

To:

The Chief Executive
Metropolitan District Councils)
Non-metropolitan District Councils) England
Unitary Authorities)
London Borough Councils
Common Council of the City of London
Council of the Isles of Scilly

Metropolitan County Councils)
Non-metropolitan County Councils) England
Chairs of the Joint Implementation Teams in the restructuring areas)

29 July 2008

Dear Colleague

FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

1. This circular sets out details in respect of the Government's free swimming programme, in particular the purpose and payment arrangements. The grants will be made pursuant to the powers in section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. These powers are explained in further detail at Appendix 1.
2. The grants are provided for free swimming schemes, the evaluation of which will be used to determine future funding and delivery arrangements. As such, there will be a need to quantify the success of the schemes through local monitoring. The grant will therefore be ring-fenced in order to allow evaluation of the funding and must be spent in accordance with the conditions outlined below. The grant is not subject to separate auditor certification procedures. This ring fencing will be temporary and will not continue beyond financial year 2010/2011.
3. The Government is keen to encourage as many local authorities as possible to participate in making swimming free for those aged 60 or over and those aged 16 or under in their local communities, but also to stimulate ambitious authorities to maximise and sustain uptake through other initiatives such as free lessons for adults who cannot swim, and free swim co-ordinators which will be a key component to the effectiveness of both free swimming schemes. There will also be incentives for the most ambitious to move further towards a universal free swimming offer.
4. The Government's free swimming programme is also designed to help authorities achieve successful delivery of their national indicator targets, including (but not limited to) NI8, NI55, NI56, NI110 and NI137.

PAYMENT CONDITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS

5. Authorities who wish to participate in the free swimming offer for those aged 60 or over must provide confirmation by 15 September 2008. By confirming participation to DCMS, an authority agrees to spend the grant for free swimming

for those aged 60 or over, as detailed further below. This will be made a condition of the grant. The amount of the grant is pre-fixed, based on an authority's population of those aged 60 or over.

6. Authorities who also wish to participate in the free swimming offer for those aged 16 or under must also submit an expression of interest for this part of the programme by 15 September 2008. For these authorities, Government will then aim to provide details of their prospective allocation by 30 September 2008. Authorities will then be invited to confirm, by 15 October 2008, that they wish to participate in this element of the offer. By confirming participation in this part of the offer, an authority agrees to spend the grant for free swimming for those aged 16 or under as detailed further below. This will be made a condition of the grant.
7. Those authorities who already make available a free swimming offer that would otherwise have qualified for funding may apply to use their allocation on initiatives additional to their existing offer and designed either i) further to increase and sustain participation for these age groups (e.g. structured sessions or classes) and/or ii) to extend their existing programmes to wider groups of the population and move further towards a universal free swimming offer.
8. These authorities should follow the relevant process (depending on their existing offer(s)) for application outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 above.
9. It is expected that this grant will be paid to participating authorities as early as possible in financial year 2009/10, then again as early as possible in financial year 2010/11.
10. In addition, Government is providing a total of £60,000,000 capital for capital projects designed to modernise pool provision, which are integrated with providing free swimming as outlined above. £10 million from this pot will be made available in financial year 2008/09 to reward those authorities which sign up to both schemes as outlined above (including those who already make available free swimming offers that would otherwise have qualified for funding as outlined above). Those authorities will receive a pro rata population-based share of the £10 million capital in financial year 2008/09 and may submit bids for the remaining funding from financial year 2009/10 onwards. These funds can be used as project development costs for bids for financial year 2009/10 and financial year 2010/11. They cannot however be used for partnership funding for bids from financial year 2009/10 onwards. Sport England will assess bids in the first instance on behalf of Government and will publish a prospectus for bids for funding from financial year 2009/10 onwards.
11. The resource fund is not open to county councils. However, school pools, if they contribute to the overall free swimming scheme, will be considered for capital grants.

PURPOSE OF GRANT

12. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to support those local authorities who choose to deliver part or parts of the Government's free swimming programme.
13. Specifically, the grant is provided to enable those local authorities which choose to participate in the programme to offer :

- a. either free swimming for those aged 60 or over,
 - b. or free swimming for those aged 60 or over and free swimming for those aged 16 or under.
14. Free swimming for those aged 60 or over means that people in that age group who wish to swim, at any time throughout the year, when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged for doing so.
15. Similarly, free swimming for those aged 16 or under means that people in that age group who wish to swim, out of normal school hours throughout the year, when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged for doing so.
16. For those authorities who already make available a free swimming offer that would otherwise have qualified for funding and who choose to participate in the scheme, the purpose of the grant is to provide funding for initiatives additional to their existing offer and designed either i) further to increase and sustain participation for these age groups (e.g. structured sessions or classes) and/or ii) to extend their existing programmes to wider groups of the population and move further towards a universal free swimming offer.
17. Further information on the free swimming programme is set out at Appendix 2.
18. Further funding to local authorities to deliver the free swimming programme in financial year 2011/12 and subsequent years will be subject to the outcome of the next Spending Review. The evidence from financial year 2009/10 and financial year 2010/11 will be used to inform future funding and delivery arrangements.

GRANT ALLOCATIONS

19. The grant has been calculated on the following basis:
- a) £15,000,000 will be provided according to a formula based on the size of the local 60 or over population to those of the 354 local authorities who choose to provide free swimming for those aged 60 or over.
 - b) £25,000,000 will be available to provide free swimming for those aged 16 or under. Allocations will be determined subject to expressions of interest.
20. Individual local authority allocations for the 60 or over element are set out in Appendix 1 Annex B below. These individual allocations are the amounts authorities receive if they choose to participate in the scheme.

ENQUIRIES

For further information on this grant, please contact the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on 020 7211 6200 or at enquiries@culture.gov.uk.

EXERCISE OF POWER TO PAY GRANT UNDER SECTION 31 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 FOR THE FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME GRANT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/10 AND FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/11 (Ref: 31/1247)

Introduction

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, ("the Secretary of State"), in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, and having obtained the consent of HM Treasury, pays the grants to those local authorities listed in column (1) of Annex A the corresponding amount set out in column (2) of that Annex.

Pursuant to section 31 (4) and (5) of the 2003 Act, the Secretary of State pays the grant to the respective local authorities subject to the conditions set out in Annex B.

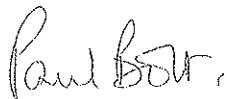
Consent of Treasury

Before exercising this power, the Secretary of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Citation

This grant shall be known as the Free Swimming Programme Grant Determination (Ref: 31/1247).

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State



Paul Bolt
Director, Sport and Leisure
Department for Culture, Media and Sport

29 July 2008

FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME GRANT ALLOCATIONS – TO PROVIDE FREE SWIMMING FOR THOSE AGED 60 OR OVER

ENGLAND	£15,000,000
UNITARY AUTHORITIES	
BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET UA	£55,504
BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN UA	£33,386
BLACKPOOL UA	£49,800
BOURNEMOUTH UA	£56,477
BRACKNELL FOREST UA	£24,900
BRIGHTON AND HOVE UA	£66,354
BRISTOL, CITY OF UA	£100,574
DARLINGTON UA	£31,021
DERBY UA	£67,884
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE UA	£120,049
HALTON UA	£31,299
HARTLEPOOL UA	£26,848
HEREFORDSHIRE UA	£67,467
ISLE OF WIGHT UA	£57,590
KINGSTON UPON HULL, CITY OF UA	£66,076
LEICESTER UA	£65,102
LUTON UA	£43,262
MEDWAY UA	£64,267
MIDDLESBROUGH UA	£37,698
MILTON KEYNES UA	£46,740
NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE UA	£49,939
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE UA	£52,026
NORTH SOMERSET UA	£72,614
NOTTINGHAM UA	£63,711
PETERBOROUGH UA	£42,428
PLYMOUTH UA	£73,031
POOLE UA	£50,774
PORTSMOUTH UA	£49,939
READING UA	£32,412
REDCAR & CLEVELAND UA	£46,462
RUTLAND UA	£12,937
SLOUGH UA	£25,039
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE UA	£74,700
SOUTHAMPTON UA	£56,199
SOUTHEND UA	£53,278
STOCKTON-ON-TEES UA	£52,582
STOKE-ON-TRENT UA	£71,362

SWINDON UA	£48,548
TELFORD AND WREKIN UA	£42,428
THURROCK UA	£37,141
TORBAY UA	£54,808
WARRINGTON UA	£55,782
WEST BERKSHIRE UA	£40,202
WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD UA	£39,506
WOKINGHAM UA	£39,089
YORK UA	£57,312

COUNTY DISTRICTS

ADUR	£23,370
ALLERDALE	£33,942
ALNWICK	£12,380
AMBER VALLEY	£38,950
ARUN	£66,354
ASHFIELD	£35,611
ASHFORD	£33,803
AYLESBURY VALE	£45,071
BABERGH	£31,438
BARKING & DAGENHAM	£38,254
BARNET	£83,047
BARNSLEY	£68,580
BARROW-IN-FURNESS	£23,648
BASILDON	£47,714
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE	£40,619
BASSETLAW	£36,307
BEDFORD	£43,401
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED	£11,268
BEXLEY	£64,963
BIRMINGHAM	£248,027
BLABY	£28,934
BLYTH VALLEY	£24,205
BOLSOVER	£24,205
BOLTON	£75,118
BOSTON	£21,701
BRADFORD	£123,944
BRAINTREE	£40,619
BRECKLAND	£47,574
BRENT	£58,286
BRENTWOOD	£23,787
BRIDGNORTH	£19,614
BROADLAND	£45,627
BROMLEY	£91,115

BROMSGROVE	£31,160
BROXBOURNE	£25,874
BROXTOWE	£34,498
BURNLEY	£25,178
BURY	£52,443
CALDERDALE	£57,173
CAMBRIDGE	£25,457
CAMDEN	£39,367
CANNOCK CHASE	£26,848
CANTERBURY	£48,131
CARADON	£31,299
CARLISLE	£34,359
CARRICK	£35,333
CASTLE MORPETH	£18,362
CASTLE POINT	£32,134
CHARNWOOD	£45,905
CHELMSFORD	£46,879
CHELTENHAM	£34,498
CHERWELL	£36,446
CHESTER	£39,228
CHESTERFIELD	£33,107
CHESTER-LE-STREET	£17,249
CHICHESTER	£45,766
CHILTERN	£29,908
CHORLEY	£30,743
CHRISTCHURCH	£23,092
CITY OF LONDON	£1,808
COLCHESTER	£46,879
CONGLETON	£30,743
COPELAND	£22,953
CORBY	£15,302
COTSWOLD	£31,299
COVENTRY	£83,047
CRAVEN	£21,283
CRAWLEY	£25,317
CREWE & NANTWICH	£36,168
CROYDON	£80,960
DACORUM	£39,784
DARTFORD	£23,787
DAVENTRY	£21,562
DERBYSHIRE DALES	£26,708
DERWENTSIDE	£28,378
DONCASTER	£89,863
DOVER	£38,115

DUDLEY	£99,461
DURHAM	£25,874
EALING	£63,711
EASINGTON	£30,186
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE	£25,039
EAST DEVON	£62,320
EAST DORSET	£39,924
EAST HAMPSHIRE	£35,611
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	£35,889
EAST LINDSEY	£61,068
EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	£24,344
EAST STAFFORDSHIRE	£32,690
EASTBOURNE	£38,115
EASTLEIGH	£34,777
EDEN	£19,336
ELLESMERE PORT & NESTON	£26,430
ELMBRIDGE	£37,559
ENFIELD	£69,414
EPPING FOREST	£38,950
EPSOM & EWELL	£21,283
EREWASH	£34,220
EXETER	£32,551
FAREHAM	£38,393
FENLAND	£32,551
FOREST HEATH	£16,554
FOREST OF DEAN	£28,795
FYLDE	£31,160
GATESHEAD	£60,929
GEDLING	£36,863
GLOUCESTER	£31,716
GOSPORT	£24,344
GRAVESHAM	£28,934
GREAT YARMOUTH	£35,472
GREENWICH	£48,409
GUILDFORD	£37,002
HACKNEY	£34,081
HAMBLETON	£31,160
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	£31,995
HARBOROUGH	£25,874
HARINGEY	£39,367
HARLOW	£21,144
HARROGATE	£52,304
HARROW	£56,199
HART	£24,065

HASTINGS	£27,682
HAVANT	£42,706
HAVERING	£72,614
HERTSMERE	£27,821
HIGH PEAK	£27,821
HILLINGDON	£61,763
HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH	£33,107
HORSHAM	£41,454
HOUNSLOW	£44,792
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	£45,627
HYNDBURN	£23,648
IPSWICH	£34,777
ISLES OF SCILLY	£974
ISLINGTON	£31,855
KENNET	£24,065
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA	£41,454
KERRIER	£36,029
KETTERING	£25,457
KINGS LYNN & WEST NORFOLK	£57,173
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	£35,611
KIRKLEES	£109,199
KNOWSLEY	£41,315
LAMBETH	£42,984
LANCASTER	£44,375
LEEDS	£200,174
LEWES	£38,254
LEWISHAM	£46,740
LICHFIELD	£33,386
LINCOLN	£23,926
LIVERPOOL	£116,293
MACCLESFIELD	£52,582
MAIDSTONE	£43,819
MALDON	£20,588
MALVERN HILLS	£29,630
MANCHESTER	£94,036
MANSFIELD	£31,160
MELTON	£15,858
MENDIP	£35,889
MERTON	£43,123
MID BEDFORDSHIRE	£34,498
MID DEVON	£26,291
MID SUFFOLK	£31,716
MID SUSSEX	£41,315
MOLE VALLEY	£29,351

NEW FOREST	£72,892
NEWARK & SHERWOOD	£37,420
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE	£73,866
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME	£39,784
NEWHAM	£37,837
NORTH CORNWALL	£33,664
NORTH DEVON	£35,055
NORTH DORSET	£24,761
NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE	£35,472
NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE	£36,307
NORTH KESTEVEN	£37,002
NORTH NORFOLK	£48,409
NORTH SHROPSHIRE	£20,866
NORTH TYNESIDE	£61,902
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE	£19,753
NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE	£27,821
NORTH WILTSHIRE	£37,976
NORTHAMPTON	£51,191
NORWICH	£35,055
NUNEATON & BEDWORTH	£35,889
OADBY & WIGSTON	£18,501
OLDHAM	£59,538
OSWESTRY	£13,215
OXFORD	£30,186
PENDLE	£25,735
PENWITH	£26,013
PRESTON	£34,638
PURBECK	£18,779
REDBRIDGE	£60,094
REDDITCH	£20,449
REIGATE & BANSTEAD	£38,254
RESTORMEL	£37,281
RIBBLE VALLEY	£19,614
RICHMOND UPON THAMES	£43,401
RICHMONDSHIRE	£15,163
ROCHDALE	£55,086
ROCHFORD	£28,100
ROSSENDALE	£18,362
ROTHER	£43,123
ROTHERHAM	£76,926
RUGBY	£28,517
RUNNYMEDE	£23,648
RUSHCLIFFE	£33,525
RUSHMOOR	£20,727

RYEDALE	£20,727
SALFORD	£61,068
SALISBURY	£39,784
SANDWELL	£83,742
SCARBOROUGH	£43,262
SEDFIELD	£28,100
SEDGEMOOR	£40,202
SEFTON	£98,348
SELBY	£23,787
SEVENOAKS	£37,281
SHEFFIELD	£152,600
SHEPWAY	£37,002
SHREWSBURY & ATCHAM	£32,690
SOLIHULL	£66,215
SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE	£32,273
SOUTH BUCKS	£21,005
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE	£39,924
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE	£24,900
SOUTH HAMS	£32,968
SOUTH HOLLAND	£33,107
SOUTH KESTEVEN	£42,984
SOUTH LAKELAND	£42,845
SOUTH NORFOLK	£43,958
SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	£24,205
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE	£39,367
SOUTH RIBBLE	£33,386
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE	£18,501
SOUTH SOMERSET	£58,425
SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE	£37,420
SOUTH TYNESIDE	£48,270
SOUTHWARK	£45,905
SPELTHORNE	£28,517
ST ALBANS	£36,029
ST EDMUNDSBURY	£33,664
ST HELENS	£54,669
STAFFORD	£42,149
STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS	£34,498
STEVENAGE	£20,727
STOCKPORT	£88,472
STRATFORD-ON-AVON	£42,845
STROUD	£37,281
SUFFOLK COASTAL	£47,574
SUNDERLAND	£83,325
SURREY HEATH	£23,092

SUTTON	£47,296
SWALE	£38,393
TAMESIDE	£60,929
TAMWORTH	£18,779
TANDRIDGE	£26,152
TAUNTON DEANE	£37,420
TEESDALE	£9,320
TEIGNBRIDGE	£50,496
TENDRING	£67,188
TEST VALLEY	£34,916
TEWKESBURY	£27,682
THANET	£48,966
THREE RIVERS	£25,735
TONBRIDGE & MALLING	£33,803
TORRIDGE	£25,874
TOWER HAMLETS	£30,464
TRAFFORD	£61,624
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	£32,273
TYNEDALE	£21,283
UTTLESFORD	£21,979
VALE OF WHITE HORSE	£35,333
VALE ROYAL	£39,228
WAKEFIELD	£95,566
WALSALL	£79,430
WALTHAM FOREST	£45,071
WANDSWORTH	£49,105
WANSBECK	£20,170
WARWICK	£40,202
WATFORD	£19,475
WAVENEY	£46,740
WAVERLEY	£38,950
WEALDEN	£57,173
WEAR VALLEY	£20,727
WELLINGBOROUGH	£21,979
WELWYN HATFIELD	£29,769
WEST DEVON	£20,031
WEST DORSET	£43,401
WEST LANCASHIRE	£35,750
WEST LINDSEY	£31,021
WEST OXFORDSHIRE	£31,577
WEST SOMERSET	£17,667
WEST WILTSHIRE	£41,593
WESTMINSTER	£47,853
WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND	£24,065

WIGAN	£90,558
WINCHESTER	£35,611
WIRRAL	£104,886
WOKING	£24,761
WOLVERHAMPTON	£71,918
WORCESTER	£25,735
WORTHING	£37,420
WYCHAVON	£41,454
WYCOMBE	£45,349
WYRE	£44,653
WYRE FOREST	£34,916

CONDITIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME GRANTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/10 AND FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/11

1. The payment of grant monies to a local authority as specified in Annex A pursuant to section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 (2003, c.26) ("grant monies") for local authority expenditure in the financial year 2009/10 and financial year 2010/11 shall unless the Secretary of State provides otherwise be subject to the standard conditions set out in this Annex.

2. The Secretary of State reserves the right to amend the standard conditions set out in this Annex or to impose such other conditions as appear to him to be appropriate in relation to a particular award of grant monies.

3. In this Annex –

- (a) "free swimming programme" means the Government's free swimming programme, participation in which by a local authority specifically means using free swimming programme grants to offer
- i. either free swimming for those aged 60 or over
 - ii. or free swimming for those aged 60 or over and free swimming for those aged 16 or under.

For those authorities who already make available a free swimming offer that would otherwise have qualified for funding and who choose to participate in the scheme, "free swimming" in this instance means initiatives additional to their existing free swimming offer and designed either i) further to increase and sustain participation for these age groups (e.g. structured sessions or classes) and/or ii) to extend their existing programmes to wider groups of the population and move further towards a universal free swimming offer.

- (b) "free swimming" means:
- i. for those aged 60 or over, that people in that age group who wish to swim, at any time throughout the year, when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged for doing so.
 - ii. for those aged 16 or under that people in that age group who wish to swim, out of normal school hours throughout the year, when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged for doing so.

Use of grant monies

4.- (1) Subject to paragraph 3, each local authority shall use the grant monies for revenue expenditure in financial year 2009/10 and financial year 2010/11 only, for the purposes of carrying out the elements of the free swimming programme as outlined above that they have agreed to deliver.

(2) The expenditure referred to in sub-paragraph (1) shall only be incurred by a local authority if it is in accordance with participation in the free swimming programme.

Carryover for financial year 2009/10 and/or financial year 2010/11

5. -(1) A local authority may carry over up to 25% of the grant monies set out in Annex A (Free Swimming Programme Grant Allocations) for expenditure in financial year 2010/11 or financial year 2011/12, but only for the purposes for which the grant is made.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), grant monies carried over in accordance with this paragraph must be spent in financial year 2010/11 or financial year 2011/12.

(3) Where grant monies are carried over under this paragraph but are not spent in financial year 2010/11 or financial year 2011/12, then the provisions of paragraph 8 (3) shall apply with the following modifications:

(a) for the phrase "financial year 2009/10 and/or financial year 2010/11", in all places where it occurs, substitute "financial year 2010/11 and/or financial year 2011/12";

(b) for the words "Subject to paragraph 4 above (Carryover for financial year 2009/2010 and/or financial year 2010/11), if" substitute "If";

(c) for the words "31st March 2009 and/or 31st March 2010", substitute "31st March 2010 and/or 31st March 2011"

(d) for the words "31st December 2009 and/or 31st December 2010", substitute "31st December 2010 and/or 31st December 2011"

Further information

6. Each local authority shall supply to the Secretary of State such further information as may be required by him for the purposes of determining whether they have complied with the conditions set out in this Annex.

Accounting for the grant

7. Each local authority shall account for expenditure of the grant monies in their full annual accounts by means of a note to the accounts and shall make these accounts available for inspection by the Secretary of State if requested by him.

Repayment of grant monies

8.-(1) If a local authority fails, without the prior written agreement of the Secretary of State, to comply with the conditions set out in this Annex or if any of the events referred to in sub-paragraph (2) occur, the Secretary of State may require the repayment of the whole or part of the grant monies paid, as may be determined by the Secretary of State and notified in writing to the authority. Such sum as has been notified shall immediately become repayable to the Secretary of State:

(2) The events referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are as follows:

(a) the authority or anyone on its behalf has provided, or provides information that is in any material respect incorrect, incomplete or otherwise misleading;

(b) an overpayment is made under this grant or any amount is paid in error.

(3) Subject to paragraph 5 above (Carryover for financial year 2009/2010 and/or financial year 2010/11), if a local authority does not spend the whole of the grant monies in financial year 2009/2010 and/or financial year 2010/11, then the local authority shall –

(a) notify the Secretary of State by 31st March 2009 and/or 31st March 2010 of the amount of the grant monies the local authority has not spent in financial year 2009/10 and/or financial year 2010/11; and

(b) repay to the Secretary of State an amount equal to such part of the grant monies as the local authority has not spent in financial year 2009/2010 and/or financial year 2010/11. Such sum shall become repayable to the Secretary of State on 31st December 2009 and/or 31st December 2010 or such later date, if any, as the Secretary of State may determine.

Monitoring grant

9. Each local authority shall provide to the Secretary of State when requested by him a report setting out progress on their participation in the Free Swimming Programme and such information as the Secretary of State requires for the purposes of monitoring the projects.

FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME

Pot 1: Free swimming for those aged 60 or over

1. This is the minimum offer into which all local authorities can opt, if they so choose. From financial year 2009/10, Government will make available a total amount of £15m p.a. over two years. This is to allow those local authorities who wish to offer free swimming to those aged 60 or over to do so.
2. Local authorities should indicate to DCMS, by no later than 15 September 2008, whether they wish to take up this offer.
3. In order to keep the burden on local authorities to a minimum, the funding will be divided between participating authorities according to a simple formula based on the size of the local population aged 60 or over, and it will be distributed through a section 31 ring-fenced grant. An authority will receive a fixed amount, as set out above. Any remaining funds will be spent centrally on other relevant schemes.
4. Free swimming for those aged 60 or over is hereby defined as meaning that people in that age group who wish to swim at any time throughout the year, when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged for doing so.
5. Those authorities who already make available a free swimming offer that would otherwise have qualified for funding may use their allocation on initiatives additional to their existing offer and designed either i) further to increase and sustain participation for those aged 60 or over (e.g. structured sessions or classes) and/or ii) to extend their existing programmes to wider groups of the population and move further towards a universal free swimming offer.

Pot 2: Free swimming for those aged 16 or under

6. Pot 2 is only available to those local authorities who choose the minimum offer of providing free swimming for those aged 60 or over and wish to provide an additional offer for those aged 16 or under. For these authorities we will make available an additional £25m revenue funding over two years to support free swimming for those aged 16 or under.
7. As for those aged 60 or over, we have made the qualifying criteria for the scheme correspondingly simple. Free swimming for those aged 16 or under means that people in that age group who wish to swim out of normal school hours throughout the year, when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming should not be charged for doing so.
8. We have therefore written to eligible Chief Executives to ask them to submit an expression of interest, no later than 15 September 2008, if their authority has the ambition to provide free swimming for under 16s. For these authorities, Government will then provide details of their prospective allocation by 30 September. Authorities will then be invited to confirm, by 15 October 2008, whether they wish to participate in this element of the offer.

Their share of the fund will then be allocated and distributed through a section 31 ring-fenced grant.

9. Government hopes that local authorities will work creatively with local partners, including Primary Care Trusts, to access funds from other sources (such as Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Extending Activities, the Big Lottery Fund) as well as with commercial and third sectors, to maximise the impact across shared agendas.
10. Those authorities who already make available a free swimming offer that would otherwise have qualified for funding may use their allocation on initiatives additional to their existing offer and designed either i) further to increase and sustain participation for those aged 16 or under (e.g. structured sessions or classes) and/or ii) to extend their existing programmes to wider groups of the population and move further towards a universal free swimming offer.

Pot 3: Modernising pool provision – capital reward fund

11. In addition, Government is providing a total of £60 million capital for capital projects designed to modernise pool provision, which are integrated with providing free swimming as outlined above.
12. £10 million will be available in financial year 2008/09 to reward those authorities which sign up to both schemes as outlined above. Those authorities who confirm participation in both schemes as outlined above will receive a pro rata population-based share of the £10 million capital in financial year 2008/09. These funds can be used as project development costs for bids for financial year 2009/10 and financial year 2010/11. They cannot however be used for partnership funding for bids from financial year 2009/10 onwards.

Pot 4: Modernising pool provision – capital challenge fund

13. £25 million p.a. will be available in financial year 2009/10 and financial year 2010/11 to modernise pool provision and support more ambitious plans for swimming.
14. Sport England will administer the capital fund on behalf of the Government, and will publish a prospectus for bids for funding. Local authorities which have committed to pot 1 and pot 2 will be invited to submit costed plans for pot 4 by no later than 15 October 2008.