

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

### REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY A CABINET MEMBER

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**Delegated Authority Reference No.** CS – SSC&LCS 5 10/11

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**Name of the Matter**

Cessation of Free Swimming Initiative for over 60's and under 16's

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**Cabinet Member Exercising Delegated Authority**

Councillor Peter Brookshaw, Cabinet Member for Community Services (Safer and Stronger Communities and Leisure, Culture and Sport)

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**Decision**

That the Council withdraw from the over 60's and 16s and under free swimming initiatives from 31 July 2010, to avoid incurring further revenue costs under this initiative which will not be covered by a grant.

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**Reasons for Decision**

The delegated decision on 10 December 2009 by the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Sport was for the Council to enter the 16s and under free swimming programme which therefore also enabled it to submit a Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Grant application for £0.750m. Council officers received notification from Sport England staff on the 17 June that the Free Swimming programme had been withdrawn by the Government. Subsequently, on 9 July the Government also withdrew the Capital Grant.

To enable the appropriate steps to be taken to affect the cessation of this initiative in a timely manner it is requested that this be actioned as an urgent decision.

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**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected (if not applicable, please provide explanation)**

Continuation of free swimming to 16s and under and over 60s  
Continuation of free swimming to 16s and under  
Continuation of free swimming to over 60s only

All of these options would require a revenue subsidy from Plymouth City Council, above allocated budgets, that would not be recouped through the Free Swimming Initiative and, as such, would go against the direction of Government.

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**Financial Implications**

The original 2010/11 allocation of Government revenue grant support to free swimming for over 60's and 16s and under was £0.187m. The Leisure budgets for 2010/11 were also increased by £0.2m to reflect the estimated net cost of reduced income and payments to other public swimming providers over and above the grant. Following the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport's announcement in June that the free swimming programme would cease from 31 July 2010, Plymouth's grant allocation for 2010/11 has been reduced to £0.074m.

If no action was taken following the cessation of the grant from 1 August 2010 this will generate an additional pressure of at least £0.100m for 2010/11 (difference between the original and revised grant allocation)

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**In Consultation with:**

- **Other Cabinet Member (if applicable)** .....
- Carole Burgoyne, Director for Community Services

and

- |                                  | (Officer's initials or N/A) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Democratic Support (mandatory) | DSO201011                   |
| • Finance (mandatory)            | CoSF LD1011 003 CDR         |
| • Legal Services (mandatory)     | TH16/7                      |
| • Human Resources                | N/A                         |
| • Corporate Property             | N/A                         |
| • IT                             | N/A                         |
| • Strategic Procurement          | N/A                         |

(N.B. Sign-off by Democratic Support, Finance and Legal is mandatory. Sign off by HR, CP, IT and SP need only be sought in those cases where there are implications for the particular service. If not appropriate, please enter 'N/A').

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**Is the Decision**

- A key decision (in the Forward Plan)\* Y/~~N~~
- Within the policy and budget framework?\* Y/~~N~~
- In accordance with Equalities Assessment?# Y/~~N~~
- A case of special urgency agreed by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board\*? Y/~~N~~ -

If Yes

Signature of Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

.....  ..... *Vice Chairman P. Chapman D. James 19/7/10*

Reason for Urgency (please indicate how delay for call-in would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest)

To enable the appropriate steps to be taken to affect the cessation of this initiative in a timely manner it is requested that this be actioned as an urgent decision.

If no action was taken following the cessation of the grant from 1 August 2010 this will generate an additional pressure of at least £0.100m for 2010/11 (difference between the original and revised grant allocation)

\* All key decisions must be taken by Cabinet, unless, in exceptional circumstances, they are urgent. See Forward Plan for further guidance.

# For further advice, contact Assistant Director for Safer Communities, ext. 4388.

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**List of Background Papers**

- Letter from Paul Bolt, Department of Culture, Media & Sport dated 6 July 2010

**Cabinet Member –**

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I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, City Strategy and Corporate Plan (Medium Term Financial Plan).

Signature .....  ..... Date ..... 19-7-2010

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