

**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET**

<b>Name of decision maker:</b>	Cllr Colette Wyatt-Lowe
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Community Services
<b>Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:</b>	
<b>Title of Decision:</b>	
Participation in the national free swimming programme for over 60s.	
<b>Decision made and reasons:</b>	
To approve participation in the national free swimming programme for the over 60's and express an interest in the free swimming programme for the under 16's for two years from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2009	
The programme will provide a good opportunity to encourage participation in sport and physical activity.	
<b>Reports considered: ( here reference can be made to specific documents)</b>	
LAA stretch targets for physical activities within the target groups.	
<b>Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:</b>	
Corporate Management Team	
<b>Monitoring Officer/Chief Financial Officer Comments:</b>	
Monitoring Officer - comments included in report	
Section 161 Officer - Dacorum Borough Council will liaise with the Dacorum Sports Trust to ensure that any potential funding gap will be reimbursed by the Sports Trust.	
Should there be any change in this position, then a separate report will be needed setting out new proposals.	
<b>Implications:</b>	
<b>Risk:</b>	
Failure to participate may result in a decline in income to the Sports Trust and put pressure on the grant the Council pays to the Trust.	
<b>Value for Money</b>	
Participating in the scheme will improve participation in physical recreation at no additional cost to the Council as it will be financed by a combination of funding from central Government and a redirection of funds from Dacorum Sports Trust's existing	

**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET**

Sports Development Fund.

**Options Considered and reasons for rejection:**

Not to participate in the programme.

May have a financial consequence if neighbouring authorities participate and people travel to swim free.

**Portfolio Holders Signature:**

**Date:**

**Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:****For Member Support Officer use only**

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 17 September 2008

Date Decision Published: 18 September 2008                      Decision No: PH/046/08

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 25 September 2008

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

**BACKGROUND**

1. In early summer the Government announced plans for a national programme for free swimming for over 60's and under 16's.

**Over 60's**

2. The Government recently wrote to all districts to inform them of a notional allocation together with the arrangements for applying for the funding. Dacorum Borough Council was informed that the allocation for the district was just under £39,784 for two years, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (£79,568 in total). This is the highest allocation for any district in Hertfordshire.
3. Dacorum Sports Trust was asked to establish what proportion of income was currently received by the over 60's. The amount of revenue from casual swimmers, those who are not members, is £62,000 pa. There are also 60 plus members who as part of the membership package swim "free", though it is difficult to establish exactly what activities this group do, they may not swim at all.
4. When compared to the allocation for free swimming there is a funding gap of approximately £22k between the allocation and the current income.

**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET**

5. Following discussions with Dacorum Sports Trust they have suggested it is unlikely the funding gap could be plugged with additional secondary spend. However, the risk is that if we do not participate in the programme and our neighbouring authorities do there would be a loss of activity and income at the sports centres as people go to swim at authorities where it is free.
6. Dacorum Sports Trust has suggested that funding for sports development for older people be redirected to plug the gap. Given that the sports development programme exists to encourage people to be more physically active, this would seem to be a sensible proposition.
7. The funding is available for two years and we will need to be clear that once the funding ends the scheme in Dacorum will end.
8. There will be no additional costs in running the pools due to the additional swimmers and "load" on the pools. This is not a factor in deciding whether to participate in the scheme.
9. The Council needs to respond to DCMS by 15<sup>th</sup> September to inform them of our decision.
10. A further PH decision will come forward once the details of the under 16 swimming programme is known at the end of September.