing the facility and to secure all the necessary licenses. The contract provides for the catering contractor to pay a fixed minimum sum every month from when the doors open to the public plus a % of turnover. The caterer is now finalising the new staff uniform which will again accord with the style of the facility. The company is also liaising with others to ensure that all premise licenses and brewery contracts are in place.

4.3 Update on organisational changes for managing the trust activities on site

A new management arrangement is being progressed and is on target to be implemented in time for the opening of the new facility. Interviews for the new general managers post (created to oversee all of the Trusts operations and the management of both Golf courses at The South Buckinghamshire) will have been held by the time of this meeting. An oral update will be provided on the outcome of these at the meeting.

The new draft staff structures for both the golf courses / playing fields and the remaining Community Team is currently out to consultation with an implementation date for 1st February 2014.

4.4 Connectivity issues

The issue raised previously regarding the resilience of the connectivity for the booking system has largely been addressed, the final element will be the final transfer of the hosting of the server to management by Steria. The timing of this will be linked to the wider ICT works for the new Clubhouse.

For the new clubhouse ICT requirements, ICT have met with the relevant building contractors to establish what they are providing in terms of cabling, telephony points, WiFi access etc. Once the requirement has been confirmed with the client and the building contractor for the numbers of telephone extensions, desktop locations, then specifications and orders can be issued to the key suppliers, BT and Update. This will then finalise costs and timescales. The solution will include the provision of a BT mini switchboard. The orders will need to be placed by early December in order to meet the provisional opening date.

5. Resources, Risk and Other Implications

- 5.1 As expected, the changes to the existing golf staff that are likely to come out of the current review, will provide some savings to off-set the new general manager post, with the majority being found elsewhere through the changes to the Community team overall.
- 5.2 There are a number of risks with not implementing the proposed new structures. These mainly relate to the failure to be able to deliver on the key income targets set out in the business case for the new clubhouse. If the Trust does not make the expected income targets it could have insufficient funds to be able to service the loan repayments to the Council.
- 5.3 The costs associated with the construction of the green keeper's facility and the new clubhouse are managed by the clients Quantity Surveyor for the project and the Head of Community. The costs are all within the budget set and will continue to be managed to ensure that the budget set by Members is not exceeded.

6 Summary

Members are asked to note this update report.

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Background Papers:	None	