

## APPENDIX A

### QUESTION FROM MR IAN DENT TO COUNCILLOR JUNE ASHWORTH

In her recommendations, contained in the report to Cabinet, Councillor June Ashworth states that "community swimming" should be re-directed "to the pools identified in 3.3 of this report".

That list comprises 17 pools. Of the 17, 14 are private pools without access to individual members of the public or membership pools which involve subscriptions beyond the means of many people.

Many of the 14 exclude children and young people or restrict their access. Public access family swimming is only available at Salt Ayre and Lancaster University and for limited hours at Capernwray Hall and Holgate Caravan Park where restrictive criteria apply.

One pool on the list is not even a swimming pool, that being the private Hydrotherapy Pool at Bleasedale House School.

Is there any purpose in including in a review of "pools provision" within the area, pools where there is absolutely no possibility of "redirecting community swimming" other than to give the impression that provision is considerably more available than is the actual case and thus potentially mislead the decision making body ?

Councillor Ashworth replied: 'The Cabinet report of the 19 January 2010 contained "a review of pools provision within the District". The summary review was based on an independent and objective report on all swimming pools in the Lancaster District - produced by Sport England and supplemented by the City Council's Swimming Development Officer's knowledge of other pools within the District. Officers from Cultural Services contacted each of the swimming pools to ascertain their respective updated positions on programming in terms of community access, club access, and swimming lessons.

'We have a duty to ratepayers and citizens of this District and to give a balanced view on provision of services within the District and this was reflected in the report to cabinet on the 19 January 2010.'

By way of a supplementary question, Mr. Dent asked: 'Should there ever be a situation where the cabinet member with specific responsibility for child and young people advocates a scheme where the educational swimming lessons and facilities for leisure swimming for hundreds of infant, primary and secondary school children and young people are put in jeopardy as a direct result of that said scheme?

It is a basic requirement that our children and young people are taught to swim competently. It is extremely desirable that facilities for these age groups are reasonably accessible and thus there is not recourse to ponds, rivers, canals and the sea in unsuitable and unsupervised locations which can lead to tragic outcomes.'

Councillor Ashworth replied that Lancaster City Council was not closing the Community Pools and reminded him that Lancashire County Council has a Cabinet Member for Children and Young people who also has responsibility for schools and youth services.

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