

SUNDERLAND SWIMMING PATHWAY

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

Strategic Priority : Healthy City

Corporate Improvement Objectives: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO3: Efficient and Effective Council

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members on the Sunderland swimming pathway, which highlights a tiered approach towards swimming development and the opportunities the city offers from grassroots participation to higher elite performance.

2. Description of the Decision (Recommendation)

- 2.1 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are requested to note this report for information and provide feedback on the pathway.

3. Swimming Pathway

- 3.1 Members may recall in 2007/08 the former Culture and Leisure Review Committee, agreed to review the development of swimming and made recommendations for its further development. The review 'Not Treading Water' produced 16 recommendations for the continued development of the swimming offer in the city. Included within the report were a number of recommendations which specifically examined how the delivery of the swimming pathway could be improved.
- 3.2 As part of the original funding application for the Sunderland Aquatic Centre, a swimming development plan was established to demonstrate how the pool would be programmed to maximise benefits for all levels of users. This included the programming for public sessions, learn to swim (LTS) programme, school lessons, club training, competitions, and a Beacon / elite development programme. Following the opening of the Aquatic Centre the City Council adopted the Amateur Swimming Association's (ASA) national teaching plan for the delivery of LTS and school lessons. The City of Sunderland Amateur Swimming Club, with support from the City Council accessed funding from the ASA to employ a full time Head Coach to oversee the club pathway. In addition, the Head Swimming Coach delivers the region's Beacon programme and a Community Swim Coach ensures a clear pathway is in place from grassroots participation to club membership.
- 3.3 As a result of the progress made following the opening of the Aquatic Centre, it is now appropriate to develop a swimming pathway that will underpin the emerging swimming development plan. In addition, the pathway will identify the key 'enablers' in the city that can and will support the delivery of the swimming pathway, and associated development plan. The pathway (Appendix 1) demonstrates as a result of partnership working, the 'swimming offer' in the city and identifies the delivery partners for each aquatic stage, defining key roles and responsibilities. The swimming development plan mentioned above will detail aims, objectives and expected outcomes of the pathway, including an action plan on how the outcomes will be achieved.

4. Background Papers

4.1 The following background papers were relied upon to compile this report:

- Not Treading Water 2007/2008 – Culture & Leisure Review Committee

Appendix 1

Swimming Pathway – Position Statement

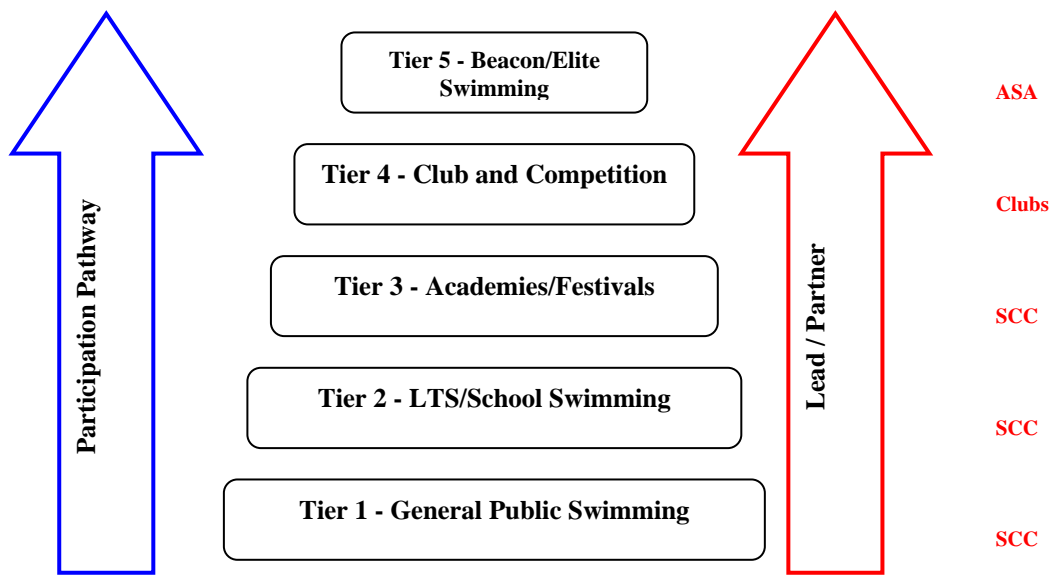
A Vision for Sport

Sunderland City Council's vision for sport is, "In Sunderland, everyone will have access to quality sport and physical activity opportunities to improve their health and well-being at first class community facilities."

Swimming Pathway

This document identifies the pathway for swimming from 'grass routes' to 'elite performance' within City Council operated swimming pools and identifies key partner organisations, outlining their role and responsibilities within the pathway. The document also demonstrates the outcomes associated with the successful implementation of the Sunderland swimming pathway. For details on how additional swimming facilities in the city support the pathway for swimming please refer to the Swimming Development Plan 2011 – 2015.

The following diagram shows the participation pathway for swimming delivered across City Council operated pools. Each tier on the pathway has a lead organisation responsible for that part of the pathway.



Partner Organisations

Sunderland City Council (SCC)

SCC hosts swimming activities and provides facilities at the following locations.

- Sunderland Aquatic Centre
- Washington Leisure Centre
- Hetton Community Pool
- Silksworth Tennis Centre and Community Pool
- Raich Carter Sports Centre (arms length organisation)
- Sandhill Centre (operated under a PFI agreement)

As the lead organisation at Tier 1, 2 and 3 SCC ensures opportunities exist for those living, working, studying or visiting Sunderland to participate in general swimming sessions.

Amateur Swimming Association (ASA)

The ASA is the English National Governing Body for swimming, diving, water polo, open water and synchronised swimming. It organises competitions throughout England, establishes the laws and operates comprehensive certification and education programmes for teachers, coaches and officials, as well as its renowned Learn to Swim (LTS) scheme. At

Tier 5 the ASA are responsible for the management of the city's Beacon Programme which acts as the regional hub for talented swimmers, and the organisation and delivery of regional and national competitions and galas.

Swimming Clubs

The City of Sunderland Amateur Swimming Club (CoSASC) at Tier 4 is recognised through the ASA's structure for swimming, as Sunderland's 'performance club'. The club are Swim 21 accredited and deliver training and competition opportunities for swimmers from the age of 10, upto masters level. These activities are based at the Sunderland Aquatic Centre. Also at Tier 4 Hetton Amateur Swimming Club (HASC) is recognised by the ASA as a 'development club' with a focus on skills and technique with an academy element of work attached to it. The club are based at Hetton Community Pool and deliver swimming opportunities for young people between the ages of 10 -14, working with the CoSASC to signpost talented swimmers into the wider city structure. Sunderland Special Olympics and Sunderland Gateway Clubs provide coaching and competitive opportunities for swimmers with learning difficulties.

Roles of Partner Organisations

In order to deliver a strong pathway, it is important partners have a defined role and are responsible for the development and delivery of their respective Tier of the pathway. It is important to have a strong and cohesive relationship between all partners to achieve the aims of the policy. To aid clarity and understanding, SCC has summarised the key roles of each of the partners.

Sunderland City Council will be responsible for:

- Providing public activities, ensuring the public have access to pool space during peak and off peak times through a balanced programme of activities
- Delivering school swimming lessons, provide one point of contact for the booking and administration
- The delivery of the LTS programme from stage 1 to 10, in city council operated pools
- Supporting and guiding clubs to develop a sustainable infrastructure.
- Hosting continuous performance development (CPD) / coach education courses
- Facilitating and hosting the regional ASA Beacon Programme until 2013
- Hosting the Beacon Coach until 2013
- Hosting the Community Swim Coach and provide funding for 10 hours per week to develop and deliver Academies and swim festivals
- To host club activities including training and gala requirements as agreed annually with the ASA and respective clubs
- To support new initiatives developed by the ASA
- To host ASA events as agreed annually including championship, International competitions and swim camps.

The ASA will be responsible locally for:

- Providing a national strategic lead for swimming
- Setting standards in club development and format/structure roles including Swim 21 Accreditation
- Line managing the Beacon Coach and Beacon Programme
- Organising and delivering CPD / teacher and coach education
- Organising and delivering ASA national and regional events including championships international competitions and swimming camps.

The City of Sunderland Amateur Swimming Club will be responsible for:

- Delivering coaching to swimmers progressing from LTS to competitive swimming
- Increasing the number of swimmers in the club from all backgrounds across the city
- Supporting the development of disabled swimmers
- Organising and delivering a series of successful gala's as agreed with SCC and the ASA
- Providing opportunities for swimmers to compete at the appropriate level
- Increasing number of swimmers from the club qualifying for the beacon programme
- Developing and increasing the number of coaches and volunteers supporting the club
- Promoting the club in the community
- Ensuring the club is sustainable and has funds to support a coaching structure including the employment of a head coach and Community Swim Coach
- Maintaining its Swim 21 Performance Club status.

Hetton Amateur Swimming Club will be responsible for:

- Delivering coaching to swimmers progressing from LTS to competitive swimming
- Increasing the number of swimmers in the club from the Coalfields area
- Supporting the development of disabled swimmers
- Providing opportunities for swimmers to compete at the appropriate level
- Working with CoSASC to sign post county qualifying swimmers into the CoSASC programme
- Developing and increasing the number of coaches and volunteers supporting the club
- Ensuring the club is sustainable and has funds to support their coaching structure
- Attaining and maintaining Swim 21 club status.

Sunderland Special Olympic and Sunderland Gateway are responsible for:

- Delivering coaching to swimmers with learning difficulties, progressing from LTS to competitive swimming
- Increasing opportunities for people with learning difficulties to access club and competitive structures
- Providing opportunities for swimmers to compete at the appropriate level
- Developing and increasing the number of coaches and volunteers supporting
- Ensuring the club is sustainable and has funds to support their coaching structure
- Attaining and maintaining Swim 21 club status.

Outcomes

By working in partnership to deliver each Tier of the pathway, the city will benefit from the following outcomes:

1. A progressive and inclusive **development plan** for all swimmers in the city
2. **An increase in the** number of quality marked swimming clubs with capacity to develop pathways into community and competitive swimming
3. **A raised** baseline of level 2 coaches and established minimum operating standards for professional and voluntary coaches
4. **Continuous** development and support for the city's current and future Olympic and Paralympic athletes
5. **Effective Working** with partners to improve Sunderland's swimming pools and increase access and opportunities into sustainable aquatic activities for all.

