

14 December 2015

Agenda Item: 08

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **REVIEW OF SCHOOLS SWIMMING SERVICE OFFER**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to conduct a review of the Council's offer of Schools Swimming by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The aim of the review is to reduce the cost to the Council, whilst continuing to support Nottinghamshire schools to deliver their OFSTED requirement to provide an appropriate programme of swimming.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. Currently the Council provides an offer of Schools Swimming to schools in Nottinghamshire to support them to deliver their OFSTED requirements. This is delivered by the Schools Swimming Service which is funded through income from schools and a subsidy of c £40,000 from the Council. Total income in 2014/15 was £1,267,000.
3. The financial probity of the Schools Swimming Service is dependent on several factors outside of the Council's control which include the number of schools who purchase the service, the consistent availability and cost of both hiring the pools and the transport for pupils to access them.
4. In many recent years, despite the best efforts of the Service to work within its budget, there has been an overspend due to unplanned pool closures and escalating transport costs. The table below is based on the September 2015 audit report.

Actual vs budget £m	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Expenditure	0.949	1.232	1.339
Total income	0.911	1.249	1.267
Over (+) / Under (-) spend	+0.038	-0.017	+0.072

5. There is a developing market in alternative suppliers of schools swimming and several Nottinghamshire schools are choosing to take their business elsewhere.
6. Due to recent legal precedence there is a clear remit for the Council to offer advice to schools both in terms of OFSTED requirements, safeguarding and Health & Safety.

7. Potential future options for the Service include:
- providing swimming advice to schools both in terms of OFSTED requirements, safeguarding and Health & Safety, whilst transitioning from an in house traded school swimming service model to one that enables schools to directly purchase swimming support directly from external providers.
  - providing schools with a sufficient but financially sustainable offer of bought back schools swimming. This would involve a consideration of the current charging regime for schools, and the potential for the procurement of a schools swimming contract with an external provider.
8. The review will include consultation with all relevant stakeholders including staff and its recommendations will provide the basis of a further report to this committee in May 2016.

### **Other Options Considered**

9. As the purpose of this report is to review future options for delivering the Council's Schools Swimming offer which will be brought before the Committee at a later stage, no other options were considered at this time

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. The Council's Schools Swimming offer needs to support Nottinghamshire schools to deliver their OFSTED requirement to provide an appropriate programme of swimming within the budget available.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

12. Reduce the cost to the Council of supporting Nottinghamshire Schools to deliver their OFSTED requirement to provide an appropriate programme of swimming.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Committee approves the proposal to review the Council's support to Nottinghamshire schools to deliver their OFSTED requirement to provide an appropriate programme of swimming, as detailed in this report.

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**Constitutional Comments (LM 19/11/15)**

13. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Committee.

**Financial Comments (SAS 25/11/15)**

14. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraph 12 above.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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