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REPORT TO:	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:	7
DATE OF MEETING:	5 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2001	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS MASON ext. 5794	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	CAPITAL PROGRAMME – PLAY EQUIPMENT	REF: s/playequipment	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	NEWHALL, HILTON AND LINTON	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	

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### 1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Members approve the programme of capital spending on new play equipment and safe surfacing as outlined in this report.

### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To agree a programme for the spending of this year's capital allocation on new play equipment and safety surfacing.

### 3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 £30,000 has been allocated in this year's capital programme for new play equipment and safety surfacing. It is proposed to spend the bulk of this capital on play area upgrading projects at Newhall Park, Hilton and Castle Gresley.

### 4.0 Detail

- 4.1 At the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2000, Members approved projects to dismantle the play equipment at Granville / Frederick Street Recreation Ground, Swadlincote (catchment area to be catered for by new adventure play area at Swadlincote Woodland Forest Park) and to provide new play equipment at Main Street Recreation Ground, Hilton. Part of the work at Hilton was recognised in a consultant's report into the condition of our play sites. The remainder of the work is to provide new play equipment to expand the play value of the site. The Parish Council are contributing £3000 towards this project.
- 4.2 Members will recall that the renovation of all of our urban parks was a key objective of the Leisure Services Committee. To achieve these objectives, officers have been working closely with 'Friends of Groups' in Newhall and Eureka Parks. The longer established group at Newhall Park, is very advanced in developing a major capital project for the renovation of the park and towards this end have submitted an application for project funding to WREN.

- 4.3 The group has recognised as a main priority, the provision of new play equipment. The remainder of this exciting project comprises the provision of a 'quiet area', new murals around the play area and pavilion and additional landscaping and link footpaths. The total value of this two-year project is £80,000. The main challenge facing the group and officers is to access the necessary funding for this project. In addition to the WREN application submitted by the group, an application for EMDA funding has also been made.
- 4.4 To try to achieve the objective of providing a new play area in this financial year, it is proposed, with Members approval, to support the project with £15,000 from this year's capital allocation for new play equipment and safety surfacing. At this stage progressing the project is dependent on accessing other sources of funding.
- 4.5 The Castle Gresley Community Group is enthusiastic about improving play facilities at the Arthur Street Recreation Ground, Castle Gresley. They have offered to pay up to a maximum of £2000 as a contribution towards the erection of a new set of 1 bay, 2 seat swings and a 1 seat cradle swing (both with safety surfacing). These would replace the existing 2 bay, 6 seat swings, which have been badly vandalised and have not yet been safety surfaced. Members, may also recall, that two embankment slides were also removed from this site, because they were identified as 'priority 1' (removed as a matter of urgency) in our consultant's report.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 In terms of the play equipment provision, there are no immediate revenue implications if Members approve the funding allocations.
- 5.2 Annexe A provides a breakdown of commitments made, including the items outlined in this report. With the contributions from other partners approximately £5000 is left unallocated. The allocation of this money will be the subject of a future report to Members

## **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 Parks and open space provision has been recognised by the community as the most important service the Council provides. Supporting this project will provide an excellent 'boost' to the 'Friends of Newhall Park' and to the Castle Gresley Community Group and indicate the Council's continuing support for the work these group are undertaking.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 It is proposed that a contribution of £15,000 be made to a 2-year project to upgrade Newhall Park. The major part of this project would be the provision of new play equipment. It is intended to fund this contribution from this year's capital allocation for the provision of new play equipment and safety surfacing. The report also outlines projects at Hilton and Castle Gresley where requests have been received for the upgrading of play sites from groups who are also prepared to make financial contributions towards the projects.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Letter from Castle Gresley Community Group dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2001 (File 04 Services) Correspondence with Hilton PC (File 14 Services)