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| REPORT TO: | Etwall Joint Management Committee | AGENDA ITEM: 12 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 26th January, 2009 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | Director of Community Services | OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | S Batchelor Ext.5820 | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | Free Swimming Offer | REF: |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | Etwall, Hilton, Willington, Findern, North West Parishes and Repton | TERMS OF REFERENCE:HCS07 |

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To approve the JMCs involvement in the offer of free swimming for 60 years old and over and 16 year olds and under, and if funding allows up to 18 year olds in full time education.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To explain the details of the Governments offer of free swimming for 60 year olds and over and 16 year olds and under and approve the JMCs involvement in both.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Department for Culture, Sport and Media (DCMS) has launched the Governments proposed 'Free Swimming Scheme' which aims to increase participation in physical activity by older people and youngsters. The Scheme is fully summarised as follows:

3.2 The scheme is split into a number of 'pots'

3.3 Pot 1 – To offer free swimming for people aged 60 years and over towards which the Council will be allocated an annual pro rata population based grant .

3.4 Pot 2 – To support free swimming for 16 years and under which the Council will be allocated an annual pro rata population based grant ..

3.5 Pot 3 –modernising pool provision – capital reward funds for 2008/09 for those Councils who sign up to Pot 1 and Pot 2 who will receive pro rata population based grant.

3.6 There will be a requirement of the Councils to measure the impact of the free swimming programme so as to inform future delivery and funding arrangements, with DCMS centrally funding the secondary analysis which will help determine the future of the scheme after 2011.

- 3.7 The Scheme is only funded for two years and no decision will be made on future funding until after the Governments next Comprehensive Spending Review. Consequently it is important that the scheme is only promoted as a two-year programme with an expectation that charges may have to be reintroduced after 2011.
- 3.8 To ensure that the district can benefit from the proposal the Council has confirmed involvement in the Initiative and is now in the process of agreeing working arrangements with the two swimming facilities.
- 3.9 Work is currently being undertaken by County and District Free Swimming Groups to confirm the administrative arrangements for the issuing of 'Free Swimming Cards', marketing the scheme and the development of a campaign to promote physical activity for older people in April, to coincide with the launch of free swimming.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The level of lost income to the existing and new facilities in Etwall for free swimming is £4,000 (2009/10 price plus 20% increase in use) for older people and £14,900 (2009/10 price plus 30% increase in use) for 16 years and under, plus students under 18 in full time education. This lost income will be covered by the DCMS grant and paid directly into the Business Plan.
- 4.2 The Pot 3 capital grant of £27,000 is available for the fund for the new leisure centre to contribute to aspects of the swimming provision.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The free swimming scheme provides a great opportunity for improving the health and well being of local people which contributes to the LAA target of increasing the physical activity level of adults and reducing obesity levels of youngsters plus supporting the Corporate priority theme of Safer and Healthier Communities.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Swimming is an ideal activity for promoting health and fitness within the community and involvement in this initiative will help improve the health of local people, developing a lifestyle, which includes physical activity.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The free-swimming scheme provides an excellent opportunity to increase swimming participation at no cost to the Council for two years.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 DCMS grant offer letter.