

Leisure and Environment Committee

Thursday 22 January 2009 7.30pm

**Council Chamber
Runnymede Civic Centre, Addlestone**

Members of the Committee

Councillors C J Norman (Chairman), M J Brown and Miss M N Heath (Vice-Chairmen), C J Chapman, A J Davis, Mrs M T Harnden, M T Kusneraitis, A M Moore, J W C Perschke and L C Pouyanne.

AGENDA

Notes:

- 1) Any report on the Agenda involving confidential information (as defined by section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972) must be discussed in private. Any report involving exempt information (as defined by section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972), whether it appears in Part 1 or Part 2 below, may be discussed in private but only if the Committee so resolves.
- 2) The relevant 'background papers' are listed after each report in Part 1. Enquiries about any of the Agenda reports and background papers should be directed in the first instance to **Miss C Pinnock, Administration and Leisure Department, Committee Section, Runnymede Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone (Tel. Direct Line: 01932 425627). (Email: clare.pinnock@runnymede.gov.uk)**.
- 3) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please ring Mr B A Fleckney on 01932 425620. Agendas and Minutes for all the Council's Committees may also be viewed on www.runnymede.gov.uk.
- 4) In the unlikely event of an alarm sounding, members of the public should leave the building immediately, either using the staircase leading from the public gallery or following other instructions as appropriate.

LIST OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

PART I

Matters in respect of which reports have been made available for public inspection

	<u>Page</u>
1. FIRE PRECAUTIONS	3
2. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	3
3. MINUTES	3
4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	3
5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
6. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2009/10	3
7. OUT OF HOURS NOISE RESPONSE SERVICE	4
8. LEISURE SAVINGS	6
9. LEISURE CENTRES MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE - UPDATE	7
10. BASINGSTOKE CANAL – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT	9
11. FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME	11
12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	13

PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection

- a) Exempt Information
13. EGHAM LEISURE CENTRE FOOTBALL PITCHES EXTERNAL MANAGEMENT 14
- b) Confidential Information
- (No reports to be considered under this heading)

1. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Chairman will read the Fire Precautions which set out the procedures to be followed in the event of fire or other emergency.

2. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

3. MINUTES

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 November 2008, which were included in the December 2008 Minute Book previously circulated.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

If Members have an interest in an item please record the interest on the form circulated with this Agenda and hand it to the Legal Representative or Committee Administrator at the start of the meeting. A supply of the form will also be available from the Committee Administrator at meetings.

Members who have previously declared interests which are recorded in the Minutes to be considered at this meeting need not repeat the declaration when attending the meeting. Members need take no further action unless the item in which they have an interest becomes the subject of debate, in which event the Member must leave the room if the interest is personal and prejudicial.

6. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2009/10 (DF)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 **The purpose of this report is to consider the draft Revenue Estimates for 2009/10 for the services which fall under the remit of the Leisure and Environment Committee.**

2. Background Information

2.1 A budget is the expression in financial terms of the Council's policies over the next year and is a statement of intention against which achievement can be compared. The main objectives of budgeting are:

- satisfaction of statutory requirements
- determining the amount which needs to be raised from Council Tax or rents
- assisting in the planning and policy making process
- policy implementation and control
- a means of measurement; and
- strategic planning.

3. Report

3.1 The report of the Director of Finance containing the draft Revenue Estimates and fees and charges for the services under the remit of this Committee is attached at Appendix 'A'.

3.2 The Estimates have been circulated to the Members of this Committee only. However, they are available on the Council's website for all other Members and the public.

3.3 The Estimates are separated into the following sections:

- i) Leisure Services – pages 1 - 54

- ii) Environmental Services – pages 55 - 102
- iii) Assumptions used in setting budgets for 2009/10 – pages 103 - 106

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

- i) the probable outturn for 2008/09 and draft Revenue Estimates for 2009/10 be approved as submitted;**
- ii) the revised fee charging structure for trade waste and the introduction of a new charge for the collection of clinical waste be approved; and**
- iii) the proposed schedules of charges for 2009/10, as set out in Appendix 'A' be approved, to be effective from either the first week of April or 1 April 2009 as appropriate.**

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

Relevant papers on the Revenue Estimates related files of the Director of Finance.

7. OUT OF HOURS NOISE RESPONSE SERVICE (DTS)
(Ref: Minutes of Review Board, October 2007, page 431, para 295, Leisure and Environment Committee, November 2007, page 513, para 360 and January 2008, page 684, para 482, Corporate Management Committee, November 2008, page 546, para 341 and Council, December 2008.)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 **The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the withdrawal from the out of hours noise response contract with effect from the end of March 2009 and to advise Members of the alternative service provision with effect from 1 April 2009.**

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Council first joined with other local authorities in Surrey in outsourcing an out of hours noise response service in 2002. This Council withdrew from the service in 2007/08 in order to make budgetary savings. However, the service was re-instated for this financial year (2008/09), following reports to the Review Board and this Committee.
- 2.2 If three or more residents complain about the same potential noise nuisance Safer Runnymede refers them to the Council's out of hours service provider, Inside Housing Solutions Limited. The residents are then contacted and a visit is made to assess the situation if necessary. Council Officers follow up all complaints on the following working day as necessary. A list of residents where a visit should be made after only one telephone call is also maintained. This is for addresses where there have been known problems in the past. Currently, there are 11 premises on this call out list.

3. Report

- 3.1 Between 1 April and 18 December 2008, 31 referrals were made to the contractor, resulting in nine visits being made, two of which resulted in a Statutory Noise Nuisance being witnessed. This represents a cost of more than £1,000 per visit to the public purse.
- 3.2 Given the ongoing financial situation of the Council, Officers recommended that the provision of the service be reconsidered as part of the phase 3 Revenue Reductions report submitted to the Corporate Management Committee in November 2008. Accordingly, it was resolved that the service be discontinued when the current contract expires at the end of March 2009. This decision was endorsed by Council in December 2008.

- 3.3 In order that a similar form of out of hours provision remains in place from April 2009, five of the Council's six full-time Environmental Health Officers have agreed for their names to be on a call out list to be held by Safer Runnymede. This is not a rota, rather a list of Officers who may be available if contacted by Safer Runnymede should the need arise. The arrangements are similar to those agreed for the Council's Building Control Officers (Surveyors) who are required to carry out emergency visits to examine dangerous structures. Members are advised that as this is a voluntary arrangement there may be occasions when no members of staff are available to attend an out of hours noise complaint.
- 3.4 The new provision will be effective from 1 April 2009 and will be reviewed after 12 months, or earlier if problems arise.
4. Council Policy
- 4.1 The agreed five year Financial Forecast requires a further net reduction in budgets by not less than £600,000 to achieve medium term stability. The third phase of Revenue Reductions was approved by Council on 18 December 2008.
- 4.2 In March 2005, the Council approved policy guidance for revenue reductions which included the intention that 'services with modest benefit relative to cost of provision will be reduced or withdrawn'.
5. Resource Implications
- 5.1 The cost of providing the existing service is approximately £14,000 per annum. If the current trend of the number of visits made by the contractor continues, the cost of each visit will continue to be more than £1,000.
- 5.2 A provision of £4,000 will be made to cover overtime costs that might be incurred; resulting in a saving of £10,000. If Officers working out of hours, responding to complaints, choose to take time off in lieu rather than receive an overtime payment there might be a perceived cost. However, this would reduce direct costs from paying overtime.
6. Legal Implications
- 6.1 There is a duty for local authorities to investigate complaints of noise nuisance. However, complaints do not need to be investigated at the time they are made.
- 6.2 The Working Time Regulations entitle employees to a break of 11 consecutive hours between one working day and the next. Environmental Health Officers wishing to exercise this right shall have such a break without pay, as any hours worked will be compensated by the fixed overtime payment or the compensatory leave (time off in lieu).

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

None.

8. LEISURE SAVINGS (DAL)
(Ref: Minutes of Corporate Management Committee, November 2008, page 546, para 341 and Council, December 2008.)

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 **The purpose of this report is to detail the savings identified within Leisure Services for the three year period 2009/10 to 2011/12.**

2. Background Information

2.1 The Council continues to be in a challenging financial position; despite making significant savings in recent years it is still seeking additional revenue savings.

2.2 Since 2005 Leisure Services has delivered some significant revenue reductions. These include a £55,000 reduction in the operational costs of the play schemes, a £20,000 reduction in the special parks budget and a £21,000 saving on the halls budget.

3. Report

3.1 At its meeting in November 2008 Corporate Management Committee approved a range of cost saving measures for the three year period 2009/10 to 2011/12. These will have an impact on Leisure Services which needs to attain additional income and/or reduce budgets.

3.2 A 10% reduction in authorised overtime was highlighted in the report to Corporate Management Committee. This relates specifically to attendance duties carried out by Parks staff during the summer period. In the manned parks, staff are on duty all the hours that the parks are open to the public. To make the identified saving of £15,000, the manned parks will be required to close earlier. A process for managing this reduction in service will need to be agreed in consultation with the on-site staff. It is proposed that this is introduced in 2010/11.

3.3 A saving of £45,000 was identified for Egham Leisure Centre through the transfer of the all weather 5 -a-side football pitches to external management. This is the subject of a report elsewhere on this agenda. Members are advised that based on the current figures it is unlikely that the full saving will be achieved.

3.4 Above inflation rises in discretionary income charges are being increased by 9% in 2009 as agreed by this Committee at its last meeting in November 2008. Cemetery charges are being increased above inflation and this will lead to an overall increase of 30% in the next three years. Allotment charges are also to be reviewed with the aim of increasing income by £5,000 in 2010/11. The demand for allotments makes this a feasible option although it is anticipated that there will be some degree of resistance from plot holders. However, it should be noted that £5,000 is an increase in income of 50%.

3.5 Plans are in hand to trim small budget headings to save £5,000 at the Leisure Centres.

3.6 The rationalisation of the marketing function at the Leisure Centres through the deletion of the Marketing post was planned to deliver a saving of £5,000. This figure has now been revised upwards to save £13,000 which will have a positive impact on the overall running costs of the centres.

4. Council Policy

4.1 The agreed five year Financial Forecast requires a further net reduction in budgets by not less than £600,000 to achieve medium term stability. The third phase of Revenue Reductions was approved by Council on 18 December 2008.

4.2 In March 2005, the Council approved policy guidance for revenue reductions which included the intention that 'services with modest benefit relative to cost of provision will be reduced or withdrawn'.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 All the savings listed in this report have been incorporated into the Revenue Estimates 2009/10.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

None.

9. LEISURE CENTRES – MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE UPDATE (DAL)
(Ref: Minutes of the Leisure and Environment Committee, January 2008, page 687, para 485 and November 2008, page 454, para 320)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 **The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress with the amalgamation of the management structures at the Leisure Centres which took effect from April 2008, to provide details of additional staffing changes over the year and outline the current financial position.**

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Egham Leisure Centre management structure underwent a competitive tender process in 1997 and as a result an agreement was set up with an in house DSO. In September 2006 this Committee resolved that the Contractor/Client split be discontinued, but that the Council continued operating the Leisure Centre pending a full year's operation of the new football pitches and the refurbished fitness facilities, after which a report would be submitted on progress and proposing future management options.
- 2.2 Addlestone Leisure Centre is a dual use site in the grounds of Jubilee High School and has undergone a £1.5 million refurbishment which was completed in October 2006. It includes a new gym, bar, Reception area and fitness studio. The fitness gym and studio are open during the school term from 7.30 a.m., with the dual use facilities available after 5 p.m. During weekends and school holidays the centre is open all day every day.
- 2.3 Following significant capital investment at each site totalling £2.3 million, both centres were set very challenging financial targets as part of the Council's overall savings programme. The betterment in the net service cost of the centres' operation is based on additional income being generated.
- 2.4 At its meeting in January 2008 this Committee resolved that the management structure be reviewed. This led to a member of staff having responsibility for specific service areas across the two sites. For example, Customer Services. The restructure was designed to produce outcomes which included a saving of £50,000 on staffing costs, both sites working to the same standard of procedures, some economies of scale and offering joint membership and promotions across sites.

3. Report

- 3.1 The new staffing structure has been operating for nine months and has worked well to date. There were, as with any change, some initial teething problems, however these have been resolved. Staff at both sites are now working to the same common goals and objectives. There is also the opportunity for staff to move between the sites which provides more variety and opportunities for their development. A number of staff have taken advantage of this.
- 3.2 Further changes in staff responsibilities took place following the resignation of the Marketing Manager. The post was deleted following three unsuccessful attempts to fill it and the duties have been re-allocated and split between the Gym, Customer Services

and Programme Managers. The grades of those staff were reviewed, after which an additional saving of £13,000 was made against a target of £5,000.

- 3.3 The financial performance of the centres is continually reviewed. Income (apart from football pitch income) and membership numbers for Egham Leisure Centre are holding up well, however, at Addlestone Leisure Centre achieving the membership target continues to be a struggle, as identified in the financial update reports. There is still a significant level of work to be undertaken to improve and opportunities to increase income are taken, including the launch of new membership sales campaigns over the New Year period.
- 3.4 Discussions have taken place with Royal Holloway (University of London) Sports Centre staff as suggested by Members at the last meeting of this Committee in November 2008. Progress has been made to develop the existing partnership further over the next few months.
- 3.5 Membership peaked in October 2008; achieving 1955 between both sites. This is broken down to 1425 at Egham Leisure Centre and 530 at Addlestone Leisure Centre. The combined current membership figure is 1903, made up of 1392 and 511 respectively. It is anticipated that these figures will experience the traditional New Year boost. There is also some evidence that new members are choosing Egham and Addlestone Leisure Centres in preference to the more expensive local private gyms on the grounds of value for money. The current economic downturn is also viewed as an opportunity to attract new members to the fitness facilities, which offer a similar service to the private sector but at a more reasonable price.
- 3.6 The usage of the 5 -a- side football pitches and the income generated continues to grow, albeit more slowly than hoped. Options for their future management and operation are the subject of an exempt report further on in this agenda.
- 3.7 The Facilities Manager continues to investigate ways of improving the facilities at the Leisure Centres. A number of options and ideas have been identified, however they require further investment which is currently limited. The use of a leisure finance provider could be considered; this however would be subject to financial scrutiny.
- 3.8 One of the new projects being considered is the provision of a full sized artificial football pitch at Addlestone Leisure Centre. This has been progressed and positive discussions have taken place with Jubilee High School who are looking at accessing match funding through the Tulk Fund. The Surrey Football Association have also expressed support for a football foundation bid to match any funding available through the Tulk Fund.

4. Council Policy

- 4.1 The Strategic Plan 2005 -2010 states that the Council will “continue development of Addlestone Leisure Centre, in partnership with Jubilee High School” and “support Egham Leisure Centre in order to maintain its high public esteem, achieve its performance targets and drive up its membership. We will consider further enhancement of the facilities based upon a realistic and achievable business plan.”

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications to report.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

None.

10. BASINGSTOKE CANAL – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (DAL)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 **The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of a Memorandum of Agreement and Service Level Agreement that has been drawn up for the joint management and operation of the Basingstoke Canal.**

2. Background Information

2.1 The Basingstoke Canal was restored in 1980 and entrusted to the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee. As a riparian authority, this Council is represented on the Joint Management Committee by Councillor A J Davis.

2.2 Since 1991 the canal has been managed by the Basingstoke Canal Authority, with staff employed through Hampshire County Council. Other than original arrangements in setting up the Joint Management Committee there have not, in recent times, been any formally agreed arrangements between the various authorities.

2.3 The Basingstoke Canal runs through Runnymede in the extreme south and forms part of the border between this borough, Woking and Elmbridge. The canal starts at the point where it meets the Wey Navigation in New Haw and runs for 1.25 miles in the borough. The total length of the canal is 32 miles.

3. Report

3.1 The Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee agreed to adopt a Memorandum of Agreement between all the riparian authorities on 17 October 2008. They also amended the Committee's Constitution and Terms of Reference. Following the meeting the Committee's Chairman wrote to all the relevant local authorities in order to secure agreement to the Memorandum and a new funding formula to be effective from April 2009.

3.2 The Joint Management Committee has reviewed the future management options for the canal and agreed that the following be investigated:

1. The agreement to cover the arrangements for the joint management and operation of the canal.
2. A formal funding agreement be established on a rolling three year basis linked to a service level agreement.
3. The option of establishing a charitable trust.
4. Organisation of a condition survey and asset management plan.

3.3 Attached at Appendix 'B' is the Memorandum of Agreement which details the management arrangements for the canal from April 2009 including the strategic direction and business plan, decision making process, staffing arrangements, budgets and service level agreements.

3.4 The new financial contributions proposed for each of the riparian authorities are set out at Appendix 'C'. The formula for calculating each contribution is based on the population within five miles of the canal and the bank mileage in each borough. The population figures do not take into account the fact that a significant number of the people who live within a five mile radius of the Runnymede stretch of the canal do not live in this borough.

3.5 This Council has not paid the full contribution requested for a number of years owing to the need to identify savings and funding the canal was highlighted as an area where savings could be made. In the 2007/08 financial year there was a request for £17,300,

of which a contribution of £8,000 was made. Under the new funding formula this Council is being asked to contribute £17,667. However, the amount budgeted for is £8,000 in line with previous years. Surrey Heath Borough Council is continuing to pay 50% of its contribution and Hart District Council has only recently agreed to make full payments. This has led to an improvement in the canal authority's financial position; however it is anticipated there will still be a requirement to draw on reserves in the sum of approximately £7,700 to cover a deficit for the 2008/09 financial year.

- 3.6 Owing to ongoing financial pressures the Joint Management Committee and the Joint Advisory Group for Officers have recognised there is no likelihood of full contributions being made by this Council. Other options have been discussed, including support for a bid to landfill tax operators through the Association for the Improvement of Runnymede to carry out improvement works to the tow path on the Runnymede stretch of the canal. The need for this work has already been identified in a condition report undertaken by Sustrans and discussions have begun with the Canal Director on how such an application for funding could be progressed.
- 3.7 The Service Level Agreement is attached at Appendix 'D'. This highlights the services which the Council will be provided with by the Basingstoke Canal Authority. It also identifies the Council's obligation in respect of a three year funding grant based on the formula described in paragraph 3.4. Currently, the Council is unable to sign up to the service level agreement unless it makes allowances for the lower than full level of funding which can be made at the moment.
4. Council Policy
- 4.1 The new Sustainable Community Strategy 'Making a Difference' identifies the need to 'preserve and enhance open space and amenity lands' and 'improve access to the natural environment.' The Basingstoke Canal is a recreational linear route and there is support for improvements to it through accessing any available external funding.
5. Financial Implications
- 5.1 There are resource implications identified in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.7. A contribution of £8,000 towards the operational costs of the Basingstoke Canal Authority has been budgeted for in 2009/10. The current financial pressures mean there is no likelihood in the short to medium term of any increase in contributions.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

- i) the Joint Management Committee be advised of this Council's in principle approval of the formalised arrangements as set out in the draft Memorandum of Agreement and Service Level Agreement as attached at Appendices 'B' and 'D' for the operation and management of the Basingstoke Canal, subject to:**
 - a) both documents highlighting that this Council is unable to meet the full funding requested under the revised formula and that a cap of £8,000 will be placed on contributions; and**
 - b) Officers continue to identify opportunities to access external funding and 'in kind' contributions for improvement works to the canal in consultation with the Director of the Basingstoke Canal Authority.**

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

Relevant papers on the Basingstoke Canal files held by DAL and DF.

11. FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME (DAL)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 **The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on progress with drawing down funding from the Government's 'free swimming programme' and to provide an update on partnership arrangements with neighbouring boroughs.**

2. Background Information

2.1 In July 2008 the Government launched the 'free swimming programme' aimed at making swimming free for those aged over 60 or under 16 throughout England. The programme of funding will be provided for two years from April 2009. As many local authorities as possible were encouraged to take up the offer; the ultimate aim being a move towards universal free swimming.

2.2 The available funding was divided between four pots; with the split based on local population figures in the specific age groups targeted. The first two pots are for the age groups, the third is a small projects fund only available to those authorities that have signed up for the first two pots. A fourth pot is for major capital funding which is only available to local authorities that have a public swimming pool.

2.3 Runnymede has been allocated funding as set out below:

- Pot One (Over 60's) - £23,648
- Pot Two (Under 16's) - £34,365 initially and revised up to £41,472
- Pot Three (Projects) - £24,600

2.4 The funding available to the under 16's age group was increased by 20% because a number of authorities did not take up their allocation. This is a positive outcome locally and nationally and assists with the aim to encourage young people to take up exercise; with swimming being such a popular activity for young people it will benefit their improved health and fitness.

2.5 Funding is only available to local authorities with public swimming pools. Therefore, this Council was advised initially that it would not be eligible to draw down any funding. However, Officers from this authority and others without public swimming pools made representations to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), to the effect that residents of their boroughs would be wanting to access the free swimming facilities of neighbouring authorities with public swimming pools. As a result the Government has agreed that local arrangements with adjoining eligible authorities could be made to use the funding and would therefore be considered for funding. Members are asked to note that this is despite the fact that there is no residency criteria for free swimming.

2.6 Officers also asked the DCMS to consider whether private swimming pools that allowed public swimming could be made eligible; for example the River Bourne Health Club in Chertsey. However, they were unwilling to include private facilities. In addition, Officers received negative feedback from the River Bourne Health Club so it is unlikely that this option would be pursued.

3. Report

3.1 In October 2008, Officers from Spelthorne, Woking, Elmbridge and Runnymede discussed how the allocated funding for Runnymede could be used to facilitate free swimming for this Council's residents at Spelthorne Leisure Centre, the Pool in the Park in Woking and the Excel in Walton on Thames.

3.2 The other boroughs have applied for funding from the specific age group pots and are keen to enter into local arrangements which would enable them to cover additional costs that might be incurred by this borough's residents using their facilities, owing to there being no residency criteria.

- 3.3 The arrangements for accessing free swimming are different in each borough because each facility is managed by different operators. Spelthorne will require people to provide personal details for monitoring purposes, Elmbridge requires people to apply for a 'More' card, and in Woking, where the service is managed in house, all swimmers will need to have a Key card.
- 3.4 Further information on how this works in practice will be available in due course and Officers will be discussing with the Communications Manager how to effectively publicise the free swimming programme in the lead in period to April 2009 when it is introduced. There is a possibility that generic publicity material could be used across the boroughs but this will need to be investigated.
- 3.5 In the initial correspondence with the DCMS the Council advised it would be interested in using a proportion of the over 60's funding to cover the transportation costs to neighbouring borough's pools. The other boroughs have not raised any objections to this proposal and the cost of using transport provided by Community Services is being investigated. One option could be to have pick ups from selected day centres, sheltered housing units or other venues on a weekly basis.
- 3.6 Officers from the participating authorities have discussed how the funding should be shared and concluded that the most straightforward way is to divide the age related pots into three. The final allocation would be dependent on any deduction for the costs associated with the provision of transport for the over 60's.
- 3.7 The take up of free swimming has so far been mixed across Surrey. A number of authorities have taken up the over 60's offer but not the under 16's, which is the situation nationwide. As of November 2008, 291 authorities had signed up for the over 60's funding and 211 for the under 16's.
- 3.8 Funding from the third pot (£24,600), has recently been received and can be used for specific activities related to project development costs such as feasibility studies or capital improvements. Officers are currently examining how the funding could be used. For example, a feasibility study could be undertaken for the replacement of the outdoor facility at Jubilee High School and Addlestone Leisure Centre, subject to the school being interested in pursuing this option and receiving confirmation from the DCMS that using the funding in this way would be allowable.
- 3.9 Alternatively, the funding could also be passed on to the other boroughs as a contribution towards improving their existing facilities.
- 3.10 Officers will be asking neighbouring boroughs to provide information on the number of Runnymede residents accessing free swimming. The ease with which this information can be provided will vary from borough to borough, however, some details will need to be produced for monitoring purposes.
4. Council Policy
- 4.1 The Strategic Plan 2005 - 2010 states that the Council will "promote healthy life styles through the promotion and greater use of sports centres, schools, clubs, parks, countryside, water ways and water spaces."
5. Financial Implications
- 5.1 The Council will incur no financial costs by taking up the free swimming funding as without a pool being operated in the borough there are no additional associated revenue costs. It is proposed that all funding received from Pots One and Two be passed to the neighbouring authorities that provide free swimming, less any transportation costs linked to the over 60's offer.
- 5.2 The use of Pot Three funding is dependent on a suitable project in the borough which meets the conditions of the DCMS funding criteria. It is proposed that if nothing suitable is identified this funding is also passed to neighbouring authorities.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

- i) **the Council passes on the funding provided through the free swimming programme for the over 60's and under 16's to the boroughs of Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Woking as set out in the report;**
- ii) **the Pot Three project development funding be used to develop Runnymede projects, subject to something suitable being identified; and**
- iii) **if no such project is identified, the funding be split evenly between the boroughs of Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Woking.**

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

Correspondence with the DCMS held on DAL files.

12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following report under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the report in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in the paragraphs 1, 3, and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

(TO RESOLVE)

PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection

- a) Exempt Information Paras
- 13. EGHAM LEISURE CENTRE FOOTBALL PITCHES EXTERNAL MANAGEMENT 1, 3 and 4

- b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)