

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **public sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the council to better understand the potential impact of the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	E&T 10 - Riverside Pitch & Putt Course - explore a viable external franchise or partnership arrangement.
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	<p>The Riverside Park 18 hole Pitch & Putt course operates from April to September each year.</p> <p>It primarily attracts visitors from the local area (Townhill, Bitterne Park, Swaythling, Mansbridge) but due to the close proximity of Woodmill Lane car park, it is accessible to users from across the city.</p> <p>Users represent a diverse demographic, with groups of younger people and family groups particularly prominent. Usage varies from season to season dependent on weather and other competing attractions but generally between 6,000 and 7,000 rounds per year are played.</p> <p>The course is suitable and enjoyed by players of all standards, from complete beginners to keen golfers practicing their ‘short game’.</p> <p>In recent years the facility has made an operating loss of around £15k per annum. There is little current internal scope to adjust the cost or income base to positively affect this position. It is therefore proposed to seek a viable external partnership to run the facility in 2016 to remove this ongoing budget pressure, and prevent the potential closure of the facility.</p>
Summary of Impact and Issues	Although the trend of usage in recent years is generally down, the course remains popular and offers an attractive introduction to the game of golf. Overall participation in the game of golf may decline in longer term without the availability of such local and accessible entry level facilities.

	The course is a relatively popular feature of Riverside Park, particularly on a warm summer's day. Its closure would reduce the overall leisure offer of the park, and may affect the popularity of the park as a whole for longer half day / whole day family visits.
Potential Positive Impacts	Closure may in the short term potentially increase usage at Southampton Golf Course (particularly 9 hole course) and Weston Pitch and Putt franchise. Development of the facility through a partnership or specialist franchise arrangement could improve the overall offer to the customer through inclusion of additional facilities (e.g. catering, skills tuition).
Responsible Service Manager	John Horton
Date	28 th October 2015

Approved by Senior Manager	Mitch Sanders
Date	28 th October 2015

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Disability	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Gender Reassignment	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Race	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Religion or Belief	No identified negative impacts.	N/A

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Sex	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Sexual Orientation	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Community Safety	The course currently offers a diversionary activity for young people during the long summer evenings.	Skate Park and tennis courts already exist in close proximity. Consultation currently taking place through Friends group over provision of other facilities for younger park users.
Poverty	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Other Significant Impacts	Overall participation in the game of golf may decline in longer term without the availability of such local and accessible entry level facilities.	Availability of alternative facilities at Southampton Golf Course and Weston Shore.