

| Report of   | Meeting           | Date                        |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Director of Finance<br>(Introduced by the Executive Leader) | Executive Cabinet | 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2006 |

## **BIG LOTTERY FUND – CHILDREN’S PLAY INITIATIVE**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek endorsement from members for Chorley Borough Council to develop and submit a bid to the Big Lottery Fund’s ‘Children’s Play Initiative’ in collaboration with the Chorley Play Partnership

### **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

2. Priority - People,  
Outcome - Improved life chances for young people (2.2)  
Target - To develop a basket of measures around the ‘Every child Matters’ outcomes of ‘be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, positive contribution and economic well being’.
- 2.1 Priority - Place  
Outcome - Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live (5.1)  
Target - % increase in people satisfied with the Borough as a place to live.

### **RISK ISSUES**

3. The report contains no risk issues for consideration by Members.

### **BACKGROUND**

4. In November 2005 the Big Lottery Fund announced details of its new £155 million “Children’s Play Initiative”.

The Fund has been created in response to the findings of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport report “Getting Serious About Play”.

The programme aims to:

- create, improve and develop play spaces for the under 16’s;
- develop local infrastructures to develop play opportunities and raise the importance, value and status of play.

#### 4.1 Examples of work that is likely to be supported:

- adventure playgrounds;
- BMX and skate parks;
- holiday and after school play activities.
- small public playgrounds;
- informal sports facilities;
- a play bus;
- a mobile play team;
- play workers;
- training, support and development for staff and volunteers;
- increasing access to play, eg travel, opening times and physical access.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHORLEY**

5. Chorley Borough Council has been invited by the Big Lottery Fund to submit a bid up to the value of £208,007. This figure has been calculated using Chorley's child population weighted by the local level of poverty. Our project may last up to three years, and requires no match funding, although the Big Lottery Fund will expect to see appropriate existing budgets working in harmony with BLF funding.

### **BIDDING FORMAT AND ROLE OF COUNCIL**

6. The Big Lottery Fund have requested that the bid is developed in partnership with local play providers, and reflect the needs highlighted in a local play strategy.
  - 6.1 The Big Lottery Fund requires the local authority to be the project applicant and, should the bid be approved, be the financially accountable body.
  - 6.2 The bid must contain a portfolio of projects which meet the needs highlighted in a local play strategy. If the bid is successful, some of the project work is likely to be delivered by Chorley Borough Council, whilst other elements will be best delivered under contract by voluntary and community groups.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

7. A small group of officers (Community Development, External Funding, Open Spaces, Sports Development), has been working in close consultation with the play partnership to explore how to approach bid development.
  - 7.1 The Play Partnership, supported by Liz Morey (Community Development worker) is now in the early stages of developing a play strategy for the Chorley area which reflects their grass roots knowledge and expertise. The strategy is due to be completed in August 2006, and will be an ideal document to inform the content of the bid.
  - 7.2 The officers who have been working on this to date, feel that once local needs and priority areas have been identified, that work should begin on developing the bid's portfolio of projects during autumn 2006. Project risk assessments will be undertaken and political approval sought in winter 2006/07. Final bid submission is recommended to take place in March 2007.

## COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

8. There are no apparent human resources implications in the development of a local play strategy.

## RECOMMENDATION(S)

9. The Executive Cabinet is asked to :
- support the Play Partnership in developing a local play strategy
  - endorse collaborative working with the play partnership to develop a bid for 'Children's Play Initiative' funding

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

10. The Play Partnership is an ideally placed for developing a local play strategy. The partnership is made up of a variety of voluntary and a statutory organisation, each making a direct contribution to play provision within the Borough. It's mission statement is "Working in partnership to promote and increase quality play opportunities for children and young people across the Borough of Chorley."

Chorley's application for £208,000 will only be successful if it can demonstrate partnership working. A successful bid will considerably increase Chorley's capacity to invest in play provision for the period 2007- 2010.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

11. None

GARY HALL  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

| Report Author | Ext  | Date                        | Doc ID          |
|---------------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Sara Cooper   | 5337 | 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2006 | ADMINREP/REPORT |