

Agenda item 6

For information– Badgers Hill bid update

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This report provides an update on the invitation to submit bids to secure Badgers Hill Stadium as a long-term, thriving and sustainable sports and community asset for Frome.

Two bids were received and neither bidder have provided proof of funds. Therefore, options are being explored and a further report will be brought to Council as soon as possible.

Background

At the December Extraordinary Council meeting, it was agreed that the Council would invite expressions of interest in either a full repairing lease or purchase of the site outright. Council also agreed to revoke the decision taken at Council on 2 July to exclusively enable Badgers Hill Ltd (BHL) to take on a full repairing lease of Badgers Hill Stadium with an option to buy. In the interim, a Tenancy at Will remained in place to enable BHL to continue to occupy the site.

The invitation to submit bids was published on 16 January 2026 with a deadline of 14 March 2026.

The brief set out that proposals should meet all of the following criteria:

- Plans for investment in the site especially the Clubhouse
- Those plans should safeguard sporting use including football for all and enable meaningful community use of the Clubhouse – extra credit would be given to proposals that demonstrate a strong social return on investment
- Demonstration of either a successful track record of managing similar facilities or a team that comprises members with such experience
- A robust business plan with proof of funds to take on the property and invest in it
- A robust plan for managing the site safely
- A commitment to inclusion and diversity
- Good governance arrangements

Assessment and next steps

Two bids were received and following an initial assessment the bidders were invited to present to the internal project team. As the content of both bids is confidential, the detail of the bids and subsequent presentations are not included in this update.

It was clearly set out in the invitation to submit bids that – “A robust business plan with proof of funds to take on the property and invest in it” was required. A significant weighting i.e. 35% was given to this criterion. Neither party has provided proof of funds.

In these circumstances the internal project team are exploring the options open to the council and will bring a further report for Cllrs’ consideration as soon as possible.