

**Bolsover District Council**

**Executive**

**14 July 2014**

**Request for Leisure Facilities Proposal Consultation Costs to be met from Efficiency Grant**

**Report of the Joint Assistant Director – Leisure (Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Syrett)**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To inform Executive of the outcome of the tender process for the Consultation regarding proposals for Creswell Leisure Centre and Clowne Leisure Centre and approve the funds.

**1 Background**

- 1.1 Members will be aware of the recent report to Executive which detailed that a draft 'Facilities Strategy' had been produced by Leisure Services which, amongst other findings, highlights that Creswell Leisure Centre, which was built 90 years ago, needs significant investment (in excess of £300,000 over the next five years) just to maintain its current operations.
- 1.2 The report explained that operating at 95% capacity and with no room for expansion, there is limited opportunity to increase the client base and the income at Creswell Leisure centre, meaning the facility would remain a financial burden on the council and ultimately the tax payer.
- 1.3 Within the report to Executive, priority areas for consideration included a possible alternative facilities option for an enhanced sports facility (with activities such as a swimming pool, smaller teaching pool, enhanced fitness suite, food and beverage offer and children's soft play zone) at Clowne Sports Centre, which is a relatively new facility, has land to expand its range of activities and has some of the infrastructure required already in place.
- 1.4 Executive and later Scrutiny Members approved the proposal to consult with the communities of Clowne, Creswell and wider district when we would ask local people for their views on the proposal to cease our current operation at Creswell Leisure Centre and provide an enhanced sports provision 3 miles away at Clowne Sports Centre.
- 1.5 A consultation questionnaire has been prepared and it is proposed that this will be posted to every household in the District for residents to complete. It is envisaged that the questionnaire will be available to complete in July/August 2014, after which the results will be analysed and then fed back to the relevant council committee for a decision to be made.

- 1.6 BDC does not have sufficient capacity to carry out such a comprehensive consultation (37,000 questionnaires), therefore this work has been put out to tender which resulted in six companies responding. Following a comprehensive evaluation process the preferred bidder has been chosen with a cost for the consultation identified as £16,609 - based on 22% (8,140 returns) response rate, adjustments may be made up and down if the response rate varies significantly. The cost variance is plus/minus £767 per 1,000 returns. We have the option to reduce this cost by £2,104 to £14,505 if the survey was reduced to 4 pages.

## **2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 Consultation with every household within the district is comprehensive and will produce the most valid response to the proposals from the community at large.
- 2.2 Undertaking this work externally is the only feasible option open to BDC due to internal capacity constraints. By putting this work out to the market under a competitive tender process has ensured that the company and tender that best meets our needs has been identified.
- 2.3 The proposal as detailed above and the wider draft built facilities strategy are a product of the councils Transformation programme, use of the councils Transition Grant to fund this piece of consultation work is therefore appropriate and necessary.

## **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 An equality Impact Assessment was carried out initially at the outset of this proposal which accompanied the original report to Executive. This EIA is a dynamic document which will follow the process along to completion flexing and changing as deemed appropriate along the way.
- 3.2 The decision to consult with every household increases the inclusivity of the process.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 To consult with the communities directly affected only i.e. Clowne and Creswell, with consultation with the wider district being carried out via sign posting to request a survey form or download a form from the website etc.
- 4.2 The proposal involves facilities which are whole district facilities, it is felt that this approach would not give everyone an equal opportunity to respond.

## **5 Implications**

### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

As detailed previously, BDC does not have sufficient resource capacity to carry out a comprehensive consultation. Following an open market tender and comprehensive evaluation process the preferred bidder has been chosen with a cost for the consultation identified as **£16,609** - based on 22% response rate, adjustments may be made up and down if the response rate varies significantly. We have the option to reduce this cost by £2,104 to **£14,505** if the survey was reduced to 4 pages.

## 5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

None

## 5.3 Human Resources Implications

None

## 6 Recommendations

6.1 That Executive approve the award of contract and expenditure of **£16,609** - based on 22% response rate, accepting that adjustments may be made up and down if the response rate varies significantly as outlined in Section 1.6 of this report.

6.2 That Executive approve the option to reduce this cost by £2,104 to **£14,505** if this proves possible to achieve.

6.3 That Executive approve the use of Efficiency Grant to fund the consultation.

## 7 Decision Information

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	SOD, SI,

## 8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
N/A	
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
<b>Leisure Facilities Consultation Tender Evaluation Report</b>	
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