

**Mandy Weir**

**From:** Charles Walker  
**Sent:** 07 April 2009 16:32  
**To:** Caroline Hargreaves  
**Cc:** Cllr Julie Rook; Roger Walton; Michelle Traylor; 'Kevin Fordham'; Sarah Philpott; Maureen Pearce  
**Subject:** FW: Dover Express Enquiry: Sports facilities / free swimming and budgets  
**Importance:** High

Caroline

Recommended response as follows:

**Free Swimming:**

The Council is delighted to be participating in the Government's Free Swimming Initiative for those persons aged 60 and over. Whilst the provision of free swimming for this age group will result in an estimated loss of income to the Council of £42,900 (in the financial year ending in March 2010) this will largely be offset by a Government grant of £38,115.

Regrettably the Government's offer of grant aid in respect of the scheme aimed at young people aged 16 and under was insufficient to cover the very substantial costs involved. The loss of income to the Council (for the first year of a two year scheme) was estimated at £227,200 but the grant offered by the Government was only £52,945. The net loss to the Council (even allowing for a small one-off reward payment of £24,203) was therefore estimated over the two years to be in excess of £324,000. However the Council is instead working with the local Health Authority on a range of proposals which seek to subsidise some swimming for young people focused on those most in need. Details of this will be available shortly on Vista's website (the company that operates the Dover and Tides Leisure Centres on behalf of the Council) - please see [www.vistaleisure.com](http://www.vistaleisure.com)

Councillor Julie Rook, the Portfolio Holder for Community, Citizenship, Youth and Sport commented " 7 of Kent's 12 local authorities are not participating at all in the Government's Free Swimming Initiative but I am pleased we at Dover are managing to not only offer free swimming for all persons aged 60 and over but we will also with the help of the local Health Authority be offering some subsidised swimming for younger people."

*(Quotation approved by Cllr Mrs Rook)*

**Grants for sports clubs/other organisations:**

The budget for grants to sports clubs/other organisations has been reduced from £31,500 in 2008/09 to £26,500 in 2009/10. The reduced amount is not connected to the Free Swimming Initiative but with a general need to review all budget headings in the present difficult economic climate. We are however hoping to assist sports clubs in securing grant aid from other external funding donors.

Charles



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**From:** Caroline Hargreaves  
**Sent:** 07 April 2009 10:56

07/05/2009

**To:** Charles Walker; Roger Walton  
**Subject:** Dover Express Enquiry: Sports facilities / free swimming and budgets  
**Importance:** High

Hello

I'm answering Andy's phone calls today as he is on leave.

I've just taken a call from Rhys Griffiths at the Dover Express (Tel: 245435 or [rhys.griffiths@krmmedia.co.uk](mailto:rhys.griffiths@krmmedia.co.uk)) with some sports related queries:

1. Free swimming: The Council has taken up offer for Over 60's but not Under 16's. This decision criticised by MP Gwyn Prosser. DDC response is requested. (Covering such as Why? How much would it cost? How much central government funding and how much shortfall would need to be met from DDC budgets? How much is the Over 60's costing us + Quote + other things I'm sure you can think of).
2. Recession and budgets: Would like to know the Council 2009/10 budget for local sports groups to apply for revenue and capital funding and how this compares to 2008/09. Is there less money for local groups? Would the free swimming come out of this budget? Any other comments?

A response is needed by the end of the day today **Tuesday 7 April 2009**. Please could you copy Michelle Traylor in to your reply as well in case I am not in the office.

Thanks  
Caroline



**Caroline Hargreaves**  
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