

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE:	30 May 2013
DIRECTOR:	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT:	Water Management Core Principles
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/13/034

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek formal endorsement for a set of core policy principles around the management of swimming pool water in Aberdeen.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee

- (a) Agree as Council policy the set of Water Management Principles as set out within section 5.4 of this report.
- (b) Endorse the vision for water management as set out in this report.
- (c) Instruct officers to develop an aquatics strategy for Aberdeen and develop an associated action plan.
- (d) Instruct officers to negotiate with Sport Aberdeen the return of the budget allocated for P4 Swimming to Aberdeen City Council, so that a procurement process can take place to deliver the core principle that “every child in Aberdeen is supported to achieve the Scotland Safe Swimming award by the end of primary school”
- (e) Note ongoing consultation process with swimming clubs in relation to the core principle that “different stages in the swimming development pathway (learn to swim through to performance swimming) are delivered by the appropriate delivery vehicle.”

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is highlighted that within the vision is an aspiration that “the facilities and their associated programmes and activities are part of an economically sustainable water management infrastructure.”

To deliver the core principle around every child being supported to achieve the Scotland Safe Swimming Award by the end of primary

school, it is envisaged that the budget currently allocated to providing a 10 week block of swimming lessons to every P4 child in Aberdeen, be reallocated to providing an appropriate swimming lesson provision to meet the needs of each individual child so that they can swim by the end of Primary School. This budget currently sits with Sport Aberdeen, which is required through the Funding and Services agreement with the Council to provide the P4 swimming.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

The recommendation around P4 swimming budget will require negotiation with Sport Aberdeen and the progression of a Change Order.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Water Management Planning Group

The Water Management Planning Group consists of Council officers and key stakeholders involved in aquatics in Aberdeen. These partners include: Aberdeen Sports Village, Sport Aberdeen, Scottish Swimming, Community Swimming Club Representative, Disability Swimming Representative, North District Swimming Representative, Robert Gordon's University, University of Aberdeen and COAST.

The Water Management Planning Group have established the need for a vision for water management in Aberdeen and the establishment of a set of core principles for water management in Aberdeen.

5.2 Vision for 2023

The following vision is proposed:

Aberdeen's aquatic facilities consist of an appropriate mix of high quality, well maintained facilities in suitable places. The facilities are accessible to all and include a performance centre along with a range of community facilities.

Aberdeen's core aquatics development pathways are a model of best practice in UK/ Europe. Through effective joined up delivery and integrated planning, Aberdeen delivers an appropriate balance of inclusive recreational as well as competitive programmes, allowing all citizens of and visitors to Aberdeen to enjoy water based activities, maintain and improve their fitness levels and quality of life and realise their performance potential.

In Aberdeen, all young people are able to swim by the time that they move onto secondary school. World class athletes stay in and are

attracted to come to Aberdeen to train and compete. Local people regularly enjoy participating in aquatics activities.

The facilities and their associated programmes and activities are part of an economically sustainable water management infrastructure.

5.3 Definition of Aquatics

Aquatics in Aberdeen includes the following:

- Swimming
- Diving
- Synchronised Swimming
- Water Polo
- Sub Aqua
- Lifesaving/ lifeguarding
- Aqua Fit (and associated activities)
- Under Water Hockey

5.4 Core Principles

A set of core principles has been developed which have been grouped into: Participation and Pathways; Facilities and Programming; and Branding and Marketing.

5.4.1 Participation and Pathways

- Every child in Aberdeen is supported to achieve the Scotland Safe Swimming award by the end of primary school through an entitlement to swimming in curriculum time.
- An appropriate aquatics pathway is in place:
 - There are clear and effective links between learn to swim and aquatic sports clubs.
 - The transition between learn to swim and swimming club swimming development takes place at an appropriate level (the appropriate level is currently identified as level 7).
 - Experiences within learn to swim, clubs, courses and activities are of a high quality.
 - Staff, coaches and volunteers have the appropriate level of skills and training, supported by an appropriate educational programme.
 - Different stages in the swimming development pathway (learn to swim through to performance swimming) are delivered by the appropriate delivery vehicle.
 - The aquatics development pathway is fully inclusive where children, young people and adults with disabilities are supported and encouraged to reach their potential.
 - There are clear links between Active Schools and Aquatics development.
 - There are clear links between Active Communities and GP referrals and Aquatics development.
 - The swimming club level of the swimming development pathway is always delivered by swimming clubs.

- Secondary School PE aquatics activities have clear links to the aquatics pathway.
- There is a single performance programme swimming and a single performance programme for diving in Aberdeen.
- Performance programmes for aquatic sports are supported.

5.4.2 Facilities and Programming

- Access to recreational swimming
 - From 7am through to 9pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 5pm at weekends there is access to the public for recreational swimming and swimming for fitness at a community swimming pool in the North of the City and a community swimming pool in the South of the City.
 - There is public access to the Aquatics Centre for swimming during opening hours (apart from during major events.)
 - Across the city there are a range of specific sessions on a weekly basis, at an appropriate time, for the following groups:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethnic Minority Groups ▪ Physical Disability Groups ▪ Groups with learning disabilities ▪ Young mums ▪ GP referrals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents and Children ● Women ● Older people ● Masters ● Pre and Post Natal
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- There is an appropriate amount of high quality water space in Aberdeen, which is appropriately programmed to meet the needs of the population
 - Access to community pools (both freestanding and linked to schools) is arranged through an effective booking process which maximises and effectively balances the use of these facilities by schools and the wider community.
 - Every recognised community aquatics club has a “home” pool.
 - The “home” pool for the city’s swimming and diving performance programmes is the Aquatics Centre.
 - Recognised clubs for swimmers with a disability have a fit for purpose “home” pool.
 - Aquatics clubs are allocated water space linked to set criteria, including the number of swimmers, club accreditation and the performance of the club.

5.4.3 Marketing

- There is a single programme identity for aquatics provision and development in the city.
- There is an effective single portal (one stop shop) for information about aquatics provision and development in the city.

5.5 Next Steps

If approved, the vision and core principles will form the basis of the development of an aquatics strategy for Aberdeen. A detailed action plan will be required to ensure the delivery of the core principles.

- 5.5.1 It has been identified that to deliver the core principle around every child being supported to achieve the Scotland Safe Swimming Award by the end of primary school, it is envisaged that the budget currently allocated to providing a 10 week block of swimming lessons to every P4 child in Aberdeen, be reallocated to providing an appropriate swimming lesson provision to meet the needs of each individual child so that they can swim by the end of Primary School. This budget currently sits with Sport Aberdeen, which is required through the Funding and Services agreement with the Council to provide the P4 swimming.

It is intended that negotiations take place with Sport Aberdeen to remove this requirement from the Funding and Services Agreement, along with the associated budget £129,903. This funding will be used along with any further Top Up Funding that Aberdeen City Council receives from the Scottish Government (in 2012/13 this was £15,000), to commission the delivery of this outcome from relevant providers.

- 5.5.2 Another core principle is that “different stages in the swimming development pathway (learn to swim through to performance swimming) are delivered by the appropriate delivery vehicle.” At the current time the provision of swimming lessons are delivered by a number of providers including Sport Aberdeen, Swimming clubs etc. With the opening of the new Aquatics Centre, the provision of swimming lessons by Aberdeen Sports Village is a key element of the business plan in terms of revenue funding.

It has been established that it is important that the revenue that can be generated through the provision of swimming lessons is retained by the operator of the swimming pool, to subsidise the overall operational costs of the pool.

With this in mind, Sport Aberdeen are currently carrying out extensive consultation with swimming clubs which currently deliver swimming lessons, to find appropriate models for ensuring the consistent high quality provision of swimming lessons in way that ensures the financial sustainability of swimming pool provision. Appropriate models may include the provision of swimming lessons in Sport Aberdeen pools directly by Sport Aberdeen existing staff; through the tupe of swimming club staff who deliver lessons; or through Sport Aberdeen commissioning the provision of swimming lessons by swimming clubs.

It is planned that changes will be implemented on a phased basis, commencing towards the end of 2013.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – This report relates to ‘Aberdeen – the Smarter City’

- We will work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city.
- We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.
- We will provide a high quality education service within our schools and communities which will improve attainment and life chances of our children and young people to achieve their full potential in education, employment or training.
- We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities.
- Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.
- We will aim to have a workforce across the city which has the skills and knowledge to sustain, grow and diversify the cultural economy.
- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality and diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond.
- We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another.

This report also relates to the Combined Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement as follows:

- Protecting children and vulnerable adults
- People of all ages take an active part in their own learning to achieve their full potential Learning and training is appropriate and accessible to learner’s needs
- Children and young people access positive learning environments and develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential
- Children, young people and their families/carers are involved in decisions that affect them. Their voices heard and they play an active and responsible role in their communities
- Educational attainment in Aberdeen is continuously sustained and improved
- School leavers enter positive destination of employment, training or further and higher education with a focus on and support for young people who require More Choices and More Chances

- Children and young people actively participate in their communities and have optimum involvement in decision making
- All children, young people and their families have access to high quality services when required and services provide timely, proportionate and appropriate response that meeting the needs of children and young people within Getting it Right for Every Child, (GIRFEC) requirements
- Improve the quality of life in our most deprived areas
- Citizens are increasingly more active in their communities regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live, disability or faith/religion/belief and contribute to 'active citizenship'
- Develop pathways to participation which enhance the diversity of local representation at and engagement with regional, national and international arts, heritage and sporting events
- Our public services are consistently high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

Public - This report will be of interest to swimming clubs and pool water providers within Aberdeen and may be of interest to the wider public in relation to how pool water throughout Aberdeen is programmed and the positive commitment to support every child in Aberdeen to have an entitlement to swimming in curriculum time.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Risks are assessed and mitigations developed through the Water Management Planning Group which consists of the City Council and a number of partnership organisations

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

15 September 2011, Education, Culture & Sport Committee Bulletin
Report: Aberdeen City Water Management Plan

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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