

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE		Report No. 18
Date of Meeting	7 th February 2008	
Title of Report	Lottery Funded Play Projects	
Portfolio	Leisure & Economy	
Link to Corporate Priorities	Healthy Lifestyles	
Key Decision	No	
Executive Workplan Ref	N/A	
Public Report	Yes	

<p>Summary of Report</p> <p>This report is to provide Members with an update on the Big Lottery funded play scheme project and how these projects will be managed moving forward towards delivery.</p>				
<p>Officer Recommendations</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Note the current position. 2) Agree that £30,000 from the Section 106 Funding reserve, as set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report can be used to cover the temporary shortfall of Section 106 Funding for the Reeds Farm Project in Malmesbury conditional on Malmesbury Town Council taking on responsibility for future management and maintenance of the facility. 3) Delegate authority to the Asset, Design and Regeneration Manager to renegotiate with contractors to renew their quotations for the Cricklade Project and accept the most suitable quotation for the delivery of the project. 4) Agree that tenders be sought for the Malmesbury Project and that authority be delegated to the Asset, Design & Regeneration Manager to accept the lowest suitable tender. 				
<p>Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.</p>				
Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
Yes	None	Yes	Yes	Yes

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the completion of the Play Strategy – Everything to Play For - in September 2007 the Council submitted an application to the Big Lottery Funds Children's Play Programme. This fund became available as a response to the Government's 2004 play review 'Getting Serious About Play' and each local authority area was allocated funds based on the child population and the levels of deprivation.
- 1.2 The application was successful and an award of £237,615.00 has been given to support four projects - three fixed play areas and one mobile play scheme. The funding is offered over three years, with the fixed play facilities to be installed in the first twelve months, and the mobile scheme running for the three years.
- 1.3 All four projects need other sources of funding to ensure that they can go ahead and all funding has been identified, and secured in all cases, except Malmesbury where there is currently a shortfall as set out in paragraph 5.3
- 1.4 Under the Lottery Grant Conditions the Council is the lead authority with responsibility to project manage and deliver the capital schemes.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

2.1 Option 1: That the Executive:

- 1) **Note the current position.**
- 2) **Agree that £30,000 from the Section 106 Funding reserve, as set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report can be used to cover the temporary shortfall of Section 106 Funding for the Reeds Farm Project in Malmesbury conditional on Malmesbury Town Council taking on responsibility for future management and maintenance of the facility.**
- 3) **Delegate authority to the Asset, Design and Regeneration Manager to renegotiate with contractors to renew their quotations for the Cricklade Project and accept the lowest suitable quotation for the delivery of the project.**
- 4) **That tenders be sought for the Malmesbury Project and that authority be delegated to the Asset, Design & Regeneration Manager to accept the lowest suitable tender.**

This is the most favourable option as it means that all projects can proceed in line with the time scale given in the Lottery application.

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3. The Projects

3.1 Mobile Play

The Open Blue Bus project is run by the Open Blue Trust, a registered charity founded in 2003. The trust has bought and refurbished a double decker bus which acts a mobile play facility. The lottery grant will pay for a Playworker to deliver play opportunities for three years to four rural areas identified as those most in need. This will provide more children in rural areas, many in social isolation, with access to quality play provision in their own localities. It will increase play opportunities for some groups experiencing barriers, including children in North Wiltshire's transient communities. The project enables children and young people to play and socialise in a safe environment which, in turn, will contribute to personal social development.

The current phase of the project is to draw up a contract with the Open Blue Trust by 14th February, which will set out the project milestones, contractual arrangements and deliverables.

3.2 Fixed Play

3.2.1 **Lyneham** – This project will provide the children and young people of Lyneham with a new play area. Lyneham currently has 5 play areas of which 1 is provided by the Parish Council and the rest by Defence Estates. The new play area will be situated on the site of an existing play area and will have a variety of play activities suitable for children up to the age of 15, including traditional equipment and a bmx track and when complete will be managed and maintained by Defence Estates. A tender process has already been run on this project and Proludic will be appointed as the contractor. The contract will be run under a Minor Works basis and the play area is programmed to be completed by the end of May.

3.2.2 **Cricklade** - Cricklade has been identified in the Northern Community Area Plan 2005-2015 as lacking in youth facilities, playgrounds and public open space. Cricklade currently has only 2 play areas which are provided and maintained by the Town Council. This project will replace an aged play area with a new facility at the Bath Road site. Several quotes have been received from play equipment companies and a preferred option has been identified. The contract will be run under a Minor Works basis and the play area and the Town Council will take over the management and maintenance.

3.2.3 **Reeds Farm, Malmesbury** - This project will provide the children and young people in the Reeds Farm Estate part of Malmesbury with a new play area consisting of a multi-use games area, an adventure trail and a youth shelter. Malmesbury currently has only 3 play areas, all are a considerable distance from the Reeds Farm Estate, with the nearest being over a kilometre (as the crow flies) from the proposed site. Only one quote has been obtained for this project but there is time to go through a tender process as this is scheduled to be the last of the fixed play projects. It is the intention that the Town Council will take over the future management and maintenance of the site and this agreement will be required before the works commence. It is against policy for the District Council to take over management and maintenance of grant aided play areas.

4. Human Resources Implications

4.1 The Council has responsibility for managing the delivery of the projects in accordance with the Lottery and other funders' guidelines and as detailed in the application

document, which are complex in nature and need to be managed carefully.

- 4.2 Recently the Council benefitted from the expertise of a play specialist seconded one day a week from Swindon Borough Council who has developed the bid and programme. It was hoped that this secondment could be extended within increased hours to oversee delivery of this project. However, the secondment will end in March.
- 4.3 The management of the project will therefore be split into two areas. Management of the overall project and partnerships meetings, which will be managed from within Asset, Design & Regeneration and the Community Partnerships Team and management of the construction, contract and compliance elements of the project, which will be fulfilled using external resources. It is envisaged that this external resource will be needed for between 9-12 months and can be funded from within the Project & Asset, Design & Regeneration Team budgets.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The £237,638.00 provided by the Big Lottery amounts to 60% of the total costs of the four projects, but also includes a management fee of £20,800. The other 40% of funding has been raised by partner organisations to reach the levels needed and comes from landfill tax credits, parish councils and the RAF.
- 5.2 The table below shows the sources of funding available to delivery the four projects within the District.

Project	Lottery Income	Other Income	Total Project Income
Big Blue	£81,815	-	£81,815
Cricklade	£60,000	£15,000 (Parish Council)	£75,000
Lyneham	£50,000	£100,000 (Landfill Tax, Parish Council & RAF)	£150,000
Malmesbury	£25,000	£40,000 (Town Council & Section 106 ^{**})	£65,000
Management Fee	£20,800	-	£20,800
Total	£237,615	£155,000	£392,615

****** It will be required that all of the 'other income' is secured in writing and a formal contract drawn up with the Town & Parish Council's for the future maintenance and management of facilities before committing to a construction contract. In addition the Section 106 (Town and Country Planning Act 1990) funding generated from housing development as a contribution towards the provision of open space may have a longer timescale. This is because planning permission is valid for three years and there is no way of knowing when the developments will begin. However, there is additional Section 106 Funding reserves, which could be used for this purpose if the original schemes are not realised.

- 5.3 To ensure the Malmesbury Project can be delivered on time, it is proposed to use £30k from the other Section 106 Funding reserve as a short term stop gap, until the a combination of schemes at the old Arts Centre, Custom Transformers, Kingsfisher Mill and some single dwelling developments are realised and the funding paid. The total value of these schemes is between £66k-£81k. This fund will then be credited. The Section 106 Funding reserve is a fund which has been accrued from Section 106 funding from developers and is for open space management.

5.4 The cost of employing external resources to manage the construction, contract and compliance element of the projects can be accommodated from within the Project Management Fee included within the project and savings from vacancies within the Asset, Design & Regeneration budgets.

6. Community and Environment Implications

6.1 All of the projects have been identified with the help of community input and therefore go a long way to meeting community aspirations.

7. Equality and Diversity Implications

7.1 Since the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 came into force play equipment providers have gone to great lengths to provide equipment that is more inclusive.

8. Risk Analysis

8.1 There are a number of issues relating to some of the projects. These are shown below and are currently being pursued with the appropriate partners.

- **Lyneham** - There is an issue relating to VAT linked to the grant from the Landfill Tax Credit, which may not be reclaimable. However, a solution has been agreed that can be accommodated by reducing the overall cost of the project if necessary to ensure the project remains within the allocated funding.
- **Cricklade** – The land is owned by Wiltshire County Council, leased to Westlea and sub leased to the Town Council who are responsible for the current play facility. Prior to the bid being submitted agreement from each party was given. However, no formal agreement has been signed to date and this is currently being pursued.
- **Malmesbury** – There has been no agreement as yet by the Town Council that they will take on the management and ongoing maintenance of the site. If agreement is not reached, the scheme will not proceed.

8.2 There is currently a shortage of appropriate skills and resources within the Asset, Design & Regeneration Team due to vacancies created by key staff leaving in recent months to deliver the construction and compliance element of the project, without impacting on other key areas of work. However, a number of management solutions to resolve this issue are being explored including the use of existing resource from within the Community Partnerships Team. This solution may impact on the delivery timescales.

Appendices:	
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Lottery Children’s Play Application Document

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Countryside and Open Space Strategy and Play Strategy	Executive 19 th April 2007	E227