



Children & Young People's Directorate

Director: Dr. S. Menghini

All Primary Schools

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Dear Headteacher

Many of you will be aware of the debate over the future of the St. Martin's Swimming Pool. A report on this pool will be submitted to the Cabinet on 12 June 2008. There is no doubt about the value that this facility has given in the past. The current debate centres on the capital investment needed now and in the future and the continuing revenue cost of running the pool.

In terms of revenue cost, an independent consultant has now reported that it is reasonable to expect that the net running costs will be approximately £137,000 per annum. This assumes that the current level of school usage would be maintained, and income would reflect charges of £66.00 per hour. This net cost is to be expected, whoever manages the pool.

There is a further complication in that it is against L.M.S regulations to retain a central budget over 0.1% of the total net Schools Budget. This equates to £87,000. The options would appear to be:

- a) Retain St Martin's Pool with a £87,000 central budget. The shortfall would be met by increasing hourly charges to schools who use it to £106.00 per hour.
- b) Retain St Martin's Pool, delegate the £87,000 to all Primary Schools, and increase hourly rates to £208.00 per hour to schools who use it.
- c) Close St Martin's Pool and delegate the £87,000 to all Primary Schools and establish an hourly charge for all HALO managed pools at a level between £66.00 and £80.00 per hour depending on services offered.

The latter appears to be the only viable way forward, but if any schools believe either option a) or b) or a variation of this is possible please let me know, as the views of schools will be reported to Cabinet on 12 June 2008 as long as they are received by 11 June 2008

Yours sincerely

GEORGE SALMON
HEAD OF COMMISSIONING AND IMPROVEMENT – SCHOOLS AND SERVICES

