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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> May 2009</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>RC/09/05/05/SJ /WW</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Head of Economic and Social Regeneration</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712321</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Free Use of Swimming for Under-16s and Over-60s</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the outcome of providing free swimming for under-16s and for over-60s, for the period 2008/09.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council, as part of its budget announcements in February 2009 agreed to allocate £242,000 in the 2009/10 financial year for Inverclyde Leisure to provide free swimming for under 16s and over-60s.
- 2.2 The end of the 2008/9 financial year was the fourth year that free swimming has been provided for under-16s and the first year that it had been provided for over-60s. Details of the performance figures for these initiatives are given in paragraph 4.3 below.
- 2.3 The subsidy given to Inverclyde Leisure for free swimming for under-16s is £183,000 per year. The figures show that in 2008/9, 68,451 under-16s used the scheme. This equates to a cost per user of £2.67. The cost of a child to swim on a pay as you go basis is £2.90 at peak times and £2.40 at off-peak times at the Waterfront and £2.50 at Port Glasgow and Gourrock.
- 2.4 The subsidy given to Inverclyde Leisure for free swimming for over-60s is £59,000 per year. The figures show that in 2008/9, 25,965 over-60s used the scheme. This equates to a cost per user of £2.27. The cost of an OAP to swim on a pay as you go basis is £2.90 at peak times and £2.80 at off-peak times at the Waterfront and £1.70 at Port Glasgow and Gourrock.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Committee notes the uptake of the free swimming initiative in 2008/9 and remits the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Resources to monitor Inverclyde Leisure's performance with regard to the scheme on a regular basis and give further update report at the end of the 2009/10 financial year.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Council, as part of its budget setting process in February 2005, agreed to provide £183,000 per year to Inverclyde Leisure to provide free swimming to under-16s. This funding has now been continued to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

4.2 The Council, as part of its budget setting process in February 2008, agreed to provide a further £59,000 per year to Inverclyde Leisure to provide free swimming to over-60s. This funding has now also been continued to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

4.3 The following information shows the uptake of free swimming for under-16s

Centre	Year			
	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Waterfront Leisure Complex	58,419	43,130	54,600	56,903
Port Glasgow Pool	8,485	5,386	6,742	6,744
Gourock Outdoor Pool	5,525	7,281	3,896	4,804
Total Free Swims	72,429	55,797	65,238	68,451
Cost per user	£2.53	£3.27	£2.81	£2.67

4.4 The following information shows the uptake of free swimming for over-60s

Centre	Year
	2008/9
Waterfront Leisure Complex	12,386
Port Glasgow Pool	8,400
Gourock Outdoor Pool	4,729
Total Free Swims	25,965
Cost per user	£2.27

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	Free swimming u-16s	2008-2010	£183,000 per annum	n/a	n/a
	Free swimming o-60s	2008-10	£59,000 per annum	n/a	n/a

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

5.2 Personnel: None.

5.3 Legal: None

5.4 Equalities: None

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 None

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None