

 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2nd September 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title	Bowls England – Future Partnership with Warwick District Council	
For further information about this report please contact	Chris White Chris.white@warwickdc.gov.uk Rose Winship Rose.winship@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Cultural Services	
Wards of the District directly affected	Leamington wards	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Executive – 4 th June 2008 Minute no. 141	
Background Papers	Reports to Staging of Major Events working group – Jan and March 2008	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director		Mary Hawkins
Chief Executive		Chris Elliot
CMT	n/a	
Section 151 Officer		Mary Hawkins
Legal		Simon Best
Finance		Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		Chris White
Consultation Undertaken		
Bowls England		
Final Decision?		No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report outlines progress made in recent months in building further relationships with Bowls England to secure their partnership with Warwick District Council up to and beyond 2012. An agreement was signed in 2007 by Warwick District Council and the newly formed Bowls England (to replace English Womens Bowls Association and the English Bowls Association) which committed to retaining the womens national events and associated major bowls events (womens) at Victoria Park bowling greens. A similar agreement was made to retain the equivalent mens events in Worthing and retain the headquarters of Bowls England in Worthing until at least 2012.
- 1.2 Officers and elected members have subsequently been working with Bowls England to build on the excellent working relationships previously enjoyed between Warwick District Council and the English Womens Bowls Association, in order to maximise the potential for continued partnership beyond 2012.
- 1.3 Much of the work to date has involved informal discussions between elected members (Cllrs Michael Doody, Chris White and Les Caborn), Tony Allcock, Chief Executive, and Ruth Howes Vice Chairman of Bowls England and WDC officers (Rose Winship and Pete Rourke). These discussions have covered the issues of building relationships with the new individuals involved from Warwick District Council and Bowls England, both of whom have seen significant changes in the last 12 months playing conditions of the greens, future headquarters accommodation and the major events calendar for the coming years.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members note the progress to date and the plans for continued joint working with Bowls England.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To support the continued joint working with Bowls England to secure the partnership with Warwick District Council up to and beyond 2012.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 It is considered that if the partnership with Bowls England is to continue beyond 2012, and the district is to enjoy the continued benefits which result from this relationship, then resources in terms of officer time and funding need to be identified in the intervening years and beyond. Chris – you may wish to put a

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 At this stage it is anticipated that the majority of the work envisaged for the next 4 years can be accommodated within existing Cultural Services budgets. However, should significant projects arise during this period, individual reports will be brought to members outlining the options for funding such work.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The ongoing partnership with Bowls England will support many priorities contained in the Corporate Strategy including increased involvement by older people, ensuring culture caters for the whole community and support the development of thriving town centres. It also supports the Sustainable Community Strategy which has a stated aim of making Warwick District, a great place to live work and visit; where there is a thriving tourist economy making it one of the top visitor destinations; where there are opportunities for everyone to participate in sport, the arts and cultural activities; where everyone is able to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and sense of well being.