

**Report OSB/4/11 of the Overview and Scrutiny Board  
to the meeting of the Council to be held on 24 March 2011**

**Churston Golf Club proposals – Notice of Call-in**

1. At its meeting on 17 February 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered Report 34/2011 which set out the details of a call-in by eight Members of the Council of the decision by the Mayor to, amongst other things, to grant a variation to the lease of Churston Golf Club.
2. The Call-in Promoter (Councillor Baldrey) set out the reasons for calling-in the decision and six of the Call-in Supporters also addressed the Board about their concerns regarding the decision.
3. The Board heard representations from representatives of RAGS (Residents Against Golf Club Sell-off), Churston, Galampton and Broadsands Community Partnership, and a member of the public who opposed the decision of the Mayor.
4. The Board heard representations from representatives of Churston Golf Club and Bloor Homes who supported the decision of the Mayor.
5. The Mayor responded to the points raised by the Call-in Promoter and Supporters, the Members of the Board, other Councillors present, and the representations from members of the public.
6. In accordance with the Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Board had three options open to it:
  - Take no further action
  - Refer the decision back to the Mayor
  - In exceptional circumstances, refer the matter to the Council
7. The Overview and Scrutiny Board resolved that the decision of the Mayor should be referred to the Council for consideration for the following reasons:

*The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommends the Mayor consider making a decision based on the points outlined in Report 34/2011. The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommends all parties concerned are contacted to reach a compromise decision.*
8. The 3 reasons for the call-in as outlined in report 34/2011 were:
  - 1) The Mayor was wrong to assert that if the Golf Club became bankrupt that the whole area would be built on.

- 2) There is a lack of evidence that a compromise solution has been considered.
  - 3) The Mayor is abdicating his responsibility by hiding behind the Planning Process.
9. In accordance with the Constitution, the options open to the Council are:
- **If the Council does not object to the decision**, no further action is necessary and the decision will be effective from the date of the Council meeting
  - **Provided the decision has been made in accordance with the Policy Framework and the Budget**, the Council has no power to amend the decision but may refer any decision to which it objects back to the decision maker together with the Council's views on that decision.