

**BRIEFING NOTE TO ACCOMPANY THE FOLLOWING MOTION FOR COUNCIL
- 03 MARCH 2010**

'This Council considers that the decision to give 12 months notice to the County Council to terminate the contract to manage the three Community Pools in Heysham, Carnforth and Hornby, is tantamount to the closure of the aforementioned Community Pools.

This Council, therefore, resolves that the earmarked savings for the financial years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 be rescinded and the funding for the three Community Pools restored.'

Submitted by Councillors Robinson, Sowden and Woodruff

Cabinet, at its meeting on the 16 February 2010, resolved, amongst other things that:

Cabinet notes the desire of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that 'a suitable agreement is obtained from Lancashire County Council to take over community swimming.' Cabinet believes that its original decision is the best way to achieve this aim and notes the progress already made in discussions with the County Council. Therefore, in order to achieve its objective of the maintenance of the community swimming pool service within the district, Cabinet reaffirms its original decision; and that the City Council issues the necessary 12 months notice to terminate the partnership agreement with the County Council, from 1 April 2010.

Cabinet gave the following as its reason for making the decision:

The decision allows the City Council to negotiate with the County Council in an effort to reduce the City Council contribution to swimming, particularly in terms of school swimming.

Section 151 Officer Comments

As set out above, the decision to terminate the existing agreement regarding Community Pools was reaffirmed by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 February.

In line with that decision the base revenue budgets have been reduced accordingly, for years 2011/12 and 2012/13. This is in line with how the budget should be prepared, as set out within the Medium Term Financial Strategy document and as referred to within the Council's Financial Regulations.

The above motion seeks to reinstate the budgets at previous levels. Whilst this could be done, it is important to recognise that this would not reverse the decision already taken by Cabinet. In effect, unless there was a change arising from further Cabinet consideration of the matter, then savings would accrue anyway in the years affected. As such, it would not represent good practice in terms of financial planning.

Monitoring Officer Comments

The Monitoring officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**Mark Cullinan
Chief Executive
24 February 2010**