

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning, Partnerships & Policy (Introduced by the Executive Member (Planning and Partnerships))	Executive Cabinet	2 September 2010

PLAY & RECREATION FUND

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider funding applications to the Play & Recreation Fund.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the recommendations in Appendix A to this report be approved, subject to the Director of Partnerships, Planning & Policy agreeing and signing off a Play & Recreation Fund Agreement with each organisation awarded a Play & Recreation Fund Grant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- On 13 December 2009, members approved the establishment of a Play & Recreation Fund and invited bids from Parish & Town Councils, Community Groups and the Council itself. The Play & Recreation Fund is sourced from section 106 contributions for borough-wide provision.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To provide improvements in the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- Not to award any funding grants – to do so would not ensure that section 106 monies were appropriately spent.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	/	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	/
Involving people in their communities	/	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	/

BACKGROUND

- Members will recall that the Play & Recreation Fund was established to ensure the allocation of section 106 monies that have arisen from off site contributions towards borough wide open space provision, and that applications to the fund were invited from Parish & Town Councils, Community Groups and the Council itself.



ASSESSMENT

8. At end of July 2010, the total amount available for the fund was £324,159 at end of July 2010. Appendix A details the bids and the recommendations for funding. The nature of bids submitted was as follows:
- A total of 20 applications were received requesting a total of £407, 746.35.
 - 10 bids from Parish/Town Councils
 - 3 from sports clubs (football and rugby league)
 - 1 from a Playing Field Trust
 - 1 from a community enterprise
 - 1 from an "In Bloom" group
 - 4 from Chorley Council
9. The 20 bids have been carefully considered to assess whether they are appropriate in terms of the legislative context for section 106 contributions and in particular that they meet an identified need and deliver appropriate improvements in the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space. A Central Lancashire Open Space Study was commissioned earlier this year, and the draft findings of that study have been received and this has been informed the assessment of bids. There are areas of the borough deficient in open space for which no bids have been received.
10. Some of the bids seek 100% of the project value, while others seek considerably less, as low as 10%. Some bids demonstrate match funding from other bodies or their own funds, including funds raised from events and donations. The level of consultation varies from little or no consultation to a comprehensive standard. With these factors in mind, a fundamental approach was not to recommend approval to bids which do not address an identified need. It was also considered appropriate to apply a threshold, where bids of less than £10,000 in value were 100% approved, but otherwise to a maximum 75% of project value.
11. If these recommendations are approved, 16 applicants would receive funding, to a total of £316,313.76. Members will not that this would leave approximately £7k remaining in the fund which can be used to meet any future bids. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Play & Recreation Fund Agreement, with appropriate terms and conditions.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

12. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	/	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION

13. The recommended awards will ensure the expenditure of presently uncommitted section 106 funds, and suitable controls will be applied in terms of funding conditions and submission of claims.

LESLEY-ANN FENTON
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING & POLICY

Jennifer Moore Head of Planning	5571		T:P&RFUND/CAB
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