

**CONSTITUTION - RULE 29 OF THE ACCESS TO
INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES (SPECIAL URGENCY)**

This memorandum is to confirm that I have been consulted by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher) under Rule 29 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution to the following issue:-

Southport Pier

being dealt with by the Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it is impracticable to defer the decision because of the urgency and time sensitivity of this important project and the impact of sustained closure on the local economy and local businesses.

Comments(if appropriate):-

It is noted that Southport Pier has been closed since December 2022 for Health and Safety reasons, and a full structural survey has been undertaken to evaluate the condition of, and required repairs to, this important heritage asset. This detailed process has taken considerable time, and at the time of writing the final survey reports are still awaited, but sufficient feedback has now been received to enable progression of this Cabinet report at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Pier remains closed as Health and Safety remains the top priority for the Council, but its closure is having a significant effect on local businesses and stakeholders. This report is therefore urgent to enable, subject to Cabinet approval, the progression of discussions with key stakeholders and potential funders regarding the potentially significant funding gap to be addressed to enable the required full refurbishment, and subsequent safe reopening, Southport Pier. It is also urgent that, again subject to Cabinet approval, pre-development works are progressed for the whole refurbishment project, again at the earliest possible opportunity, to enable rapid progression of the project itself once the funding gap is addressed. The Pier is a hugely time sensitive matter in every respect, for all affected, hence the urgency of this report and meeting.

I understand that a report on the circumstances of the use of Rule 29 will be submitted by the Leader to the Council in due course.



Signed
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

Date23rd June 2023.....

NB: In the absence of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the agreement of the Mayor will be obtained.