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**ROLLING PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT BUDGET PROGRAMME – SKATEBOARDING (Min 329/01)**

**1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek the Sub-Committee's views as to whether budgetary provision should be identified within the capital programme to fund the provision of further skateboarding facilities in the District.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 At Community Services Committee in October 2001, Members considered a report which examined the issue of skateboarding across the District. At that meeting, the Committee resolved that the issue of budget provision for such facilities should be referred to this Sub-Committee in the first instance as part of the overall budget making process. A copy of the report to Community Services Committee is attached as Appendix 1, whilst a copy of the Minute is attached as Appendix 2.

**3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Since the report was considered by Committee, grant provision of £7,117 has been agreed by this Council under the Parish Partnership Initiative to help fund a skateboard facility at Ashingdon Playing Fields , to be provided by Ashingdon Parish Council. Grant provision of £5,000 has also been secured by Rayleigh Town Council under the 'Awards for All' lottery scheme to help fund a skateboard facility in King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh. Furthermore, a new skateboard facility has now been agreed for Canewdon. Both the Canewdon and Rayleigh schemes are subject to planning permission being granted. The Ashingdon scheme is still at an early stage.
- 3.2 In the light of the above, Members should consider whether there would be any benefit in allocating funding specifically to provide further skateboarding facilities particularly in the east of the District, as suggested in the report to Community Services.
- 3.3 The report to Community Services suggested that a means of doing this would be to split the current rolling play area improvement programme 50:50, with £25K being allocated to play area upgrade and £25K to skateboard provision. This programme, which has been in existence since 1997/98, has secured new provision/refurbishment of 10 of the Council's 26 play areas to date. The 26 also includes 2 new facilities at Glebe/Morrins and so at present 14 play areas remain to be improved. Clearly, if there was a reduction in the Council's expenditure on play area provision/refurbishment as such, then this would slow down the existing programme, which has seen between 2 and 3

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facilities upgraded per year. That said, the programme has already been used to fund skateboarding provision, e.g. Canewdon and Members might consider it worthwhile to specifically target funding to provide at least one further facility in 2002/2003.

**4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. The draft capital programme includes an annual provision of £50,000 per year for playspace improvements.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

Whether specific funding provision should be made within the rolling programme for play area improvement to provide additional skateboarding facilities within the District.

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