

# Bingley Town Council

## Play in the Park Scheme 2018 - Suspension of Financial Regulations and Assessment of Risk

Bradford Council have suspended their Play in Park Scheme for Summer 2018 due to cutbacks. This was a bespoke scheme run by Bradford Council as a free event over the school summer holidays for children of a primary school age. The events took place in Bradford Council parks and recreation grounds and were staffed by experienced Bradford Council staff, used to working with children of this age group. The events had been running for numerous years, the format was well-established and the events were very well-received by parents.

Bradford Council have since offered to run 4 events for Bingley Town Council, under the same successful format as before, with their own staff and using their own insurance. They have agreed to liaise with the Parks Services at Bradford Council, complete the relevant risk assessments and provide Impact Equality Assessments. Essentially, the event would be organised and run by Bradford Council, as before, with Bingley Town Council paying for it.

Bradford Council are not aware of any similar events run by third parties in the district. It is therefore unlikely that an identical service could be provided by a private company, unless a bespoke arrangement was put in place. To do this would require a substantial amount of time in finding alternative suppliers, scoping out the activities required for the events and agreeing 4 suitable dates in the summer holidays.

Given that the events run under a well-established format, that has proven to be successful over a sustained period of time, **it is proposed that Financial Regulations be suspended to allow Bradford Council's quotation to be accepted without comparative quotes.**

The NALC Model Financial Regulations make provision for suspension of regulations at clause 18:

*'The council may, by resolution of the council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to all members of council'*

### Risks

1. There is a risk that a more cost-effective solution might be available from another supplier, although the risk of this is thought to be low. We understand Bradford Council have priced the event to cover their costs, rather than to make a profit from it.
2. If an alternative supplier could be sought at a cheaper cost, it is believed that the time and effort involved in organising the events would far outweigh any cost saving made.