1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider a request from Community Services Committee to amend the five year capital programme.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 This Committee has recently considered and approved the Council’s five year capital expenditure plan for 2010/15. You will recall the cost of bids put forward far exceeded the available resources. Therefore around £1.8m worth of schemes was deleted from the draft programme and in addition some scaling back of bids took place.

2.2 This applied to some of the schemes submitted by Community Services. One such scheme is Children’s Play Areas which was reduced from a bid of £55k per annum over the five years to £20k for each of the three years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 and £50k for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

2.3 This scheme has been recognised as a rolling programme of £50k per annum for a number of years in the capital programme. In 2008 the budget was increased from £34,500 to £50,000 per annum to include maintenance of play equipment.

3 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 9 MARCH 2010

3.1 In November 2007 members endorsed the production of a play strategy for the Borough. Within this three projects were put forward under the Big Lottery’s Play Initiative, one of which was the Longridge Adventure Play Facility scheme.

3.2 The total cost of this scheme is estimated at £93,500 of which Big Lottery funding is £78,500. The intention was for £15,000 to be allocated from within the Children’s Play Areas budget as match funding to complete the scheme.

3.3 It is anticipated that from the revised allocation for Children’s Play Areas of £20,000, £15,000 is needed to continue to maintain the current standard of existing play areas leaving the remainder (£5,000) for improvements/replacements.

3.4 The reduction in the available resource for improvements is insufficient to complete the Longridge scheme, which could jeopardise funding from Big Lottery for delaying the scheme until 2013/14 when capital funds become available, is outside the external funding timescale.

3.5 The request is therefore to bring forward from 2013/14, £10,000 of the available programme for that year to 2010/11.
4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Other than to transfer budgets between years there will be no impact on the overall cost of the five year capital expenditure plan.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Consider the request from Community Committee for a transfer of capital resources from 2013/14 to 2010/11 of £10,000.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

PF21-10/NS/AC
16 MARCH 2010