

CMS 103800

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

Metropolitan County Councils (England) – for information
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Chairs of the Joint Implementation Teams in the restructuring
areas



department for
culture, media
and sport

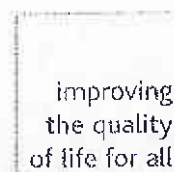
7 October 2008

Dear Colleague

FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME

Pots 2 and 3 Allocation Confirmation

1. As set out in our letter of 29 July and the subsequent addendum, and as per the terms and conditions of those communications, I am writing to you with details of allocations for Pot 2 (funding to provide free swimming for those aged 16 or under) and Pot 3 (funding for capital projects designed to modernise pool provision, as part of the free swimming offer). I confirm that the offer is now closed and thank all those local authorities who have opted in to Pot 1 and expressed interest in Pot 2.
2. 300 local authorities have chosen to offer free swimming to their local residents aged sixty or over. I am very grateful for what is clearly a strong desire amongst the huge majority of authorities to get more people more active and to be part of a lasting legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games.
3. 296 local authorities have also chosen to submit an expression of interest in Pot 2 for those aged sixteen or under. Set out at **Appendix A** are the proposed allocations to each of these local authorities, according to a formula based on the size of each authority's local sixteen or under population. In addition, other initiatives such as swimming lessons and Free Swimming Co-ordinators will be funded from the overall funding package. Free Swimming Coordinators will work alongside local authorities to help develop and deliver the Free Swimming Programme.



4. Also set out at **Appendix A** are the pro rata total population-based allocations to Local Authorities of the £10 million capital Pot 3. £10 million has been made available in financial year 2008/09 to reward those authorities which sign up to Pots 1 and 2 (including those who already make available free swimming offers that would otherwise have qualified for funding). These authorities are also eligible to apply for funding from Pot 4: The Free Swimming Capital Modernisation Programme, which Sport England is administering on behalf of Government. Further information is available on the Sport England website at:
http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_funding/swimming_capital_modernisation_programme.htm
5. More details on Pots 2 and 3 are at **Appendix B**.

Local Authorities who do not own pools and residency criteria

6. Following feedback from local authorities, we have been exploring ways in which we can ensure that the Free Swimming Programme can be extended to include those local authorities who do not own their own pools.
7. As a result, therefore, where an authority which does not own its own pools is able to demonstrate that it has entered into a suitable arrangement with a neighbouring authority or authorities for the use of its pools, we will arrange for the first authority's share of the grant to be distributed to the neighbouring authority or authorities.
8. In addition, following feedback from local authorities, we take this opportunity to state that free swimming for those of the eligible age means that people in that age group who wish to swim, at any time throughout the year (or out of school hours throughout the year for those aged 16 or under), 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. The scheme has no residency criteria.

Confirmation of participation and payment of grants

9. By 24 October 2008, could local authorities who would like to take up the Government's free swimming offer for those aged sixteen and under, and therefore receive an allocation from the £10m capital fund, and those local authorities without pools who would like to participate (providing the relevant brief information as outlined above) please fill in the attached pro forma (attached electronically). This will allow us to pay capital grants as soon as possible to those signed up to Pots 1 and 2, and pay out revenue grants promptly on 1st April 2009.
10. This pro forma should be returned to freeswimming@liberata.com. General queries on the Programme should be still be directed to DCMS on 020 7211 6200 or at enquiries@culture.gov.uk.

11. The payment of these Free Swimming Programme grants for financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 are subject to the terms and conditions as set out in our letter of 29 July 2008 and the subsequent addendum.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bolt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'B'.

PAUL BOLT
Director, Sport and Leisure
Department for Culture, Media and Sport

