

## **GUINEA GAP BATHS, WALLASEY**

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### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to restore the funding of Guinea Gap Baths to the Council base budget when the current funding runs out at 31 March 2011.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 As part of the Strategic Asset Review Cabinet resolved on 13 January 2009 that:  
“A two year provision be set up to allow Guinea Gap to remain open pending a better understanding of the potential scale of any development along the waterfront and the possibility of bringing forward any Government investment in the Housing Market Renewal Initiative which could contribute towards kick starting any major development initiative.”
- 2.2 In considering the Council Budget 2010/11 Cabinet on 22 February 2010 agreed;-  
“In the case of Guinea Gap Baths, Cabinet notes that the original intention was to provide for Guinea Gap baths to remain open while the potential for alternative schemes as part of a longer term waterfront development was explored. The impact of the recession on private sector development now makes this a much more distant possibility. Cabinet therefore, asks the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management to bring a report to Cabinet which will allow the Cabinet to restore the funding of Guinea Gap to the base budget when the current funding runs out.”
- 2.3. The annual running costs for the operation of Guinea Gap Baths, excluding departmental charges are £640,000 and the retention of the Baths requires a comparable increase in the Budget when the current funding expires on 31 March 2011.

### **3. Financial implications**

- 3.1 The Council Budget 2010/11 includes £150,000 to meet the cost of keeping Guinea Gap Baths open until 31 March 2011. In order to retain the Baths beyond that date the sum of £640,000 will be required to the Budget from 2011/12. This was included within the Budget projections 2011-14 report to Cabinet on 18 March 2010.

### **4. Staffing implications**

- 4.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

### **5. Equal Opportunities/Equality Impact implications**

- 5.1 The closure of the facility would have an adverse impact on the provision of swimming facilities for disadvantaged groups.

**6. Community Safety implications**

6.1 None arising directly from this report.

**7. Local Agenda 21 implications**

7.1 None arising directly from this report.

**8. Planning implications**

8.1 None.

**9. Anti-poverty implications**

9.1 None arising directly from this report.

**10. Human Rights implications**

10.1 None arising directly from this report.

**11. Social Inclusion implications**

11.1 The facility provides open access to all groups

**12. Local Member Support implications**

12.1 Guinea Gap Baths is located in Seacombe Ward, but this matter will be of interest to all Members.

**13. Background Papers**

13.1 Item 332 in the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22 February 2010.

**14. RECOMMENDATION**

14.1 That Cabinet requests Council, as part of its Annual Budget setting process, to add the sum of £640,000 to the Revenue Budget for 2011/12 onwards in order to meet the running costs of Guinea Gap Baths.

**Bill Norman**

Director of Law, HR and Asset Management