



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

June 26th, 2015

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Special Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on **Monday, 29th June 2015 at 6:00 pm** in **Downshire Civic Centre**.

# Agenda

1 **Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

3 **Presentation by Deputation of Parents and Swimming Teachers from across the District**

A deputation on this matter has been invited to address the Council and this deputation will be conducted in line with the Council's Standing Orders. A copy of Standing Order 11 relating to Deputations is attached.

**[Standing Order 11.pdf](#)**

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4 **Report from Council Officers on private swimming arrangements**

**[Report for Special Council Meeting 29.06.15-2.pdf](#)**

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**[Appendix A qualitative comparison.pdf](#)**

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**[Appendix B - private groups comparision.pdf](#)**

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5 **Legal Opinion from Council's Legal Advisors on Private Group Swimming Lessons**

"Item 5 is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 - Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings."

**[Legal Opinion - Exempt.pdf](#)**

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# Invitees

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## 11 Deputations

- (1) Deputations, from any source, shall only be considered to address the Council or Council Committee provided the Clerk has received ten clear days notice of the intended deputation and a statement of its objective. The Chairperson shall have the discretion, in cases of emergency, to reduce this period of notice.
- (2) The deputation shall be confined to the presentation of a statement, or copy of resolutions, and shall not make more than two short addresses by any two members of the deputation. The totality of the address shall not exceed ten minutes for the total presentation.
- (3) Deputations should not be repetitive and, where possible, issues of a similar or linked nature should be contained in one deputation. Where a deputation has made a presentation to the Council, the Council may decline to accept another deputation on the same issue from the same individual or group for a period of six months.

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b><i>Special Meeting of the Council</i></b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<i>Private Swimming Arrangements</i>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015</i>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<i>M Lipsett, Director of Active &amp; Healthy Communities</i>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<i>Mr R Moore, Assistant Director of Leisure &amp; Sport</i>

**Decisions Required**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- ***The 1to1 and 1to2 lessons will be delivered on the basis of the table set out in 2.2.***
- ***All private group lessons will cease with the exception of under 4 lessons which are not provided by the Council.***

1.0 **Purpose & Background**

1.1 *Discussion at recent Council meetings have concentrated on two key issues:*

- (a) How we facilitate 1 to 1 and 1 to 2 lessons particularly for children with disabilities and learning difficulties (who cannot engage in Councils public lessons).*
- (b) Should the Council continue to facilitate group private swimming lessons. A qualitative comparison was requested by Council and is contained in Appendix A.*

*The Council need to resolve these issues to enable it to plan the service going forward and budget for a service which is heavily subsidised and costly.*

1.2 *The three Leisure Centres across the District i.e. Downpatrick Leisure Centre, Kilkeel Leisure Centre and the split site of Newry Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre cost £3.537 million to run annually based on 2014/2015 figures. Based on last year’s accounts they lost £2.355 million which is equivalent to just under 5% of a rate increase.*

1.3 *Based on Newry Swimming Pool (the only dedicated swimming pool in the district) in 2014/2015 the cost of running the pool area is £218 per hour which across 7 lanes of a swimming pool is £31.14 per lane per hour. This is exclusive of depreciation and maintenance. Appendix B outlines the charges for private schools which is less than the cost to the Council.*

2.0	<b>Key Issues</b>															
2.1	<p><i>On the first issue 1 to 1 and 1 to 2 lessons there is a firm view that children with disabilities should be actively encouraged to use the Council’s swimming pools. It is therefore proposed that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) There will be no lesson charge for the teacher where a pupil holds a less-abled membership and the teacher pays their annual membership fees.</i></li> <li><i>(b) The time period for children with disabilities should be 45 minutes to enable changing and preparation time.</i></li> <li><i>(c) Children who do not have disabilities or have learning difficulties but would benefit from 1 to 1 lessons due to lack of confidence (as confirmed by an independent professional who has knowledge of the child) will be treated the same as (a).</i></li> </ul>															
2.2	<p><i>The Council is keen to provide a consistent suite of service across all its centres to ensure that all ratepayers receive a quality equal service. The table details former and proposed charges</i></p> <p><i>All able bodied children and adults will pay the level currently charged in Newry and Kilkeel set out below.</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="352 898 1254 1406"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>Proposed New Pricing</b></th> <th><b>Proposed Less-abled</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual Reg..</td> <td>£53.15 + Yearly membership £220 = £273.15</td> <td>£53.15 + Yearly membership £220 = £273.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lesson fee to Council by Teacher</td> <td>£4.75 child*/ £8.40* adult</td> <td>£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Entrance Teacher</td> <td>£0.00 <i>(or £2.85 if non member)</i></td> <td>£0.00 <i>(or £2.85 if non member)</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Entrance Pupil</td> <td>£0.00 <i>(Approximate swim card rate of £1/£2 Child/Adult incl. In lesson fee)</i></td> <td>£0.00 <i>(less-abled rates £5.75/£11.45 per year)</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Proposed scheme enhancements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Remove £1 spectator charge for parent in Downpatrick</i></li> <li><i>• Waive lesson charge to teacher for less-abled pupils</i></li> <li><i>• Extend less-abled lesson tuition time to 45mins</i></li> <li><i>• Lesson can be booked up to 8 weeks in advance and a maximum of 5 teachers in the pool at any one time, this will be subject to operational requirements and Risk Assessment and during busy periods.</i></li> <li><i>• *Assumes 20 + lessons booked by instructor as this is included in the new flat rate. Where less than 20 lessons booked by instructor lesson fee of £3.75/£6.40 will apply as well as an entrance per pupil of £2.15/£2.85 (or membership/swim card) .</i></li> </ul>		<b>Proposed New Pricing</b>	<b>Proposed Less-abled</b>	Annual Reg..	£53.15 + Yearly membership £220 = £273.15	£53.15 + Yearly membership £220 = £273.15	Lesson fee to Council by Teacher	£4.75 child*/ £8.40* adult	£0.00	Entrance Teacher	£0.00 <i>(or £2.85 if non member)</i>	£0.00 <i>(or £2.85 if non member)</i>	Entrance Pupil	£0.00 <i>(Approximate swim card rate of £1/£2 Child/Adult incl. In lesson fee)</i>	£0.00 <i>(less-abled rates £5.75/£11.45 per year)</i>
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2.3	<p><i>At the Shadow Council Meeting held on 3 March 2015 it was agreed that the Council cease the hire of its pool for private swimming lessons. This was an urgent decision due to the opening of new Council facilities in Newry. It was also agreed to introduce a new arrangement for swimming lessons across the Council area which would increase the provision of public swimming lessons using the STA International Learn to Swim Programme. This has increased class numbers to 54 classes per week catering for over 500 pupils. The</i></p>															

	<p><i>Council is also looking at increasing these lessons by extending opening hours in Autumn to cater for the lessons (i.e.) Saturday and Sunday evenings due to lack of free space in the current pool programme.</i></p> <p><i>Downpatrick Leisure Centre provide a mix of private and public swimming lessons and the proposal post June 2015 when private group lesson contracts are concluded is to replicate the Newry and Kilkeel position. This would enable Council to roll out its STA International Learn to Swim Programme in all Council Swimming Pools. An independent review on the quality of the new programme would be undertaken in quarter 4 of 2015/16.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the Council decision in March there will be no private group lessons post June 2015. Discussion at the Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 suggested the continuation of private lessons. If the Council was to change its position then there are several issues it should consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) The Newry swimming lessons are now well established with 500 plus children in sessions and a waiting list for sessions in summer and autumn. It would not be prudent to change this and would cause confusion for patrons.</i></li> <li><i>(b) Any group private lessons in Council facilities would be targeted at groups not currently in the swimming programme organised by the Council.</i></li> <li><i>(c) Any private group lessons should be cost neutral to the ratepayer (i.e.) the cost of £31.14 per hour for hire of a lane should be recovered. Indeed the Council may wish to consider a public tender of the service to ensure value for money.</i></li> </ul>
3.0	<p><b><u>Conclusion and Recommendations</u></b></p>
3.1	<p><i>It is recommended that the Council agree the proposal for 1 to 1 and 1 to 2 lessons outlined at 2.1.</i></p> <p><i>It is recommended that the Council reaffirms its previous decision on private group sessions.</i></p>



## Appendix A - Qualitative comparison on group swimming lessons

	Private Swim Schools	Council Led Programme
<b>Cost Per Lesson</b>	Up to £10 per 30 minute Lesson	£4.85 per 30 minute lessons
<b>Frequency of Lessons</b>	Weekly – dependent on the available pool space that can be hired from the Council	Capacity To Provide Lessons Monday-Sunday (afternoons and evenings). This can be planned in conjunction with normal public swimming sessions and on-going user group bookings. Lessons can co-exist with other activities
<b>Ratios</b>	6 per class	Ratios range from 6 per class to max 12 per class – depending on age and ability
<b>Capacity Of Lessons</b>	Dependent on the available pool space that can be hired – approx. 0-14 hrs weekly pool space available	<b>Newry Leisure Centre</b> – approx. 500 spaces per week <b>Downpatrick Leisure Centre</b> – approx. 250 spaces per week <b>Kilkeel Leisure Centre</b> – approx. 140 spaces per week
<b>Future Growth</b>	Unknown – dependent on available pool space that the Council can hire out	<b>Newry Leisure Centre</b> – approx. growth to accommodate 700 spaces per week <b>Downpatrick Leisure Centre</b> – approx. growth to accommodate 400 spaces per week <b>Kilkeel Leisure Centre</b> – approx. growth to accommodate 200 spaces per week  Also having a consistent delivery model across the 3 centres will allow pupils to transfer between facilities if available if circumstances change and also allow for pupils to be signposted to another facility if there is availability.
<b>Delivery Method Of Lessons</b>	Different Delivery Methods per swim school in each facility	STA is the largest Independent Swimming Teaching and lifesaving organisation. Provides support across 4 key areas – swimming teaching, lifesaving, first aid and leisure management. It is an incentive based programme for the pupils, which promotes the importance of water safety, consists of 5 levels to provide people of all ages with a structured, progressive and transparent swimming and water safety scheme. All pupils are assessed prior to enrolment to determine correct entry level. All teachers will deliver lessons as per the syllabus and all pupils will receive success tracker booklets, certificates and badges. Feedback relayed to parents/guardians through success tracker booklets and verbal feedback.

<b>On-going Continued Professional Development</b>	Council have no control over teachers and determining if they are availing of additional courses	On-going training provided along with additional bolt on courses – baby/pre-school, people with disabilities, aquacise, tutor awards so that centres can start to deliver swim teacher course qualifications to increase the skill set of the local workforce
<b>On-going Themes and Schemes</b>	Specific to each swim school – in some cases no additional themes are available	Themed educational schemes throughout the year – water safety week, childhood obesity week, junior medic week. All templates are provided along with information leaflets, amended lesson structures to complement each themed week, raise awareness in local community about key themes.
<b>Future Development Plans For Pupils</b>	Refer pupils back to the centre to avail of information on other activities	STA programme has a clear defined structure from beginner to advanced. Also a clear pathway for pupils to continue to swim as a sport (through partnership links with swim clubs, triathlon clubs, sub aqua clubs, etc) or to utilise their skills for a professional career – offering of the Junior Lifeguard Academy and also RLSS NPLQ Lifeguard qualifications that will enhance employment prospects. All the centres are approved training centres that allow trainer/assessors to deliver courses to the public.
<b>Additional Offerings</b>	Refer pupils back to the centre to avail of information on other activities	Partnership links with private 1-2-1 tutors, swim clubs, triathlon clubs, sub aqua clubs,etc

## Appendix B

Table 1 – Private Hire For Group Swimming Lessons

	Number of Swimming Teachers Per Private Swim School	Number of Participants in Lessons	Weekly Pool Space Bookings For Private Swim Schools	Income to Council Via Facility Hire from Private Swim Schools for April 2014-March 2015	Fee achieved by Council per lane hire from Private Swim Schools for April 2014-March 2015
<b>Newry Swimming Pool - El Sol</b>	exact figure unknown - aprox up to 8 teachers	6 students per teacher (30 min lessons)	exclusive use - full 6 lane pool and small pool for 2.5 hrs per week	approx £4100	£48.10 per hour for facility £6.01 per hour per lane (6 lane main pool and 2 lane learner pool)
<b>Newry Swimming Pool - Swim Fit</b>	exact figure unknown - aprox up to 12 teachers	6 students per teacher (30 min lessons)	exclusive use - full 6 lane pool and small pool for 4 hrs per week	approx £8700	
<b>Downpatrick Leisure Centre - Little Flippers</b>	2 teachers	6-8 students per teacher (30 min lessons)	exclusive use - learner pool for 5.5 hrs per week. Shared 1 lane main pool use for 1 hr per week	approx £4300	£16.50 per hour for learner pool £62.60 per hour for full main pool £12.50 per lane per hour main pool (5 lane main pool)
<b>Downpatrick Leisure Centre - Aqua Ripples</b>	3 teachers	6-8 students per teacher (30 min lessons)	shared use - 1 lane main pool for 5 hrs per week	approx £1800	
<b>Downpatrick Leisure Centre – AN other</b>	1 teacher	6-8 students per teacher (30 min lessons)	exclusive use - learner pool for 30mins per week. Shared 1 lane main pool use for 2 hrs per week	approx £1300	

Note – the named organizations in relation to Newry Swimming Pool no longer provide swimming lessons following recent Council Decision. The named organizations in relation to Downpatrick Leisure Centre will continue on a month by month basis pending Council decision.

Table 2 – Specialist Private Hire for 0-4 years

	Number of Swimming Teachers Per Private Swim School	Number of Participants in Lessons	Weekly Pool Space Bookings	Income to Council Via Facility Hire for April 2014-March 2015	Fee achieved by Council per lane hire
<b>Newry Swimming Pool - Baby Ducklings 0-4 year old</b>	1 teacher	6 students per teacher (30 min lessons)	small pool - mixture of shared use or exclusive use depending on each booking - approx 1 hour per week for 6 weeks x 6 separate bookings throughout the year	£689.20	£39.90 per hour for full learner pool - £19.95 per hour for half learner pool
<b>Kilkeel Leisure Centre - Baby Ducklings 0-4 year old</b>	1 teacher	6 students per teacher (30 min lessons)	small pool exclusive use 1 hour per week for approx 6 weeks x 4 separate bookings throughout the year	£359.10	£39.90 per hour for full learner pool - £19.95 per hour for half learner pool

Note – Please also refer to Table 1 in relation to Downpatrick provision, there are elements of the services provided by the private groups that cater for 0-4 age group in Downpatrick. Council do not current provide this specialist service in Newry, Kilkeel or Downpatrick. It is recommended that this arrangement with the private groups for this age category to continue pending a further review following the recent procedure that was presented to Council.

Table 3 – Private 1-2-1 Tuition

Centre	Number of Private 1-2-1 Teachers Currently registered	Average monthly 1-2-1 lessons delivered in total	Average Monthly Income to Council from 1-2-1 Teachers	Income To Council Via Private 1-2-1 Teacher Charges for April 2014- March 2015	Fee achieved by Council per lesson from Private 1-2-1 teachers from April 2014-March 2015
Newry Leisure Centre	8	147 lessons per month	£762	£9,142.20	£3.75 per child lesson/£6.40 adult per adult
Kilkeel Leisure Centre	6	165 lessons per month	£582	£6,989.85	£3.75 per child lesson/£6.40 adult per adult
Downpatrick Leisure Centre	5	587 lessons per month - based on Jan-March 2015	£250 fixed fee based on 5 teachers	£3000 fixed fee based on 5 teachers	approx. £0.42 per lesson

Note – it was proposed that as part of “leveling up” directive, that the former DDC area would adopt the former NMDC model. Note that each respective legacy Council continue to operate their respective charging models pending Council decision on this matter.