

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Leisure Facilities Cabinet Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting:	12 August 2009
Report of:	Head of Health and Wellbeing
Subject/Title:	Free Swimming – Update for information
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Andrew Knowles (Health and Wellbeing)

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report provides information to members on progress with the free swimming initiative for people 16 years and under and people 60 years and over introduced on the 1st April 2009.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report and Appendix be noted.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Members requested a regular update on this performance.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All Wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Members

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 The free swimming initiative has increased participation and physical activity. This is a time limited initiative and partially funded by central government.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 Cheshire East has received grant aid from the Government to help offset some of the lost revenue from offering free swimming. The grant however did not cover all of the income anticipated to be lost from existing swimming fees paid by the affected categories and therefore additional revenue funding was approved by the Cheshire East Cabinet to meet the anticipated shortfall in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- 8.2 Other incidental costs such as additional lifeguarding, cleaning or pool water treatment involved in accommodating the increased numbers of swimmers anticipated as a result of the free swimming initiative are difficult to quantify but relevant facility managers have been asked to monitor any such expenses for reporting back to members periodically as appropriate in due course.
- 8.3 Government funding for the free swimming initiative is confirmed only for two years and will be then subject to review.
- 8.4 Projects under development using the initial free swimming capital allocation (Total £108,000) are;

Wilmslow Leisure Centre

Limited refurbishment and redecoration of the male and female wet changing and shower areas.

(Estimated free swimming capital allocation - £35,000)

Sandbach Leisure Centre

Upgrade of the male and female wet changing area to include the replacement of the existing staffed cloakroom system with self service lockers.

(Estimated free swimming capital allocation - £35,000)

Nantwich Swimming Pool

Provision of a new DDA compliant pool entrance and reception (topping up funding earmarked within property services for DDA compliance work)

(Estimated free swimming capital allocation - £38,000)

- 8.5 Quotations for each of the items identified in 8.4 are to be sought. Final recommendations will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing in the early autumn.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 Compliance conditions apply.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 Pool risk assessments have been reviewed and adapted as required to take into implications on operational procedures resulting from the free swimming scheme. The main areas adjusted or reviewed have been in respect of lifeguarding, procedures to be followed in the event of a pool reaching maximum bather capacity and small adjustments to pool timetables to ensure programme compatibility.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 Details of free swimming registrations completed for the swimming pools in the Cheshire East area prior to the 1st April and including those completed in the first quarter of operation are attached as Appendix A.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 N/A

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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