

	AGENDA ITEM NO.
Report Cover Sheet	
Name of Meeting:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	11 February 2008
Report Title:	Delivering Children's Play Programme revenue projects within the district.
Summary of report:	This report requests authority to waive the Council's Code of Contract Practice for the procurement of services to deliver a portfolio of play sessions and play activities around the district over a three year period. If approved, procurement would be sought through a partnership agreement rather than the normal process of securing written quotations and/or a formal competitive tender
For further information please contact (report author);	David Anderson 01926456214 david.anderson@warwickdc.gov.uk
Business Unit:	Leisure and Amenities
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the policy framework:	Yes
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Wards of the District directly affected by this decision:	All of the wards within the district
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan?	No (If Yes, include reference number)
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No (If yes, include para number)
Date and name of meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number:	Not Applicable

Background Papers:

Warwick District Play Strategy – Executive Report
12th February 2007

Consultation Undertaken		
Below is a table of the Council's regular consultees. However not all have to be consulted on every matter and if there was no obligation to consult with a specific consultee they will be marked as n/a.		
Consultees	Yes/ No	Who
Other Committees	No	
Ward Councillors	Yes	Will be presented to Facilities for Young People Working Party on the 23 rd January 2007
Portfolio Holders	Yes	Will be presented to Facilities for Young People Working Party on the 23 rd January 2007
Other Councillors	No	
Warwick District Council recognised Trades Unions	No	
Other Warwick District Council Service Areas	No	
Project partners	No	
Parish/Town Council	No	
Highways Authority	No	
Residents	No	
Citizens Panel	No	
Other consultees	No	
Officer Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance Services and Legal Services.		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director(s)	15/1/07	Mary Hawkins
Chief Executive		
CMT	17/1/08	
Section 151 Officer	15/1/07	Mary Hawkins
Legal	15/1/07	
Finance	15/1/07	
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 That approval is given to waive the Council's Code of Contract Practice for the procurement of the services, detailed below, on the grounds that a partnership agreement with two other organisations is the preferred option. These two organisations being Creates Recycling Centre and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

2. REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Big Lottery Fund has agreed to offer a grant of £218,712 to Warwick District Council to deliver a portfolio of play projects. The grant, over three years, will fully fund a £72,355 capital project, a £62,250 revenue project, £62,125 revenue project and £21,982 portfolio management costs.
- 2.2 The revenue projects will include wild play sessions to encourage children to use natural resources around them in a supervised outdoor environment, and creative play sessions providing play opportunities by using recycled materials and working with local artists. It is the intention to deliver these revenue projects with partnering organisations that have the resources, skills and experience in this type of service.
- 2.3 Expressions of interest were sort through various organisations to gauge what number and type of organisations were suitable to deliver these play projects, and at the same time those that could fulfil the Big Lottery Fund stringent terms and conditions. From these findings it was evident that the number of organisations available was limited, and that the best way forward was to have further discussion with those interested parties, and for each organisation to provide a proposal on delivering play projects. In particular it was important to explore those organisations that had previous experience in delivering specialized play initiatives within the district, and at the same time those had a good reputation for equal opportunities, health and safety and child protection policies, are financially stable and are well managed, as prescribed by the Big Lottery Fund.
- 2.4 Following lengthy discussions it was felt that The Creates Recycling Centre (in partnership between Warwickshire County Council and Trees are Green Ltd managed by Artists in Warwickshire Education) and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers are the preferred partnering organisations that meet both local children play needs, and the requirements of the Big Lottery.
- 2.5 Under the Big Lottery Terms and Conditions Terms it is only capital projects that require a competitive tendering process and not for revenue projects. The capital project is to install fixed play provision, accessible by those with disabilities, at five of the districts main parks. Procurement will be sought through a formal competitive tender as described under Council's Code of Contract Practice.
- 2.6 Bearing in mind the nature of these services, the Council's commitment to providing support for voluntary and community sector organisations and the limited organisations available, officers feel that it would be in the best interest of the Council for the contract rules to be waived for these revenue projects, and appoint the two recognised organisations.

- 2.7 The Council recognises the importance of innovative procurement and partnering arrangements with private, voluntary and co-operative organisations, as happened in the Play Improvement Programme in 2002/2003.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The alternative option is to procure the work by seeking tenders as set out in the Council's Code of Contract Practice.

4. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Budget provision for this service is available within the three following financial years of 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. No match funding is required from Warwick District Council to support the projects.

5. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 'Improving the safety of parks and open spaces' and 'increasing the number and range of sports and leisure activities for young people' are key actions in the Community Plan for Warwick district 2020. Also there is a stated priority in the draft Corporate Strategy 2007-2001 'To ensure culture caters for the whole community' under the objective CS3 'Increase participation and attendance in the Councils cultural offering'