

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 9 JANUARY 2018  
 title: GENERAL REPORT  
 submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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 COMMUNITY LEISURE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

### 1 PURPOSE

To inform on recent developments of Waste Management, and to update on the provision of swimming instruction for schools and the public.

### 2 WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- It was agreed at the Lancashire Waste Partnership in October to form a Strategy Sub-Group to consider options for longer term waste strategies and joint working. County Councillor Edwards was nominated by County Councillor Atkinson to Chair the Sub-Group and has, in turn, nominated Members to serve on the Sub-Group.

The members of the group are as follows:

**Chair:** County Councillor Edwards

**Nominated Members:**

Councillor L Pate – Burnley  
 Councillor I Wilkie – West Lancashire  
 Councillor D Eaves – Fylde  
 Councillor B Hughes – Lancaster  
 Councillor I Sayers – Ribble Valley

The first meeting of the sub group is on 5 December.

LWP meetings will continue into next year with the next one being on 10 January 2018.

- RVBC has been notified by LCC that the recycling rates throughout the Lancashire collecting districts have flat lined or reduced. It is the council's belief that this is reducing as a result of the increasing levels of contamination contained within the recycling bins. It is proposed that in the New Year, and before the contribution from LCC ceases, RVBC will produce a publicity campaign to reinforce the good message of recycling and also a reminder of the items that constitute contamination.

### **3 RIBBLESDALE POOL**

#### **3.1 School Swimming**

In light of recent efforts by the government to address the national situation that since 2012, only half of children aged between 7-11 year olds have met the required Key Stage 2 standard for Swimming, it is proposed to work with primary schools in developing a school swimming and water safety plan.

Ribblesdale Pool currently delivers a progressive learning scheme which embraces the three elements of the standard expected by the completion of primary school, within a scheme introduced by Swim England and known as 'The Swim Charter'.

The Curriculum Swimming and Water Safety Review Group has been commissioned by the government to ensure that no child leaves school unable to meet a minimum standard of capability and competence in swimming.

There are 18 recommendations which include;-

- A new Top-up swimming programme for those who most require support;
- A new Curriculum Swimming and Water Safety Resource Pack to all primary schools, and Swimming providers;
- Government to find specific training for school teachers and teaching staff who deliver swimming;
- Perhaps the most significant recommendation is the condition imposed on schools; and states that as part of the Primary Premium finding monitoring, schools must publish Swimming and Water Safety attainment levels.

In supporting the continuous improvement of swimming lesson delivery for schools at Ribblesdale Pool, consultation with head teachers is in process, and potential improvements being considered are:

- Increasing the amount of teaching time spent at the pool, and less travelling, which is the main cost for schools. This might involve lessons increasing to 45mins duration.
- Working with Swim England to ensure that the Swim Charter, or whichever scheme is implemented; be fit for purpose.
- Identifying those pupils who are most in need of assistance and identifying how progress can best be achieved.

#### **3.2 The Learn to Swim Programme for the General Public**

From January 2018, it is anticipated that the Council's internally organised Learn to Swim Programme will return to the level of provision that was in place prior to the closure period for improvement work. A combination of Council employed teachers, and teachers recruited through an agency arrangement will provide the necessary consistency to sustain and, hopefully, grow the instruction programme in line with demand.

The introduction of two Swimming Instruction apprenticeships at the pool aims to address the difficulties in recruiting swimming teachers.

#### 4 **CONCLUSION**

This updates on progress within Waste Management, and the provision of swimming instruction.

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