

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2023**

**APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED MEMBER TO MONTROSE GOLF LINKS BOARD**

**REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks nomination of an elected member to be appointed to Montrose Golf Links Board.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Makes an appointment to the Board of Montrose Golf Links as a Decision Maker in accordance with the policy on Appointments of Elected Members to Outside Bodies;
- (ii) Agrees the ongoing representation of the current Angus Council elected member representative on the Board and notes the resignation from the Board of the officer representative; and
- (ii) Note that any appointment is on an interim basis pending the expiry of the current Management Agreement on 31 March 2024 and consideration of future arrangements.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

- 2.1 This report contributes to the following priorities contained within the Angus Council Plan 2023-2028:

**Caring for the Economy**

- We will support businesses to grow and invest in Angus through our employment land and commercial property.
- We will be more commercial in our approach to contracts and support growth of business locally whenever possible through a \*community wealth building approach.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Montrose Golf Links Limited (MGLL) is responsible for the provision of golf at Montrose Links. The primary objects of responsibility include the operation and maintenance of two golf courses (the 1562 Course and the Broomfield Course), and the pitch and putt. Other areas of responsibility include practice areas, internal paths and access roads, greenkeepers sheds, car parking, and office and retail space. The area occupies Common Good with provision made via a Management Agreement held by Angus Council. The Agreement is due to expire on 31 March 2024. The golf courses are open to the public and there are currently 690 Season Ticket Holders.
- 3.2 After a period of financial instability during 2018/19, changes to governance structures which were approved by Committee (Reports [192/20](#) and [87/22](#) refer) have succeeded in supporting healthy profits to be generated and reinvested in the company over last three years, despite the impact of the Covid pandemic.
- 3.3 There are currently three members of the Company: Angus Council, Royal Montrose and Mercantile Golf Club, and the Montrose Caledonia Golf Club. Provision is made for eight directors comprising two from each Member and a further two co-opted directors.

- 3.4 At the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee on 8 March 2022 ([Report 87/22 refers](#)) approval was given for the ongoing representation of two Angus Council representatives on the Montrose Golf Links Board, one of whom should be a local Councillor. Councillor Bill Duff and Angus Council officer representative Jane Taylor, Economic Development Officer (Sectors) are current members of the Board.

#### **4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Due to a change in operational activity the Angus Council officer representative Jane Taylor, Sector Officer (Economic Development) has intimated their resignation from the Board. The existing Management Agreement is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and therefore it is proposed that an elected member representative be appointed for this period whilst work is ongoing to determine future arrangements. This interim appointment will ensure that Angus Council continues to have two representatives on the Board.
- 4.2 Appointment would be in a Decision-maker capacity. Here, the elected member will become a member of the organisation, (which is separate from their role as councillor). They will therefore take on obligations relating to the role, be able to make decisions on behalf of the organisation and will be responsible for carrying the liability for these decisions. Elected members should be aware of this and consider these implications when taking on such roles.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Director of Legal, Governance and Change has been consulted on in the preparation of this report.

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report No 131/22 – Council Appointments to Outside Bodies – 26th May 2022

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List of Appendices: Appendix 1: Equalities Impact Assessment



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form  
(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

**Step 1**

**Name of Proposal** (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

Appointment to Montrose Golf Links Board

**Step 2**

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment **Yes/No**  
**(A)** If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| (i) It does not impact on people   | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| (ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| (iii) It is for information only   | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| (iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year                                       | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| (v) It is technical  | <b>Yes/No</b> |

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

**Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation.** Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Jill Paterson, Service Leader Planning and Sustainable Growth 7/10/23

Reviewed by: Mark Davidson, Manager Economic Development 10/10/23

Approved by: Alison Smith, Director Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth  
16/10/23

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