PETITION – SOUTHGATE PADDLING POOL

1. Summary

1.1 The Executive at its meeting on 12 October 2005 resolved that the development of the Crawley Skatepark on the former paddling pool site in Southgate Playing Fields be approved.

1.2 On 31 October 2005 John Thraves, Director of Community Services officially received a petition containing 1,250 signatures from Ms Tersha Hands, concerning an attempt to stop the removal of the paddling pool at Southgate Playing Fields.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Under the Executive Procedure Rules contained within the Council’s Constitution this petition is laid before the Executive for consideration.

John Thraves
Director of Community Services
3. **Background**

3.1 Southgate Playing Fields was identified as the most suitable location for the replacement Crawley Skate Park, following the closure of Crawley Leisure Centre. Consultation with local residents, sports clubs and businesses, as well as the Skate Park users themselves, was undertaken in advance of the Executive considering the detailed report.

4. **Loss of Paddling Pool**

4.1 One issue which a number of residents raised through the consultation was a concern about the loss of the paddling pool in Southgate Playing Fields. The paddling pool has been closed throughout 2005 following a series of vandalism incidents and resultant concerns about the health and safety of this provision. Although, not directly related to this scheme, a number of respondents requested that the Council consider a more modern, centrally located paddling pool, to replace the Southgate provision and other paddling pools which have also closed following vandalism.

4.2 A capital bid of £100,000 for a new water play area has been made to the Service Priority Working Group as part of the capital programme development for the year 2008/09. The Working Group’s recommendation as regards all capital bids is reported elsewhere on this agenda. If the bid is successful, further work would be required to identify a suitable site and to work-up detailed costings.

5. **Ward Members' Views**

5.1 Ward Members were consulted on the original proposals and raised no objections to the Skate Park at Southgate Playing Fields on the paddling pool location.

6. **Links to the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan**

The proposals contained in this report relate to the following key areas of the Community Strategy:

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The following key principles are applicable:

(i) Working together
(ii) Dignity, respect and opportunities for all
(iii) Leaving no-one behind
(iv) Making it last

This report achieves the following aims as set out in the Corporate Plan:

Providing high quality services  Giving exemplary customer service and satisfaction
Being financially efficient and well managed and developing motivated, positive and empowered staff.

7. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

7.1 The Constitution states that petitions should be considered by the Executive.

8. **Background Papers**

   (i) Proposed Skate Park Development at Southgate Park – User and Stakeholder Consultation – August 2005

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