

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

"That Council endorses its policy of participating in the Community Swimming Pools Partnership Agreement with the County Council and resolves to discuss further with the County Council the options offered by the County Council to enable the City Council to make savings conditional upon keeping open the the Community Swimming Pools for Community use."

Submitted by Councillors Mace, Thomas and Bray

Community Pools

The position of Lancaster City Council in respect of community pools is as set out in the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 16 February 2010, which resolved, amongst other things:

- (1) *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*
- (2) *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.

The officer preferred option remains unchanged from that stated in the original report to Cabinet of the 19 January 2010 and which was reaffirmed in the referral report to Cabinet of the 16 February, in that:

The City Council's position is that, providing school swimming facilities are not a statutory requirement nor are they within discretionary priorities, the report identifies that, with regards community swimming, there are alternatives available. In light of this, officers recommend that the partnership with Lancashire County Council is terminated and the pools are handed back to the County Council,

Partnership Working with the County Council

Also at the 16 February meeting, Cabinet considered progress on partnership working between the City Council and County Council and resolved, amongst other things:

That officers continue developing partnership opportunities for achieving service improvements and efficiencies as set out in section 3 of the report with a view to reporting back to a future meeting of Cabinet as appropriate.

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

Much work has been undertaken in identifying and developing opportunities that would see the Lancaster District benefit from shared services/joint working with partner organisations. Proceeding with the programme of opportunities so far identified is likely to offer realistic choices for the Cabinet to achieve further improvements and efficiencies to help the council meet the challenges and financial targets that it will face in the immediate future and beyond.

Officers of the City Council and County Council continue to meet to take forward partnership work on the following issues, including community pools:

- Facilities management
- Shared accommodation
- ICT and customer services
- Payroll
- Streetscene/highways/grounds maintenance : covered by the County
- Land drainage
- Children and young people
- Museums
- Community pools
- Economic development and regeneration/Science Park

Section 151 Officer Comments

The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

Monitoring Officer Comments

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

Mark Cullinan
Chief Executive
24 February 2010