

COUNCIL
22 JULY, 2008

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11
PETITIONS BY THE PUBLIC

1. The following Petition was received, by the due date, from Durham City Amateur Swimming and Water Polo Club.

“We the undersigned view the proposed programme of pool time for use at Freeman’s Quay as being totally inadequate. We believe the proposed programme is contrary to the Council’s own strategic priorities. We are associated with an organisation which is the swimming pool’s largest single customer and we do not consider that the proposed programme meets the Council’s strategic priority of **providing services that meet the needs of our customers**. Further, the Council’s unwillingness to enter into a partnership with DCASC over the new pool is completely contrary to its strategic priority of **working with partners to ensure that people are active and healthy**.”

The Council’s proposals mean that DCASC will effectively have less time available to it than it currently enjoys in the existing facility. We are also disappointed that the City Council are providing inadequate time for DCASC’s very successful learn-to-swim programme, instead preferring to squeeze it out of business and viewing it as competition for its own unproven offering.

We view the Council’s proposed programme as failing to recognise the very severe capacity constraints on water-time which have affected DCASC over the past 3 years. Freeman’s Quay will provide a very big increase in the availability of water-time. We are appalled that the Council has been unwilling to allocate a bigger slice of this increase in capacity to DCASC. The proposed programme has already caused damage to England’s second oldest swimming club and, unless drastically changed, will cause considerably more. We urge the Council to rethink its proposed programme as a matter of urgency”.

Background Papers:

Petition from Durham City Amateur Swimming and Water Polo Club

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. COUNCILLOR P.J. THOMPSON – RESIGNATION

Members are advised that Councillor P.J. Thompson has submitted his resignation as a City Councillor with immediate effect.

Background Papers

- *Letter dated 25th June 2008, received from Peter J. Thompson*

**2. RECORDING OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS -
EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL – 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2008,
8th DECEMBER, 2008 AND 2nd MARCH 2009**

In accordance with Minute No 82, 30th June, 2008, arrangements have been made for Extraordinary Meetings of the Council to be held in order to admit Sir Bobby Robson, Mr Fenwick Lawson and Dr Bill Bryson to be admitted as Honorary Freeman of the City of Durham.

Rule 23 of the Council Procedure Rules provides, inter alia, that the taking of photographs or the recording of any proceedings at meetings of the Council is prohibited without the express consent of the Council having first been obtained.

Recommended: That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 23, the Council consents to the taking of photographs during the ceremonial part of the proceedings of the Extraordinary Meetings of the Council to be held on 22nd September, 2008, 8th December 2008 and 2nd March 2009.

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2008

Background

The Local Government Act 1999 requires all best value authorities to prepare an annual Performance Plan. This statutory requirement provides an opportunity for the Authority to detail its:

- Strategic objectives and priorities for improvement which reflect the corporate/ business planning processes and community strategy.
- Arrangements for addressing the Authority's improvement priorities and the outcomes that are expected to be achieved.
- Performance over the past year on all Best Value Performance Indicators, including targets for future performance

The Corporate Performance Plan 2008 combines both the Best Value Performance Plan and Corporate Plan, and has been produced in accordance with the above requirements.

Copies can be viewed on the Council's website www.durhamcity.gov.uk.

Recommendation

That members agree the content of the Corporate Performance Plan 2008.