

## COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

22 JUNE 2011

### HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

#### PETITION - FREE SWIMMING

#### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To members to consider a petition received on 24 January 2011 requesting that the Council supports and retains free swimming for under 17's.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1.1 **Members consider the petition received requesting the Council to support and retain Free swimming for under 17's, and considers one of the following options:**

- a) Continue as current whereby we currently offer free swimming to children enrolled on the swimming lesson scheme at Waterfield Leisure Pools. This benefits around 1,300 children.
- b) The Council promotes free swimming for the 6 week summer holidays, which would cost in the region of £5,000.
- c) We could offer 3 X 1 hour long free swim sessions per week. This would be limited to 150 per session and cost £750 per week. Members determine the length of this option.

- 2.1.2 **Members recommend to Policy, Finance & Administration Committee the approval of a supplementary Estimate to cover the additional cost should members go for either option b) or c) respectively.**

- 2.1.3 **Members note that any initiative taken up will refer to under 16's and will include children 16 and under.**

#### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 A petition was received on 24 January 2011 from the then Young Mayor and referred to Full Council on 2 February 2011. At their meeting of 9 March 2011, members of the Community & Social Affairs Committee were presented with the following as recommendations from other committees:

Petition referred from Full Council: 2 February 2011

The Young Mayor, David Dowling, who was the organiser of a petition, attended the meeting and spoke in support of his petition which was received on 24 January 2011 and contained 263 signatories. The petition stated the following:-

**'In my manifesto I promised to try to keep free swimming for the under 17's. I would like to campaign for free swimming for the under 17's in the school**

**holidays. For me to take this forward to Melton Borough Council I need your support.'**

3.2 Members are asked to note that following the withdrawal of external funding for over 60's and under 16's the Council continued with the free swimming initiative for under 16's to cover the summer holidays at a cost of approx £4,000. The take up of this initiative was very good with a high number of under 16's taking up the opportunity.

3.3 Officers are not aware of any other provider who has or is looking to introduce free swimming at their facility.

#### **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Participation of Physical activity improve physical and mental health, this links into the council's priorities around People.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 If a contribution is approved for free swimming then this would require a supplementary estimate funded by the Corporate Priorities Reserve (CPR) and would require approval of the Policy, Finance & Administration Committee.

5.2 Member's should be mindful of the current financial pressures that the Council are facing when arriving at a decision. Further cuts in central government grant funding are expected for the remaining 3 years of the government's 4 year Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announced in December 2010 and there remains much uncertainty over the recovery of the current economic climate and the impact on the Council's income for the provision of services and interest received.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 There are no other legal implications directly arising from this report.

#### **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no direct links to community safety arising from this report.

#### **8.0 EQUALITIES**

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed as part of any recommendation this committee makes.

#### **9.0 RISKS**

9.1 The risks are considered in the table below:

**Probability**



Very High A				
High B				
Significant C		1		
Low D				
Very Low E				
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

→  
**Impact**

Risk No.	Description
1	Additional funding is not approved
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

**10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly arising from this report.

**11.0 CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 This report has been undertaken in response to a petition received by the Council.

**12.0 WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected.

Contact Officer: H Rai

Date: 8 June 2011

Appendices: None

Background Papers:

Reference: X: C'tees, Council & Sub-C'tees/CSA/220611/HR – Free Swimming