

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO,
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO
AND
REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND
HOUSING PORTFOLIO
DECISION RECORD**

2nd March 2007

Present:

Councillor Pam Hargreaves (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)
Peter Jackson (Performance Management Portfolio Holder)
The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Regeneration, Liveability and
Housing Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Paul Briggs, Assistant Director – Children's Services
Colin Bolton, Building Consultancy Manager
Albert Williams, Maintenance and Buildings Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

3. Brinkburn Swimming Pool - (Director of Children's Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report the views of the Amateur Swimming Association on the viability of installing a moveable floor in Brinkburn Pool, to report the outcomes of consultation with Hartlepool Borough Council swimming teachers and to seek the views of Portfolio Holders on whether to proceed with the installation of a moveable floor in Brinkburn Pool.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holders

The report included extracts from e-mail correspondence from senior officers of the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and the views of four of the Council's swimming teachers who responded to the consultation invitation. The general consensus appeared to be that the installation of a moveable floor at Brinkburn would, at best, be of limited value and at worst could actually hinder swimming instruction. There was also a strong underlying view that such an investment would not represent best use of

financial resources.

Members were reminded that £90,000 was initially set aside for this scheme in the 2006/07 budget. Since then the estimated cost to carry out the work had been revised to £145,000 (September 2006). If Members wished to pursue this scheme a further £55,000 would need to be identified from the 2007/08 budget.

Members felt that installing a moveable floor in Brinkburn Swimming Pool was an unnecessary expense which would be of limited value. They requested that the money set aside be ring fenced for the general upkeep of other swimming pools in Hartlepool. Concerns were also raised as to the current maintenance programmes carried out. Various Council departments had responsibility in a number of areas and this had previously led to inspections being conducted at different times when they could have been done together. The Assistant Director advised that, following a review of responsibilities for swimming pools within the Children's Services Department, responsibility now rests within the Resources and Support Services division. Officers of the division had agreed with officers of other departments that Health and Safety and Condition inspections of swimming pools should take place at the same time, and that subsequent reports required planning actions to be identified. However it was acknowledged that school governors and headteachers had actual responsibility to carry out any tasks deemed necessary so there were still some loose ends.

Decision

1. That a moveable floor in Brinkburn Swimming Pool not be installed
2. That the £90,000 set aside for this scheme in the 2006/07 budget be ring-fenced for use in the general upkeep of swimming facilities in the town, in addition to the money already in the budget for swimming pool maintenance.
3. That a report outlining the current "joined-up" approach to maintenance procedures in the town swimming facilities be taken to a future meeting of the Children's Services Portfolio.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 7th March 2007