

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CUSTOMER SERVICES, SPORT & LEISURE
CABINET MEMBER**

KINGSWAY GOLF COURSE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the outcomes of a public consultation on the future of Kingsway Golf Course and agree a way forward in determining the future of the facility.
- 1.2 The key point of the report is as follows.
- The council has carried out a public consultation on the future of Kingsway Golf Course.
 - We need to determine the future for Kingsway Golf Course.
 - We have received a petition objecting to the potential loss of Kingsway Golf Course.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has taken the opportunity to review the future of Kingsway Golf Course. The review was driven by the following:
- The current golf market in North Lincolnshire
 - The falling attendances at Kingsway Golf Course
 - The investment required to improve the current offer
 - Priority demands in other key council services
- 2.2 Elected members were keen to gather the views of Kingsway Golf Course users and the public to inform decisions on the future direction for the facility. A public consultation was carried out in April 2013. We received 145 responses. The main findings of the consultation were:
- 63% of people who responded play golf
 - 52% of people who responded play golf at Kingsway Golf Course
 - 85% of people who responded want the council to continue supporting golf
 - 72% of people who responded want the council to invest in Kingsway Golf Course
 - Kingsway Golf Course is highly valued green space
 - Kingsway Golf Course is a good starter course, particularly for young people. It is both affordable and accessible.

2.3 The Council has received a petition objecting to the possible closure of Kingsway Golf Course. The petition has in excess of 900 names on it. The petition calls ‘ to retain the land presently occupied by Kingsway Golf Club as a green open space that can be used for a variety of recreational activities’. The recommendation in this report supports retaining Kingsway Golf Course. In the event that the Cabinet Member agrees to adopt this recommendation, the petition does not require consideration. We would then write to the representative of the petitioners to inform them of the council’s position.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The option proposed is to retain Kingsway Golf Course and work to develop proposals toward improving the current offer to customers.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 The outcomes of the public consultation support the retention of the facility.

4.2 Kingsway Golf Course currently caters for golfers, walkers and dog walkers. It forms a substantial green space and as such, makes a significant contribution to retaining Scunthorpe’s position as the Industrial Garden Town.

4.3 We need to look at the strength and weaknesses of the current offer for customers at Kingsway Golf Course. Officers will bring forward a subsequent paper to set out options for consideration in these regards by the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport and Leisure. This approach is consistent with the council priority of providing “***Excellence in Customer Service***” and the associated commitment that the council will “***listen to our customers and provide them with value for money***”

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no significant resources implication at this point.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not applicable at this point.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 Officers and elected members have given careful consideration to the findings from the public consultation. The views of the public have been listened to and helped to shape the option presented for consideration in this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To retain the land presently occupied by Kingsway Golf Course as a green open space and work to develop options to improve the current offer for customers.
- 8.2 To write to the representatives of the petitioners to inform them of the decision on the future of Kingsway Golf Course.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

Hewson House
Station Road
Brigg
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XY

Author: Tom Coburn
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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report
Kingsway Golf Course Survey Results – May 2013