

By hardcopy to the Chief Executives of the below authorities participating in Pots 1 and 2 of the Government's Free Swimming Programme:

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  
Non-metropolitan County Councils (England) – for information

Chairs of the Joint Implementation Teams in the restructuring areas

27 November 2008

Dear Colleague

## **FREE SWIMMING PROGRAMME**

### **Pots 2 and 3 Allocations**

1. Further to our previous correspondence of 29 July 2008 and 7 October 2008, I am writing to advise you of your topped-up final allocation for Pot 2 (funding to provide free swimming for those aged 16 or under) and re-allocation for Pot 3 (funding for capital projects designed to modernise pool provision, as part of the free swimming offer).
2. 291 local authorities have chosen to offer free swimming to people 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. X is one of 211 local authorities which have also chosen to offer free swimming for those aged sixteen or under and I am very pleased to inform you that it has been awarded Pot 2 funding of £XXX. This sum includes a top-up of just over 20% of your original allocation for free swimming for those aged sixteen and under. This top-up has been allocated to all Local Authorities who have opted in to both Pots 1 and 2 of the Free Swimming Programme, and has become available because some local authorities in England have restricted their participation in the Free Swimming Programme to Pot 1 or have opted out of the programme altogether. The additional Pot 2 funding is subject to the terms and conditions set out in our letters of 29 July 2008 and 7 October 2008.
4. In addition, other initiatives such as swimming lessons and Free Swimming Co-ordinators to support local authorities will be funded from the overall funding package.
5. X has also been awarded a *pro rata* total population-based Pot 3 funding of £XXX. Pot 3 funding was re-calculated after some local authorities in England restricted their participation in the Free Swimming Programme to Pot 1 or opted

out of the programme altogether. £10 million was made available in financial year 2008/09 to reward those authorities which signed up to Pots 1 and 2 (including those who already made available free swimming offers that would otherwise have qualified for funding).

6. More details on Pots 2 and 3 are at **Appendix A**.

### **Payment of grants**

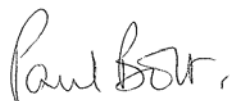
7. This expenditure grant is made pursuant to the powers in section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and is subject to the conditions set out in this letter and in our earlier correspondence of 29 July 2008 and 7 October 2008.
8. We expect the capital Pot 3 allocation to local authorities participating in Pots 1 and 2 to be paid into local authority accounts on Friday 28 November 2008 in accordance with the payment details with which you have provided us.
9. The payment of the Free Swimming Programme grants for financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 are subject to the terms and conditions as set out in our letters of 29 July 2008 and 7 October 2008, including the specification that Pot 3 funding can be used as project development costs for bids for financial year 2009/10 and financial year 2010/11. Pot 3 funds cannot be used for partnership funding for bids from financial year 2009/10 onwards.
10. Additional project development costs that the Pot 3 grant can be used to fund might include architects' fees; quantity surveying fees; cost of feasibility studies; legal fees in respect of drafting documents; condition surveys; site surveys/investigation; fees in relation to securing detailed planning permission; fees in relation to complying with building regulations; tender costs.
11. Ineligible project development costs include consultants fees to prepare bid applications; or purchase of land.
12. If a local authority wishes to use capital Pot 3 funding to improve aspects of their swimming provision, the following criteria need to be satisfied:
- The funding must be spent on lasting assets to the swimming pool provision and provide significant community benefit. Personal sports equipment or clothing, for example, would not apply.
  - It must be spent on a specific and immediate project. Buying land or facilities for future use, for example, would not apply.
  - It should not be spent on the purchase of minibuses or other road vehicle costs.
13. If you are uncertain about what expenditure is appropriate please contact the Department for Culture, Media and Sport via the details given at the bottom of this letter.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

14. As outlined in our letter of 29 July 2008, the grants provided for the Free Swimming Programme are for free swimming schemes, the evaluation of which will be used to determine future funding and delivery arrangements. As such, there will be a need to measure the success of the schemes through local

monitoring. The grant is therefore ring-fenced to allow evaluation of the funding which must be spent in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this letter and the correspondence of 29 July 2008 and 7 October 2008.

15. As part of this we will require regular data returns on the number of swimmers taking up free swimming across different age groups as well as the amount of free swimming being offered to different age groups in pools. Additional information on monitoring and evaluation of the scheme at the local level will be sent out to Local Authorities in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bolt". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature is a vertical red line.

**PAUL BOLT**

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

26 November 2008

**Pot 2: Free swimming for those aged 16 or under**

1. Pot 2 is only available to those local authorities who choose the minimum offer of providing free swimming for those aged 60 or over and wish to provide an additional offer for those aged 16 or under. For these authorities we will make available an additional £25m revenue funding over two years to support free swimming for those aged 16 or under.
2. Free swimming for those aged 16 or under means that people in that age group who wish to swim out of normal school hours throughout the year, 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.
3. Government hopes that local authorities will work creatively with local partners, including Primary Care Trusts, to access funds from other sources (such as Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Extending Activities, the Big Lottery Fund) as well as with commercial and third sectors, to maximise the impact across shared agendas.
4. Those authorities who already make available a free swimming offer that would otherwise have qualified for funding may use their allocation on initiatives additional to their existing offer and designed either i) further to increase and sustain participation for those aged 16 or under (e.g. structured sessions or classes) and/or ii) to extend their existing programmes to wider groups of the population and move further towards a universal free swimming offer.

**Pot 3: Modernising pool provision – capital reward fund**

5. In addition, Government is providing a total of £60 million capital for capital projects designed to modernise pool provision, which are integrated with providing free swimming as outlined above.
6. £10 million has been made available in financial year 2008/09 to reward those authorities which sign up to both schemes as outlined above. Authorities participating in Pots 1 and 2 will receive a pro rata population-based share of the £10 million capital in financial year 2008/09. These funds can be used as project development costs for bids for financial year 2009/10 and financial year 2010/11. They cannot however be used for partnership funding for bids from financial year 2009/10 onwards.