

NATIONAL BUDGET FINANCE IMPLICATIONS
- REMOVAL OF FUNDING FOR FREE SWIMMING

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Cllr Mike Webb |
| Relevant Head of Service | Head of Leisure & Cultural Services |
| Non-Key Decision | |

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The following report outlines the removal of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) grant funding for the provision of free swimming for over sixties as from 31st July 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Full Council are recommended to:

2.1.1 Acknowledge the removal of the grant funding from the DCMS (31k per annum) for over sixties swimming.

2.1.2 Instruct officers to remove the free swimming programme as from the 1st August 2010 and prepare a promotional campaign to inform residents of this decision and the circumstances in which it was made.

2.1.3 Confirm that as part of the reintroduction of charging for over sixties swimming that the current concessions scheme (50%) discount be implemented.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 On 17 September 2008 Council agreed to accept the offer of funding free swimming for over 60's.

3.2 The funding stream was scheduled to run from April 2009 to March 2011 over two consecutive financial years.

3.3 On the 17th June 2010 all lead leisure officers received notification from Paul Bolt at the DCMS that the funding stream would cease on 31st July 2010 as part of the Government's over all exercise to find savings in 2010/11. This was confirmed to all Local Authority (LA) Chief Executives on the 18th June 2010.

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3.4 The DCMS have confirmed that they will honour the grant funding agreed to the 31st July 2010 and will write to all LA's to given further detail on the draw down process shortly.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The key issue contained within this report will relate to:

4.1.1 The ongoing provision of the service, given that the funding stream has ceased and the financial implications of doing so.

4.1.2 The re-introduction of the Council's current concession scheme for over sixties swimming.

4.1.3 The need to produce a full communications plan to ensure that residents understand fully the reasons behind this decision.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications at this stage as removal of the free swimming will coincide with the funding finishing. The £31k grant funding had been included in the service budget of the Dolphin Centre, now transferred to Wychavon Leisure. Any reduction in demand will be monitored and reported to Members (if relevant) as part of the quarterly financial and performance monitoring statements.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications contained within this report.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report asks Members to reverse the policy that was adopted whilst the grant funding was in place and return to the Council's original policy relating to over sixties swimming.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

8.1 The current scheme supports the Council's Vision & Values and the Objective of One Community. The removal of the full concession will impact on some customers, this will however be off set by the re-introduction of the 50% concession scheme on site.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 None within this report.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Please see section 8.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None within this report that can be quantified, however anecdotal evidence would suggest that those on lower incomes would be most affected by removal of the provision in its current format.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

12.1 None contained within this report.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

13.1 None contained within this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None contained within this report.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None contained within this report

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 None contained within this report

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 Please see section 11. However due to the exercise referral system that the Council operates with NHS Worcestershire the impact in this area it is felt would be minimal.

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18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 N/A

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

19.1 N/A

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

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|---|-----|
| Portfolio Holder | YES |
| Chief Executive | YES |
| Executive Director (S151 Officer) | YES |
| Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services | YES |
| Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services | NO |
| Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships | NO |
| Head of Service | YES |
| Head of Resources | NO |
| Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services | YES |
| Corporate Procurement Team | NO |

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

22. APPENDICES

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23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Cabinet report of the 3rd September 2008 – Free Swimming Scheme/Grant – 2009/10 & 2010/11.

24. KEY

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