

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>What is the swimming pool provision for the communities in our borough?</b>
<b>Prepared for</b>	<b>Education Children's Services and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b>
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## **Background**

- 1.1 Southwark has four centres with pool facilities within its leisure portfolio. The ages of the facilities vary from 2 Victorian bath houses pools (Camberwell and Dulwich) to the most recently built facility (1998) in Peckham.
- 1.2 Camberwell Leisure Centre – 1 x 25m pool and 1 x learner pool.  
Dulwich Leisure Centre – 1 25m pool  
Peckham Pulse – 1 x 25m pool and 1 x hydrotherapy pool.  
Seven Islands Leisure Centre – 1 x 33m pool.
- 1.3 Until recent years the majority of the facilities had begun to reach the end of their serviceable life and were in major need of investment. Back in 2007 the Council agreed £12.3m of capital investment to be spent on the borough's leisure facilities.

## **Leisure Investment to date**

- 2.1 Over the past 3 years there has been considerable investment in the borough's leisure centres which included the pools at Dulwich and Camberwell. The majority of the investment was funded from the council's own capital fund.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Capital funding (£)</b>	<b>External funding sourced (£)</b>	<b>Total project budget (£)</b>
Surrey Docks Watersports Centre	2.4m	0	2.4m
Dulwich Leisure Centre	6.5m	0	6.5m
Camberwell Leisure Centre Ph 1+2	3.1m	2.3m	5.4m
Camberwell Leisure Centre Ph 3	500k	600k	1.1m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.5m</b>	<b>2.9m</b>	<b>15.4m</b>

- 2.2 Dulwich Leisure Centre - £6.5m total capital investment – Completed June 2011

- Reconfiguration of pool tank to create standard 25m pool, with depth at deep end reduced to permit wider usage across entire length of pool
- Stepped access into the pool (instead of vertical ladders at the pool edge) to allow those with mobility issues, or parents carrying small children to enter the pool without assistance
- Poolside hoist to allow direct transfer of users from accessible changing rooms to the water

- Complete retiling of pool tank and hall to provide a slip resistant and hard-wearing finish
- New pool plant to deliver improved filtration and water clarity, and controlled air temperatures
- Improved thermal performance of the Victorian building fabric to reduce energy loss
- Motorised pool cover to minimise energy losses during non-operational periods
- Complete reconfiguration of the pool changing environments, including a family change and accessible changing area. The accessible changing and shower rooms feature ceiling-mounted hoist systems to allow the safe and convenient transfer of pool users; dedicated increased-width, contrasting-colour lockers with Braille numbering; and lowered vanity counters for wheelchair users.
- Addition of a pool viewing area.

2.3 Camberwell Leisure Centre - centre wide anticipated spend of £6.5m – Due to be fully completed Dec 2012

- Reconfiguration of pool tank to create standard 25m main pool, and 10m learner pool
- Stepped access into both the main and learner pools (instead of vertical ladders at the pool edge) to allow those with mobility issues, or parents carrying small children to enter the pool without assistance
- Poolside hoist to allow direct transfer of users from accessible changing rooms to the water
- Complete retiling of pool tank and hall to provide a slip resistant and hard-wearing finish
- New pool plant to deliver improved filtration and water clarity, and controlled air temperatures
- Improved thermal performance of the Victorian building fabric to reduce energy loss
- Complete reconfiguration of the pool changing environments, including a family change and accessible changing area. The accessible changing and shower rooms feature ceiling-mounted hoist systems to allow the safe and convenient transfer of pool users; dedicated increased-width, contrasting-colour lockers with Braille numbering; and lowered vanity counters for wheelchair users.
- Full perimeter viewing balcony; with lift access from reception

**Planned leisure Investment**

- 3.1 Seven Islands Leisure Centre – £8m has been set aside in the Council Capital fund for the redevelopment of Seven Islands leisure Centre. The aim is to develop the centre to bring it in line with the quality of Camberwell and Dulwich. The consultation process is due to begin in Dec 2012 and it is planned for the project to be completed some time in 2015. Detailed plans for the centre are yet to be drawn up.
- 3.2 Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre – The Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre opened in the late 1960s with a six court sports hall, gym, two studios, two squash courts, bar and lounge area, and a swimming pool complete with a wave machine. In 1997 the pool was closed due to unsafe roof construction and did not reopen. By 2012 the centre reached the end of its serviceable life and was no longer fit for purpose.
- 3.3 In 2010 Southwark Council agreed to enter into a regeneration agreement with Lend Lease paving the way for a historic £1.5bn regeneration of the Elephant and Castle. The leisure centre did not form part of the main agreement, which led the council to explore the

options for providing a new leisure centre, including consultation with local residents, users and stakeholders about what they would like to see in a new facility if developed.

3.4 In November 2010 the cabinet gave approval to progress with the design of a new leisure facility. The design process has now reached stage two and a planning application was submitted on August 2012. The design currently includes

- Six lane 25m swimming pool
- Learner pool

3.5 The new leisure £20m centre will continue the Council's drive to provide excellent facilities for its residents and improve the health of the borough. At 5pm on Tuesday 5 June 2012, after almost 40 years of providing fitness facilities, the centre closed to the public. Demolition is expected later this year and the plan is to open the new centre mid 2014. The addition of two new pools in this part of the borough will complete an unprecedented investment and improvements to the Council's leisure facilities particularly it's pools.

**Swimming participation**

4.1 Swimming participation has increased significantly over the last three and a half years. As Camberwell and Dulwich were undergoing re-developments in 2009/10 and 2010/11 overall usage was down for those years. Even taking that into consideration it is obvious that since the quality of facilities has improved there has been an upsurge in swimming pool usage in the borough which looks to be continuing in 2012/13. Alongside the redevelopment of the pools Fusion (Council's leisure management provider) continue to develop their pool programme and swim school programme.

**Wet Side Participation Figures 2009/10 to Present**

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13 to date
Camberwell	34,947	8,386	100,615	45,257
Dulwich	n/a	28,861	115,653	44,009
Peckham Pulse	114,422	134,541	118,247	49,700
Seven Islands	54,994	45,497	63,013	18,340
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,363</b>	<b>217,285</b>	<b>397,528</b>	<b>157,306</b>

**Development of swimming programme**

5.1 Swimming

There has been an increased focus on swimming development in the borough over the last year. We have been working closely with Fusion to ensure provision is wide ranging and of a high standard and to create better links with clubs. Through the 'legacy makers' programme, we have been supporting Southwark Aquatics (competitive swimming club based at Seven Islands Leisure Centre) in a range of club development exercises including funding, training and management. Plans are to expand the club to also operate from Camberwell in January 2013 so there will be club opportunities in both the north and south of the borough.

5.2 We also host an annual London Youth Games trial at JAGS pool, which is open to all swimmers living or going to school in the borough and encourage disability swimming involvement. We also continue to build great links with the Amateur Swimming Association who are the national governing board for swimming and work with them to deliver their whole sport plan.

### 5.3 Waterpolo

Waterpolo is at a developmental stage within the borough; only a few public schools currently play the sport and there are no known clubs operating. For the London Youth Games, Waterpolo is a development sport and Team Southwark have entered a team for the last two years, through close work with Dulwich College. Players are recruited from the school itself, and girls from the surrounding public schools. The Southwark team has narrowly lost in the final for the last two years, so we hope to challenge for the title again in 2013. Fusion and the Council are currently looking at the pool programme to see how waterpolo can be introduced to the general activity offer.

### 5.4 Aquathlon/Triathlon

Triathlon is at a developmental stage within the borough, due to the Olympic success of the Brownlee brothers it has now come more to the forefront of grassroots sports development. For the London Youth Games we have worked in partnership with England Triathlon and Lambeth Council to create a borough team. Trials and training have taken place at Brockwell lido as it is a suitable venue, but we hope to bring this into our borough for the 2013 Games. Fusion are currently reviewing the feasibility of open water swimming at Surrey Docks and other swimming disciplines with the aim of developing training opportunities for tri-athletes in the borough. Team Southwark performed well at the 2012 Games and there seems to be more of an interest in the sport now which the Council aims to maximise on.

### 5.5 Sub Aqua

Bermondsey Sub Aqua Club (based at Seven Islands Leisure Centre, SILC) have also been assisted in their development by promoting the club to increase general participation and bringing them together with UCL for a Sportivate bid to encourage university student participation.

### 5.6 Swim School

In 2010, there were 1,620 pupils enrolled on the Southwark swim school programme. Extensive marketing and development coupled with the new pool facilities at Dulwich and Camberwell have resulted in a further 1090 enrolments and there are now 2,710 children learning to swim on the programme.

5.7 ASA and MEND Swim Active programme – Fusion received funding from MEND to run a six week 'learn to swim' programme in February 2012. Disabled sessions were delivered at SILC and a women's only session at Peckham. We have 9 regular swimmers at SILC and an average of 20 per week at Peckham (for a Muslim women's group).

### 5.8 Swimming for older adults

In recent years Fusion have programmed in 8 Silver (60+) swimming sessions per week (two at each of the four sites with swimming pools) as part of the comprehensive Silver Active programme. The Silver Active programme allows older adults to take part in physical activity at extremely low prices. Older adults can swim at any time for 60p

however the 'Silver' sessions are designated times when the pool is for use by older adults only.

#### 5.9 Future programme development

- Review - Fusion are currently undertaking a complete review of the Southwark Swimming pools programme to see how our facilities can be maximised in terms of participation, development and learning health and fun. The full introduction of the developments will be across the full year 2013/14.
- Development - The aim is to create greater opportunities for pathways and developments of the swimming programme passed Swim School basic development.
- Marketing - A review of the branding of the sessions as part of a new marketing and communications campaign will be completed.
- Swim School – a review is to be completed on the capacity and delivery opportunities for swim school at all of the facilities.

#### Comparison with neighbouring authorities

6.1 Data comparing provision in neighbouring authorities is set out below.

	<b>Population</b>	<b>Centres with pools</b>	<b>Investment</b>	<b>Cost of swim</b>
<b>Southwark</b>	274,400	4 (1)	£15.4m (£28m)	General - £4.30 60+ - 60p U16 – 60p
<b>Lambeth</b>	272,000	3 (1)		General - £4.00 60+ - £1.80 U16 – £1
<b>Lewisham</b>	275,900	5 (1)	£36.5m	General - £3.50 60+ - Free U16 – £1.65
<b>Croydon</b>	363,400	4 (1)		General - £3.70 60+ - Free U16 – 70p

( ) = planned/in progress

6.2 It should be noted that although Southwark is the most expensive borough in terms of the general ticket price, very few people end up paying this. The majority of customers are either direct debit (pay monthly members) or 'Leisure Access' Card (discount card) members. The same ticket with a 'Leisure Access' card costs only £2.40.

6.3 Southwark has kept the older adult and under 16 swim ticket price the same for the past 3 years ensuring that price does not become a barrier to taking part in physical activity and the benefits that can bring to a persons wellbeing.