

DRAFT

Torbay Swimming Strategy 2011-2026



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Torbay Junior Sports Personality of the Year 2010

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Section 1

1.1 Introduction and context

Swimming is an activity that can be undertaken by all people of all ages, participants are of all abilities including people with a wide range of disabilities and is probably one of the most inclusive activities that can be undertaken.

Swimming pools provide the resource to enable a number of water based activities to take place throughout the year, teaching the various activities in a safe and controlled environment is a prime function. Activities undertaken may be leisure based, sports related, health and fitness or for training purposes.

The sports able to make use of these facilities are competitive Swimming, Water Polo or Octopush, there are no diving facilities within Torbay. For other water based activities the pools facilitate initial training, beginners soon gain the confidence and the ability to undertake the activities in open waters around Torbay. Scuba Diving, Canoeing, Kayaking and Life Saving being examples, it can be difficult to undertake the initial training away from this safe environment.

Health and Fitness is an important factor in the well being of local residents, swimming pools play an important part in the provision. Swimmers using the pool for pleasure and recreation do achieve a level of fitness. While more organised activities such as Aqua Aerobics are also made available.

Swimming Pool facilities also play an important role in the treatment of certain medical conditions, where safe exercise that reduces strain on muscles is a prime consideration. A prime example of this is at Swim Torquay where stroke rehab and disabled sessions are run.

Torbay's Swimming Strategy considers the current availability of swimming facilities within Torbay and potential future requirements to maintain or increase provision.

The **aim** of the strategy is to:

- Provide Torbay with the right number of swimming pools, of the right quality, in the right place at an affordable price.
- See a clear, coherent and equitable approach to facility development, enhancement, maintenance and management.
- Provide an adopted local standard for Torbay in relation to the swimming facilities it should seek to provide for its local residents.

The strategy will **demonstrate** the need by:

- Considering national, regional and local agendas, the corporate priorities of Torbay Council and those of its key partners.
- Taking account of projected demographic changes to 2026 and planning for future needs.
- Focusing on core priorities
- Presenting a prioritised set of policy options.

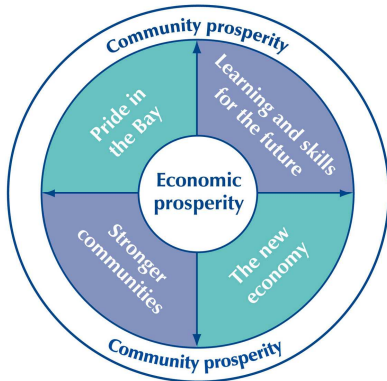
The Strategy will provide a foundation of information that enables key decisions to be made about the future investment in swimming facilities.

The Strategy:

- Identifies current supply and demand issues, and provides an evidence base for **internal investment and delivery of developer contributions**
- Places swimming facilities in the **national, regional, and local context**
- Informs **strategic planning** for swimming in Torbay
- Provides a basis for **investment planning**
- Informs land use **planning policy** and the **Local Development Framework**
- Informs **education** planning
- Demonstrates the need for improvement of **demand management** for swimming to better optimise our available swimming resources.
- Establish an **affordable medium to long-term plan** for the maintenance of an acceptable level of provision.
- Determines the **realistic** amount of **Council revenue subsidy** that will be required to provide adequate swim provision in accordance with the findings of the review.

1.2 Alignment with other strategy's

Torbay's Community Plan is currently being revised as the original plan, **Turning the Tide**, was launched in 2007.



The vision 'turning the tide', is directed by four key themes Pride in the Bay, Stronger Communities, Learning and Skills for the Future and, underpinning it all, the New Economy. Brought together the plan focuses on community prosperity for all the people of the Bay.

Pride in the Bay – Swimming is an important part of a community's culture. The two community run swimming pools are a primary example of community **volunteers** coming together and having a sense of **Community Pride** (Big Society). This is only possible because of the strong community support in Torbay.

Learning and skills for the future – Swimming is all about learning an **essential life skill in a coastal town** such as Torbay. Swimming provides learning skills at a variety of levels, **from local people learning to swim** to volunteers achieving coaching skills. At an **elite level** swimming is a skill for life and early support in training is crucial to developing athletes to compete at regional or national level.

There is an explicit expectation placed on schools in the **National Curriculum** to include swimming activity and water safety in Key Stage 2. There are clear attainment targets including the ability to swim unaided for a distance of 25m. Individual schools must come to an agreement to meet this requirement and the majority need to organise off site instruction at a public pool or private facility. The loss of a local pool will result in schools having to make alternative arrangements that are more expensive, or less convenient, which might have the effect of reducing the number of swimming sessions undertaken and, by extension, reducing the number of pupils in Torbay reaching the attainment target.

Stronger Communities – Sport, including swimming, is used to tackle a range of issues and is a **powerful tool for bringing people together from a range of backgrounds**. Swimming helps people to be **healthier** and to lead more independent lives by maintaining their **physical and mental well being**.

The New Economy – Swimming facilities play an important role in the local economy. Sport makes a significant contribution to **employment** and sport and leisure is a **recognised growth sector** and the economic impact of sport is increasing.

Torbay's Sports Facilities Strategy 2009 – identifies a shortage of swimming pool facilities in Torbay. Its recommendations include:

1. Support Project Pisces, this includes dual use of enhanced swimming facilities developed at Westlands School, Torquay.
2. Develop a training pool at Torbay Leisure Centre, Paignton.
3. Identify sites for 2 more 25m local pools

The vision for Project Pisces was to provide community facilities to be used to the advantage of the whole community within Torquay. The project focused on the regeneration of the Swim Torquay site ensuring the continued existence of a community swimming pool. The project enhanced the provision through the integration of additional fitness facilities, youth spaces and community use. It would have provided accessible facilities for two of the most deprived wards in Torbay. The vision also included improved facilities of delivering the sports curriculum for Westlands School. Unfortunately this project has been discontinued due to the extent of the vision being unattainable in the time frames required. Therefore the priority is to maintain the current provision, if we are unable to achieve this, there is a strong possibility of falling below the recommended water space available.

ASA Facility Strategy - "From Armbands to Gold Medals" - when considering provision options points and objectives from this wider strategy to be considered are:

- The provision of a minimum of **13m²** of 'fit for purpose' water area per 1,000 population.
- Cross border partnerships, possibly with South Hams or Teignbridge Councils, to provide a community 50-metre swimming pool thereby reducing the overall burden of provision whilst increasing the opportunity for users.
- The use of moveable floors and bulkheads to provide a more flexible use pool that increases revenue and enhances the use profile.
- Upgrading of facilities to provide more 25m by 8 lane pools as a minimum length plus a learner pool
- Provide traditional main pool profiles with depths from 1-metre shallow to 1.8-metres deep to permit the widest range of pool usage.
- Increase the number of venues suitable for competition and training
- Increase the number of international and regional standard diving venues
- Ensure that all schools that aspire to Sports Academy status provide swimming training to lifeguard qualification standard, which would require access to a swimming pool of variable depth with some deep water and be of a sufficient size to enable swimming competencies to be achieved.

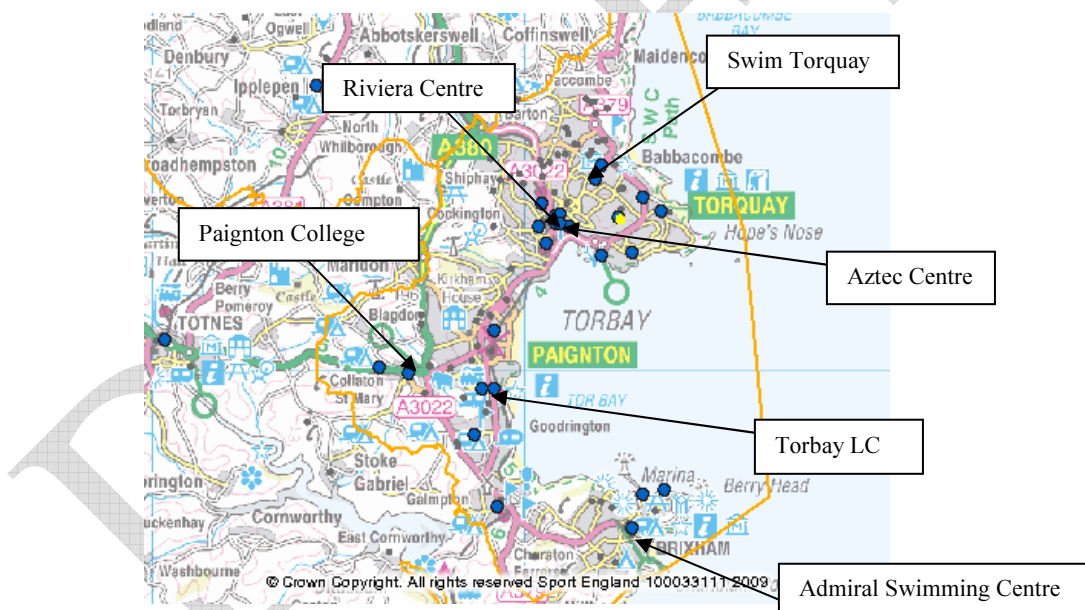
Section 2

2 Where are we now?

Torbay has a population of 134,300 people. Despite being in a very rural county Torbay is a heavily urbanised area. The existing community use pools in Torbay show an even spread around the district although there may be merit in distancing the two facilities in Torquay (currently the Riviera Centre and Swim Torquay) from each other.

In Torbay there is an estimated 548m² (33%) deficit between the water space that swimming clubs, schools and low-income users have access under the ASA guidelines compared to the estimated 3,977m² deficit in Devon as a whole.

2.1 Current swimming facility provision in Torbay



In Torbay, 5 swimming pools have been identified, as reaching the minimum standards for swimming as a sport. The criteria being a minimum of 25 metres in length or at least 160m² in available water area.

• Swim Torquay	• Torquay
• Torbay Leisure Centre	• Paignton
• Paignton Community & Sports College	• Paignton
• Admiral Swimming Centre	• Brixham
• Aztec Centre	• Torquay

The total area of swimming pool water space available in Torbay that swimming clubs, school, the general public and especially the low-income earners have access to equals 1,200m² on these 5 sites. Applying the ASA guidelines to Torbay for the current population indicates a requirement of 1,742m² of water space leaving a deficit of 542m².

Paignton Community & Sports College; is an outdoor pool which is currently out of use as it has structural problems and is therefore not counted as one of the swimming pools available for community use in this strategy.

The Riviera Centre; This facility is classed as a leisure pool although it does have 300m² water space, which is taken into account when assessing the overall water space provision in Torbay. It is not counted as one of the swimming pools available for sports use as it is a freeform pool with wave machines. However the pool is available for swimming lessons.

In addition it is appreciated that there are other swimming pools within Torbay, including; hotels, holiday parks, Splash Down water park, which all help with seasonal tourist demand. Commercial health club swimming pools such as the Aztec Falls accommodate general 'pay and play' swimming for their membership but schools and swimming clubs rarely can gain access to this type of facility because of their ethos of use. School pools when available do provide additional facilities that relieve the pressure on school curriculum activities from the main community pools.

Additionally some commercial health clubs have relatively exclusive membership criteria that tend to exclude lower socio-economic groups by price. Many of the hotel swimming pools are also so small that the ability to learn to swim a significant distance is negated rendering their water area not 'fit for purpose'. Some swimming pools such as the International Riviera Centre Waves pool are designed that large areas of the water area are cosmetic and again 'unfit for purpose' e.g. the shallow beach area of the leisure pool. Other pools are open-air pools (lidos) and are open for relatively short periods each year.

The facilities available for community use in Torbay are owned or managed by different agencies. These include:

- Schools
- Community Providers
- Parkwood Leisure
- Trusts
- Private Hotels

It can be seen in Appendix 5 that Sport England use a slightly different criteria to identify swimming pools, by using the pool length of 20metres rather than the 25metres that is used by the ASA and this strategy. The reason for this is because swimming clubs require at least 25metres in length to train and compete.

For the purpose of this strategy the pools must be fully accessible to the public and available for use by all of the community, at an affordable price, taking in to consideration the deprived wards.

From the 9 pools identified by Sport England only 4 are available to the public for community use. Only taking these 4 swimming pools into consideration would then show Torbay to be below the national average in provision of water space per 1000 head of population.

It can be seen from Appendix 5 that Torbay currently compares well in the amount of swimming pools and water space to other local authority's that are similar in size and population. However if any of the current pools identified as suitable for all of the community were lost this would not be the case.

Sport England's Pools Facility Planning Model shows that none of the swimming pools in Torbay are at full capacity. The capacity is there but is not used to its full potential due to timetabling. The timetables of the individual pools are planned around historical needs of users.

2.2 Description of current community swimming facilities in Torbay:

Admiral Brixham Swimming Centre - The Brixham Amateur Swimming & Life Saving Society was formed by a group of local community volunteers in the late 1920's. In the early 70's when it was thought unlikely that the council would ever be in a position to provide facilities in Brixham. The Society set out to build its own Indoor Heated Pool that would be 'open to all' when not being used for swimming teaching, training and competition. Society volunteers took three years to complete a 25m pool that proudly opened in 1975, the pool had cost less than £25,000.

The pool was erected on a site at Astley Park in Brixham and a ground lease was granted by the council on an annual rental. In 1999 major defects were identified with the pool structure and the management committee began fund raising in order to enable the repairs. In September 2004 Torbay Council commissioned an independent survey, this identified a roof safety risk and the

pool was closed in October 2004. It reopened in August 2005 after essential repairs were completed, but other structural problems remained.

Torbay Council Engineers identified further problems and an engineering consultancy firm was commissioned to carry out a full structural survey.

A charitable company was formed to take over the pool management and major fund raising took place with money being allocated by Torbay Council, Sport England (ASA) and Brixham Town Council and major fund raising events run by the pool itself. Contractors began the £1,000,000 project in April 2008. The structural repair work to the building was completed, the plant and services upgraded, the changing rooms and community room modernised. Disabled facilities were upgraded during this development, with an office extension included in the work.

Activities at the pool include Aqua Tits, Canoeing, Aqua size, Squad swimming sessions, non swimmer sessions and private lessons including specific over 50 lessons. The pool provides, on average, around 50 hours of community use per week.

Swim Torquay Ltd – The existing swimming pool at Plainmoor, is managed by Swim Torquay, a registered charity and is a company limited by guarantee. The pool was built in much the same style as Admiral Pool by groups of volunteers and the swimming clubs, who raised the funding required to build, the structure was built in the 1970's. The building is suffering quite badly from structural defects, there are additional problems caused by the high costs of running and maintaining the inefficient plant and machinery. Work was carried out in 2007/2008 using a grant from the ASA as well as funding supplied by Torbay Council to carry out some remedial repairs and extend the plant rooms.

Torbay Council commissioned an independent engineering company to carry out a structural survey, this identified many problems with some urgent works required to be carried out. The structure was given a useful life of 5-6 years following emergency works carried out by Torbay Council. So far Swim Torquay has not been able to attract the necessary funding to carry out all of the work required.

The management committee are finding it extremely difficult to keep the pool open because of costs associated with inefficient plant and extremely high utility bills. The increasing maintenance costs for the plant and machinery are exacerbating the problem.

The committee are very active fund raisers but this only usually amounts to a few thousand pounds not the sort of figures required. As with Admiral Swimming Pool, Torbay Council have stepped in with funding when required to ensure that the facility remains open. There is no other swimming pool provision in this part of Torquay for young people or the local community.

The Swim Torquay Pool at Plainmoor is a 4 lane 25metre pool provides for swimming as a sport and 2 swimming clubs use this facility. The pool is used to provide swimming education to a number of local schools as well as providing swimming lessons to all of the local community and surrounding areas.

Programming includes sessions for parents and tots, ladies only sessions, senior swim sessions and stroke rehab/disabled sessions. During the school holidays 'fun sessions are organised for young people. The pool is also hired by a private swimming group in order for them to do distance training as they are unable to do it in their usual hotel swimming facilities. Life saving courses, and other accredited training courses for those intending to become employed in the leisure industry are also run at Swim Torquay.

Both Admiral Swimming Centre and Swim Torquay are built on public land owned by Torbay Council. Both organisations pay ground rent but receive rate relief and apply for an annual grant to contribute towards rental charges. Both organisations are not for profit. Both of these local swimming pools are managed by volunteers who do their best in extremely hard times to maintain the viability of the pools. Without their hard work and dedication both pools may have folded with the subsequent loss of facilities.

Torbay Leisure Centre – The pool was built in 1976 and is 33 1/3rd metres in length by 12.5 metres width. In 1984 ancillary facilities were built to form Torbay Leisure Centre. The pool is one of few with shallow water at each end of 0.9m and 2m in the middle. In 1998 Torbay Council agreed to lease the facility to a leisure management company. The management company receives an annual management budget from Torbay Council towards the day to day repair and maintenance costs of the Leisure Centre. An agreed management plan has been drawn up that ensures that the residents and visitors to Torbay, as well as the leisure centre get good value and that their sport provision needs are met. A joint management board meet on a regular basis and a monitoring group meet on a monthly basis to ensure this management agreement is maintained.

The International Riviera Centre – Waves Leisure Pool is managed by the Riviera International Conference Centre Ltd who receives an annual grant fund in order to secure its future. The pool is classed by Sport England as a leisure pool and is mainly used for recreational purposes. It does run a comprehensive learn to swim programme but is not suitable for club swimming or individuals training. The International Riviera Centre also receives annual funding from Torbay Council (Appendix 1).

2.3 Demand for swimming pools

The Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) uses information on facility participation and applies these to the actual population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculation is sensitive to the needs of the people who actually live there. The SFC then turns the estimation of demand into actual facilities available to the number of residents. It is important to

remember that the SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities.

The SFC can be used for both strategies planning and for individual developments. In both cases it can be used to show:

- Current facility needs of an area
- Future needs for facilities, based on changes in total population
- The impact of sports development programmes and changes to participation rates.

Using the calculator and inputting Torbay's current population of 134,300 it identifies that Torbay requires 1,330.60 m² of water equating to 25.05 swimming lanes or 6.26 pools. By 2026 is estimated that Torbay's population will have increased to 150,200 meaning demand will increase this requirement to 1,488.13 m² equivalent to 28.01 swimming lanes or 7 swimming pools.

The rapid increase in the need for swimming for health reasons as opposed to swimming for sport also needs to be taken into consideration. These can be seen in Appendix 3.

2.4 What we've done so far

Torbay Leisure Centre and the International Riviera Centre both receive annual grants from Torbay Council. Both Admiral Swimming Centre and Swim Torquay Ltd. have received ad hoc grants from Torbay Council over the past 5 years to help ensure their future. Further information and figures can be seen in Appendix 1.

Torbay Council has worked with both of the facilities to improve usage of the swimming pools, particularly by hard to reach groups. These initiatives have included:

In 2009 Torbay Council took up the Government's offer to provide **free swimming to over 60s**. The Government's free swimming initiative was an important part of the plans to secure a long-term legacy from London hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games - and to get more people active and more healthy in Torbay. As such it is recognised through the [Inspire Programme](#). The Free Swimming Programme was also in support of [Change4Life](#) – the nationwide movement to help everyone eat well, move more and live longer. Torbay was granted £54,808 by the Department of Culture Media and Sport to provide free swimming during public swimming sessions at Council owned swimming pools in Torbay. In the first year in Torbay 5492 people over 60 years old accessed the scheme and 36,165 free swims were accessed across Torbay, which is 13% of Torbay's over 60 population.

Unfortunately this funding was only accessible to Torbay Leisure Centre and the Riviera International Centre. However Torbay Care Trust were keen to see both community swimming pools included and therefore granted £55,000 for this to happen. Unfortunately the Government cut their funding throughout the second year of the project so it had to come to an end.

Torbay Care Trust were keen to get people who lived in the more deprived wards within Torbay, actively swimming. Partnership working with the Street Warden Service enabled the older people from these deprived wards to participate in the scheme, Street Wardens organised transport to take them to the swimming pools and receive tuition. Many of these older people can now swim and have teamed together to provide transport for them to be able to continue swimming regularly.

Torbay Library and Leisure Card was launched in 2006 it offers Torbay residents reduced entry charges to a wide range of indoor and outdoor health and recreational activities including swimming. It is available to any resident who qualifies for a selected list of benefits. Swim Torquay, the International Riviera Centre, Torbay Leisure Centre and Admiral Swimming pool are all committed to the Library Leisure card offering swimming at reduced rates giving everyone the opportunity to participate.

Torbay Council also worked with Swim Torquay, Admiral Brixham and Age Concern to hold **Fit as a Fish** session twice a week for people aged 50 and over. The sessions are tailored to the groups expectations to include swimming tuition, aqua aerobics and casual swimming. After each session coffee, tea and biscuits are offered to encourage socialising within the group. Age Concern also extend this to include sessions on relevant topics such as how to exercise for less, the digital TV switch over etc.

Working in partnership with the Torbay Sports Partnership we have been able to offer **TOPs** swimming at Swim Torquay and Admiral Brixham. This involves extra tuition for primary school children who are struggling to attain the government target by Key Stage 2. It also involves extra tuition for school teachers allowing them to improve their standard of teaching swimming to their students and has proved to be an invaluable resource.

Torbay Leisure Centre has been successful in placing 2 **Amateur Swimming Association apprentices**. The apprentices are aged 16 – 18 years old and are local people. This is part of a national initiative and is government funded working in partnership with both the ASA and also the Institute of Swimming. Each apprentice trains for; both level 1 and level 2 ASA swimming Teachers as well as doing the National Pool Life guard qualification. They learn on the job which may then lead to a job in the leisure industry. Ongoing funding will also be available once the course is completed if they choose to go onto a higher level.

An ongoing issue for Swim Torquay to accessing funding to hold more programmes at the facility and attract new customers has been the lack of suitably qualified Level 2 teachers. Unfortunately due to the cost of the Level 2

qualifications two capable members of staff were unable to further their qualifications. Through partnership working between Torbay Council and the County Sports Network, Active Devon, both members of staff have now been granted **bursaries** to help fund their qualifications and go onto contribute to developing more “learn to swim” programmes.

It is not unusual for commercial companies to operate swimming facilities without the need of a subsidy but if adequate and affordable community use is to be offered to everyone, a subsidy would probably be required. If subsidies are granted then conditions must be attached to the grant, these would include:

- A good management agreement to ensure that the company give a good value for money service.
- A place on the management boards to ensure that the subsidies are being used to their full potential.

Community managed swimming pools have wider range of problems when trying ensure a good service whilst at least breaking even on running costs. The pools are managed by volunteers and rely on the goodwill and dedication of the management committee rather than the commercial need. It may be lack of expertise within the management team or that they have to cater for the main members first rather than the wider community. A subsidy is normally required by the pool to keep it solvent and ensure that all of the benefits to sport, fitness and community are continued. There is a small percentage of community managed pools that do not require that the facility is subsidised, it is not known what classification the local areas are that they serve nor how the need for swimming is perceived.

2.5 Assessment of actual Torbay pools space:

On the supply side, Sport England's Pools Facility Planning Model (FPM), seen in Appendix 4, computed that Torbay has **13.4m² of available water space per 1,000 population**. This compares to a figure of 13.0m² for England and 13.1m² for the South West region, and represents a greater overall supply per 1,000 population than Plymouth or Teignbridge, but less than Exeter or South Hams.

It estimated the demand for water space from the resident population of Torbay to be 1,263m², and with a supply of 1,651m² (taking into account hours available for community use) it concluded from the demand analysis that;

Torbay is currently adequately provided with water space using Sport England's criteria of 20m length pool as opposed to the 25m length criteria of ASA and sports clubs that is being used for this strategy. Local demand from swimming clubs suggests that, although overall provision may be adequate, the amount of **pool time available to clubs is limited**. This limits the capacity of clubs to assist members who wish to excel in this sport.

It should also be noted that seasonal demand for swimming in particular puts current provision under strain.

Although the percentage capacity seems to be high, especially at Swim Torquay, this could be due to customer's expectations not being met, for example the building can be seen as unattractive from the outside, the changing facilities are inadequate or choice of activities not available. Viewing facilities are also poor with no ancillary facilities such as crèches or café.

Taking these factors into account and the fact that all the swimming or pool-based activity clubs that were spoke to indicated that they needed more pool time for their sport, the key issues that have been identified for Torbay are:

- A current undersupply of 1 swimming pool unit (25m x 8-lane equivalent).
- A predicted undersupply of 2 swimming pool units by 2026 (allowing for population increase to 150,200).

Section 3

Where do we want to be?

A key objective of the Torbay Swimming Strategy is to provide Torbay with the right number of swimming pools, of the right quality, in the right place at an affordable price.

Research for the Torbay Sports Strategy in 2003 concluded that:

- **Swimming is the largest participant sport in the district.**
- There is a **lack of pool space to meet demand** for top-up swimming and swimming generally within the **curriculum** in both primary and secondary schools across the district.
- There is evidence of **unmet demand after school hours** for swimming by the general public.

3.1 The recommendation of the more recent **Sports Facility Strategy 2009** is that future swimming pool provision in Torbay should concentrate on the following:

- **Provision of improved facilities in Swim Torquay, Plainmoor.** The project incorporating a 25m pool and a trainer pool would improve the current facilities but would only marginally increase the district's net pool area. Whilst it would offer the opportunity to address social issues and longstanding aspirations to improve facilities in this part of Torquay, it would not address current shortfalls in provision, and is not well located as a district-wide facility.
- Provision of an **additional pool at Clennon Valley** as part of a major improvement to the Torbay Leisure Centre. This would provide an additional training pool, but again, would not address current shortfalls.
- Provision of **2 new sites** to be identified to serve the need for both recreational and sport-based swimming.

The swimming facilities in Torbay are in the right positions but are old buildings with ageing inefficient plant and machinery. To try and meet the demands required with the facilities available, good usage programming must be implemented, especially at the community pools. This will help meet demand until a new pool is built. Any new facilities built should not be stand alone swimming pools but should incorporate other facilities required by local communities. The pools should be of a design that allows a flexible use of the pool areas by incorporating moveable floors and bulkheads to allow more than one type of recreation to take place at the same time.

3.2 Impact of closure or loss of any pool space

- **Admiral Brixham Swimming Centre**

The impact of closure of Admiral Brixham Swimming Pool would mean that Brixham as a community would not be served for swimming provision. Currently **all 10 Brixham schools** including primary and secondary use the facility for young people to learn to swim. **Disabled groups** from Douglas House and the **Canoe Club** would no longer be able to function without this facility. The current **swimming club** based at the facility would be unable to relocate due to the distance to the nearest pool and lack of available pool space for club use. The nearest swimming pool is Shoalstone outdoor pool which is unsuitable for club training.

- **Swim Torquay Ltd.**

The impact of closure of Swim Torquay on the **two current swimming clubs** using the facility would mean that the nearest available pool is Torbay Leisure Centre, Paignton. The leisure centre has very little spare capacity and would be unable to cope with extra users. Swimming Clubs may fold as a result. Agencies such as **Surestart, Age Concern** and leisure swimming would also not be able to relocate for the same reason. **26 primary and secondary schools** currently use the facility to meet their curriculum requirements for swimming. Closure would either prohibit the ability of schools to provide swimming or would severely limit their access. Closure of this pool would have a greater effect on swimming provision for residents from two of Torbay's most deprived wards.

- **English Riviera Centre – Waves Leisure Pool**

The closure of the Riviera Centre leisure pool will have a negative impact on **residents and visitors**. 1 school currently use the pool due to the lack of their own facilities and would be unable travel to an alternative pool meaning that they will be unable to reach their curriculum targets for swimming. Residents will have the opportunity to travel to Plainmoor, but young people, who have less access to transport, will be disadvantaged. Closure of the leisure pool would **reduce the total water space** by 300m², leaving 1,222m² water space for the whole of Torbay. Of this, much is privately owned sites, limiting its accessibility. However, many of the hotels in Torquay do allow public access to their pools and health clubs (e.g. Aztec Centre). Although the use of facilities by visitors for purely leisure purposes is beyond the scope of this study, the Council may wish to determine whether the level of access to these facilities accords with their stated aims to encourage tourism.

- **Torbay Leisure Centre, Paignton**

Torbay Leisure Centre is the most central pool for residents of all three towns of Torbay. Closure would subsequently mean the **Paignton community** would not be served for swimming provision and would have to travel to either Torquay or Brixham community pools. Robert Owen Communities (ROC Active) are based at the centre and use the pool on a daily basis to teach **adults with learning difficulties** to swim. **4 Paignton schools** also use the

facility to reach their curriculum swimming standards. **Paignton Swimming Club** use the pool facilities and cater for all ages and abilities. Parkwood Leisure also operate a **learn-to-swim programme** at the centre for young and old and the only **life saving club** in Torbay. This provision could not be met by other swimming pools in Torbay due to the amount of training hours required.

Looking forward to the future both Swim Torquay and Admiral Brixham Swimming Centres are prime examples of the future **Big Society**.

Quality Assessment

The main issues for swimming in Torbay are:

- A significant level of **unmet demand overall**.
- The pool at **Plainmoor is in need of significant investment and a building management programme**.
- Torbay Leisure Centre has a 33.3m indoor pool that hosts swimming lessons but has **no training pool**. This is also in need of significant investment into its structure.
- Sufficient access to pool space depends upon the **availability of pool time**.
- Brixham is well served at present with a high quality refurbished 25m pool x 4 lanes.

Section 4 – Capital and revenue funding Issues

Swimming Facilities within Torbay are provided privately either by the commercial sector, not for profit charitable organisations, or by local schools. Whoever the provider is, they are all required to find the costs to ensure the swimming pool is safe and remains in a suitable condition for use. **The overhead costs for management of pools** to ensure that they are safe, meet the customers expectations, encourage other users **is generally much higher than those of other sports.**

The costs must take into account:

- The minimum number. of staff on duty – number. of pool users
- Chemical treatment of Water. (Water Quality)
- Temperature of Water, Efficient Boilers/Heat exchange systems.
- Ambient Air Temperature/Humidity requires controlling for the comfort of customers.
- Costs of utilities and services. Gas/ Electricity/Water charges are always rising.
- Staffing hours, most swimming clubs require early morning and late evening use.
- Maintenance costs as high humidity affects the lifespan of structure and plant.
- The higher standard of cleanliness required in all areas.

Although all swimming pools face these costs, they have a greater affect on those pools run by local communities and the ability to continue the service provision without help. Local community pools are normally stand alone facility and when it serves the local community prices have to be affordable.

The pools that are managed by the private sector include:

Hotels, Torbay Leisure Centre (TLC) and Waves Leisure Pool at the Riviera Conference Centre (RICC). These have **other profit making enterprises within the operation that subsidise the swimming facilities.** To ensure that they are competitive, hotels must provide facilities to meet the minimum expectations of their customers and any financial loss would be met from allowing public use and other areas of the business. The pool provision at the leisure centres, TLC and RICC, can be subsidised by other activities within the centre that do not require such large outlays of cash. **Admiral Swimming and Swim Torquay do not have this ability as they are both stand alone swimming pools.**

The community pools at Brixham and Torquay are managed by groups of volunteers who are striving to find the additional costs required to run the facility. **Large increases in the costs of utilities, services, staffing costs etc have limited the management's ability to ensure the financial survival** of these important community facilities. **Both swimming pools have or have had problems with the structural condition of the buildings.** Brixham has received funding from various sources to carry out the structural

repairs and this has now been completed. Unfortunately no such funding has yet been found to secure the future for Swim Torquay.

The financial problems at both pools are exacerbated by the inefficiency of the ageing plant and machinery. The energy inefficiency of the structure also plays a large part in increasing energy costs to control water and ambient temperature within the pool.

The management committee's of both swimming pools are fully aware of the financial problems arising from the ever increasing utility charges and are making every effort to increase income and lower outgoings without the increase in charges. They are at present fund raising by every possible means, as there are **few opportunities to gain grants towards revenue costs**. Other possible options are:

- **Raising Charges**
There are limited options for raising the charges for the various activities at the pools, although a community pool has to be competitive for the varied courses and pool uses, as the private operators do provide similar activities. Affordability of any charge increase is vital as **Swim Torquay has a catchment area that contains 2 of Torbay's deprived wards**, raising charges could cost more in lost revenue than it would raise.
- **Energy Reduction**
Both community pools have tried to save cost by reducing the ambient temperature and the water. Unfortunately this had the effect of losing customers who complained that the facilities, and the pool itself, was too cold and very uncomfortable. Revenues went down.
- **Manpower Reduction**
The health and safety requirements for the safe use of swimming pools and the staffing levels required showed that the numbers of staff employed was down to minimum levels. Unfortunately if the pools were to open for the public and if only 1 customer attended the pool, the management still have to supply manpower as if there were 20 customers. Very few facilities are required to do this.

The management committees, although voluntary, are fully committed to providing public swimming for; leisure, sport and teaching. Unfortunately they do not have the financial backing of the private providers, Torbay Council do offer financial support to the leisure centres but this is not ring fenced money for swimming.

The provision of swimming pools will often requires financial support to ensure there sustainability. It is **highly unlikely that they will ever become a profit making enterprise on a stand alone basis**. They can however greatly enhance provision of other enterprises, such as hotels or tourism, education or as part of a large multisport development. Swimming pools do play an important part in providing a facility to **meet a wide range of targets on fitness, child obesity, sport for all, hard to reach groups etc.**

Both Admiral Swimming Centre and Swim Torquay have been in financial difficulty since the huge increasing costs of gas and electricity suppliers. **Unfortunately no external funders are attracted to making grants to help with utility bills.** Swim Torquay also face the problem of having less than a 5 year life span left for the structure of the building. **External funders only want to be involved with facilities that are long term.**

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Section 5: Summary and Conclusion

Although Torbay appears to have adequate water space for swimming with all of the hotel provision, holiday camps etc, it is insufficient for the regular demand from the community users.

The ASA have estimated that Torbay has 548m² (33%) deficit between the water space that swimming clubs, schools and low-income users have access and the ASA's guidelines.

The 4 pools that are available in Torbay for community use are all suffering from maintenance and structural problems.

The managers also have to find ways to deal with high costs of managing the pool in a safe and efficient manner, whilst minimising the need to increase the charges, which could make the unaffordable.

The 2 commercially run pools can bring in expertise from within the company, unfortunately the 2 community run pools may not always have that ability. They are volunteers who do a good job and if we did not offer when required; help; then they could resign causing major problems with the provision of the pool.

It would appear that the 2 community pools have done extremely well to keep providing the facility with little help from the council since they were built.

Torbay Leisure Centre

Although a commercial enterprise, the buildings are leased from Torbay Council and under the lease agreement the council have responsibilities. A recent condition Survey carried out by the Property Services Department indicates that **approximately £1.5 million worth of repair work is required at the leisure centre**. This work includes new plant and equipment as well as a new roof to the main building and the swimming pool.

Hotels and Holiday Camps

The majority of the private commercial pools give the following problems why we cannot count them towards supply:

- They are outdoor and although fine for the summer period cannot be used all year around.
- Indoor Pools are really there to benefit the guest, would they be available for schools during the season.
- They are smaller than the requirements set down for competitive swimming.
- Would they be available for other pool users i.e. canoeists
- Would they be affordable.
- Could they be guaranteed available for use over a period of years.

Education

The lack of availability of schools pools during the day is a problem for community users. School pools are only accessible after school hours and they are unable to make pool use available to these groups until out of school hours.

No daytime community use is available to satisfy the demand of older swimmers or schools who have no facilities. No daytime access can also be a problem for Disabled groups and those who use the pool for medical reasons as they primarily use the pools during the day. Several of the school pools are also outdoor facilities.

5.1 The way forward

- Residents and Visitor Services have recently been awarded £1,200 funding from Sport England to undertake further **bench marking**. A full report on each facility or smaller reports will be available at a cost of £300 each. However it may be possible for Torbay to be part of a national initiative which will highlight how Torbay compares with similar local authorities. This may enable further funding opportunities and inform us where we need to target future development.
- Residents and Visitor Services have recently commissioned a specialist Structural Engineer to carry out a structural survey of Swim Torquay and forward several options to ensure the provision of swimming for 25 years. The report indicates:

Working with the Torbay Development Agency (TDA) Residents and Visitor Services are putting out an OJEU notice for expressions of interest in a major Sport Development at Clennon Valley, Goodrington. The requirements are for all sport but specially for the development of a 50 m pool with associated facility such as training pools. This may take many years to come to fruition but could meet the future swimming provision of Torbay.

A **capital bid** has been submitted to Torbay Council through **Corporate Asset Management Team** (CAMT), this bid if successful, would allow Torbay Council to fund the structural repair work to Swim Torquay as identified in the structural survey. The bid would also allow for the provision of new and more efficient plant and machinery, while enabling the structure to be re built using better heat retaining materials.

It is recommended that both Swim Torquay and Admiral Brixham Swimming Centre receive an **annual sustainability grant from Torbay Council of up to £50,000 each** to meet their needs. Without this funding it is highly likely that these pools will close. If this is achieved both swimming pools should be required to enter a management agreement to ensure that they deliver what the council wants for the next 25years. This will include updating plant and

equipment, making the structure more energy efficient, increase usage by providing free or heavily subsidised use for various sections of the community that Torbay Council may want to target. Also s requirement to work with the ASA to ensure that maximum capacity is met at all times must be fulfilled. **There is currently no budget provision for this.**

Currently each of the swimming facilities work alone. A **Torbay Swimming Development Group** should be considered, consisting of all Torbay's swimming providers, funding experts, the Community & Voluntary Action (CVA), the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) representative, the Torbay Development Agency (TDA), clubs and educational establishments who would streamline swimming development in Torbay and allow each facility to increase its usage and work towards their maximum potential.

This group could be tasked with investigating:

- other funding sources.
- the possibility of working with the TDA to identify possible development opportunities. Therefore provision of a swimming pool within much larger sports development projects is needed. This will help minimise the risk of revenue costs increasing but still provide excellent facilities that give efficiencies, customer satisfaction and still meet educational needs.
- the **need for a new 25m by 8 lane swimming pool** because although Torbay meets the needs of the population per volume of water space needed. The needs of the local schools and clubs are not met using ASA guidelines, this may only be possible with partnership working e.g. with education or heath. This would meet their needs but also be linked in with other developments to ensure sustainability with minimal costs to the Council e.g. new school builds.
- funding for a full time **Swimming Development Officer** to work with all of the facilities to enhance the swimming offer in Torbay and work with all facility's to maximise their usage. There is currently no budget provision for this post within the Council.

Another option is to **do nothing** and hope a larger development comes in before facilities have to be closed. Obviously this is a **huge risk** as a large development of this type may not come to fruition in time. This would be **detrimental to Torbay's swimming offer**. Results of any of the swimming pools closure can be seen in section 3.2 of this document. If any of the swimming pools were to close, it would be detrimental to supply demands, but may allow much needed funding to be diverted to the other swimming facilities.

The final, but possibly most important, recommendation is that the is **strategy needs to be consulted on further within the wider community** to include the swimming providers, the Active Devon County Sport Network, Torbay Sports Council, Torbay Community Sports Network, and Sport England.

Additional reading – Torbay Sports Facility Strategy 2009
Sport England's Facilities Improvement Service 2008

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Appendix 1; Financial contributions:

Facility	Year	Funder	Revenue Funding	Capital Funding
Admiral Swimming Centre	2002	Local Development Fund		120,000
	2008	Amateur Swimming Association		550,000
		Torbay Council		350,000
		Society Development Fund		85,000
		Torbay Care Trust	15,000	
		Torbay Council		30,000
		Brixham Town Council		25,000
		Torbay Care Trust	5,000	
		Society Development Fund		65,000
Swim Torquay	2006	Sport England		133,000
	2006	Torbay Council		35,000
	2009/10	Torbay Council	10,000	
	2010/11	Torbay Council	25,000	
	2011/12	Torbay Council	30,000	
Torbay Leisure Centre	Annual on a rising scale	Torbay Council	89,000 (2010/11)	
English Riviera Centre	Annual support grant	Torbay Council	620,000 (2010/11)	

Appendix 2

The table below shows the 4 swimming pools and the facility's capacity determined by the community hours available relative to the size of the pool.

	Name of facility	Type	Dimensions	AREA	YEAR BUILT	YEAR REFURB	WGT FACTOR	COMMERCIAL	HRS in NPP	Y HRS AVAIL	Facility Capacity - vpwpp
											13,653
1	ADMIRAL SWIMMING CENTRE	Main/General	25 x 9	213	1975	2008	86 %	P	45.5	78	1,511
2	RIVIERA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE	Leisure Pool	25 x 12	300	1987		76 %	C	49.5	90.5	2,184
3	SWIM TORQUAY LTD	Main/General	25 x 8	209	1977	1989	54 %	p	48.5	90.1	1,582
4	TORBAY LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	33 x 13	416	1976		51 %	C	49.8	84	3,236

Sourced: Sport England, Torbay Pools Facility Planning Model (FPM) 2011

Swimming for health?



1. **Swimming supports our health, boosts our immune system** - The water temperature, which is in all cases of swimming training, lower than the average body temperature of humans which should be 36 to 37 degrees Celsius. The difference in temperature loads the work rate of the cardio-vascular system. With the ability to adapt to those temperatures, We achieve a solid resistance to diseases, like flu and colds. It also influences our breathing (the colder the water the harder the breathing), which is a health benefit especially for patients (or swimmers) with asthma problems.
2. **Improve Breathing** -The water pressure, which is exerted onto the human body (skin) increases with greater depth of the water. This effect will influence the blood circulation through the human body and improve one's breathing as this pressure concerns the lungs.
3. Swimming is a sport for **rehabilitation of injuries**, and after operations, as the special gravity condition in water allows people to execute movements with lesser body weight
4. **Stress Management** - We are experiencing a more and more hectic daily life and swimming supports the relaxation and recovery, which leads to a more balanced lifestyle
5. It's part of the **physical education and water safety** - In schools swimming is a part of curriculum. Everyone who wants to Scuba Dive or do White Water Rafting has to be able to swim.
6. **It's a social sport** - we can swim with friends or family enjoy the water and bond with your friends and love ones.
7. **Swimming is a full body exercise** - It tones our entire muscle spectrum and it works as our fitness.
8. **Job requirement** - Some jobs require the know-how to swim.
9. **Low risk of injuries** - It is a sport where, if we are a beginner or an expert, there is very little risk of injuries.
10. It's an **affordable** sport. - specially if you are near the beach
11. It's a **substitute to other sports** - especially to running as it trains one's upper body.
12. It's a **competitive sport** - Master's, Open Water, Triathlon.

Appendix 4; Pool timetables

Torbay Leisure Centre

TORBAY POOL TIMETABLE (TERM TIME)

	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
MON		LANES					LANES				AQUAZONE			CLUBS			
		PUBLIC SWIM															
TUES		LANES	LIFEGUARD TRAINING		AQUA AEROBICS		LANES					AQUAZONE		LANES			CLUBS
		PUBLIC SWIM															
WED		LANES					LANES					AQUAZONE	AQUA AEROBICS	CLUBS			
		PUBLIC SWIM															
THUR		LANES		AQUA AEROBICS			LANES						AQUAZONE	LANES			LIFEGUARD TRAINING
		PUBLIC SWIM															
FRI		LANES				AQUA AEROBICS	LANES					AQUAZONE		CLUBS			
		PUBLIC SWIM															
SAT				AQUAZONE			FUN SESSION					CLOSED					
				PUBLIC SWIM													
SUN				LANES									CLUBS				
				CLUBS			PUBLIC SWIM										

Swim Torquay

SWIM TORQUAY Ltd., Plainmoor Swimming Pool Waterspace Use 2nd Half Schools Summer Term 2011

	06:30	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	01:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	4:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	9:00 P.M.	
MONDAY	Odd S. Club	Closed For Cleaning	Ladies Only Session & Keep Fit	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	School (Whole)	School (Length)	School (Length)	50+ Aquatic Session	Swimming Lessons (Len/Shall)	Swimming Lessons (Shallow/Deep)	Tq.L. S. Club (2.5 Shal)	Tq.L. S. Club	Adults Only General Public	
TUESDAY	Far Hire	Early Birds General Public	Closed For Cleaning	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	Odd S. Club	Avail. For Hire	
WEDNESDAY	Far Hire	Far Hire	Closed For Cleaning	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	Odd S. Club	Adults Only General Public	
THURSDAY	Odd S. Club	Early Birds General Public	Early Birds General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	Tq.L. S. Club	Available For Hire	
FRIDAY	Early Birds General Public	Closed For Cleaning	Closed For Cleaning	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	Tq.L. S. Club	Odd S. Club	Available For Hire
SATURDAY	School (Whole)	Paig S. Club	Tq.L. S. Club	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	
SUNDAY	Closed	Odd S. Club	Staff Training	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	General Public	

Please note that we have tried to ensure that the information above is correct, but times for various activities are liable to change at short notice due to group bookings.

The information shown above indicates the usual/regular bookings of the pool, but it does not show "one off", "short term" or special bookings. Swim Torquay reserves the right to alter, amend add or cancel bookings as circumstances dictate.

International Riviera Centre

ATTRACTIONS

Photo courtesy: Torbay Council

AQUACISE

Wed 2pm - 2.45pm, Sept - July
 £3.20 members / £4.20 non members.
 Become a Centre Member and save £1.00 each time you swim

SWIMMING LESSONS

Mon, Tue, Wed & Thurs 4pm - 7pm
 Lessons for babies, juniors, adults, groups and individuals.
 For more information please call: 01803 206 309

HOW TO FIND US

BY FOOT - Just over 100 metres from the seafront. Easy access through Torrey Abbey or via Belgrave Road and Cleaveland Avenue.

BY CAR - From the A380 (Newton Abbot) follow the brown Riviera International Centre signs. From the seafront take Belgrave Road or Rathmore Road.

BY TRAIN - The Riviera International Centre is just 400 metres from Torquay Train Station.

Waves Leisure Pool
 Riviera International Centre
 Chestnut Avenue, Torquay
 Devon, TQ2 5LZ
 info@rivic.co.uk / 01803 299 992
 www.rivieracentre.co.uk

PRIVATE HIRE

Pool / Waves / Flume
 Ideal for birthday parties or raising funds for your club or PTA!
 From £100, call: 01803 206 309

ADULT NIGHT

Thursdays 7pm - 9pm
 £2.50 members / £4.00 non members.
 Become a Centre Member and save £1.50 each time you swim

SUNRISERS

Start the day the healthy way!
 Every weekday 7.30am - 9am please pay at Lifestyle Reception on lower ground floor.
 £2.50 members / £4.00 non members.
 Become a Centre Member and save £1.50 each time you swim

PARENT & TODDLER

Daily 9am - 11am
 Parent & Toddler sessions with toys
 £2.50 members / £4.00 non members.
 Become a Centre Member and save £1.50 each time you swim

FUN SESSIONS

Fun for all the family!
 Fri 4pm - 8pm & Sun 1pm - 4pm
 £5.00 members / £6.00 non members.
 Price includes a Childs Combo Meal in Neptune's Galley afterwards (without a meal, standard swim prices apply).
 ADULTS SWIM FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS (1 free adult per 1 paying junior)

2011 Waves Leisure Pool

Sloping Access

Under 5's FREE!

Water 29°C

Waves Leisure Pool

Riviera International Centre
 Chestnut Avenue, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5LZ
 www.rivieracentre.co.uk
 01803 299 992 / info@rivic.co.uk

SWIM PRICES

	MEMBERS	NON MEMBERS
ADULT	£3.00	£4.00
JUNIOR (5-15yrs)	£2.20	£3.20
FAMILY	£9.50	£13.50
(2 Adults & up to 3 Juniors or 1 Adult & up to 4 Juniors)		
UNDER 5's	FREE	FREE
50+	£2.70	£3.70
50+ Drink & Biscuits	75p	N/A
(When purchased with a swim, restricted to 1 per day)		
JUNIOR Dip 'n' Dine	£5.00	£6.00
ADULT Dip 'n' Dine	£5.50	£6.50

TERM TIME SWIMMING

	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm
MON	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
TUE	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
WED	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
THUR	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
FRI	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
SAT	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
SUN	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler

Lost entry 1 hour before pool close. Waves on every half hour, except during Sunrises, Aquacise, Swimming Lessons, Adults Only Night, Aqua Aerobics and when the inflatable is in the water. Opening times and access to pool during term time is subject to change and availability.

2011 Waves Leisure Pool

ADMISSION POLICY

Waves Leisure Pool admission policy. This admission policy is for the health and safety of all our swimmers.

- Children under 8 years and non-swimmers under the age of 11 years must be accompanied in the water by a competent swimmer aged 16 or over.
- Swimmers aged 8 years or over may be allowed in the pool unaccompanied. However, if the lifeguard is not satisfied with the standard of swimming the child will be asked to leave the pool for their own safety.
- A competent swimmer aged 16 or over can be responsible for up to two children under the age of 8 years in the water.
- No under 5's, non-swimmers or children wearing ornaments are permitted to ride the flume.
- During busy periods it may be necessary for safety reasons to introduce a queuing system into the pool. This will be done via coloured wrist bands. The minimum swimming time having bought a ticket will be 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Nappy Policy - For health and safety reasons, all babies and children who are not potty trained must wear a swimming nappy when using the pool, these can be purchased at reception.

Please remember, these guidelines are for the safety and enjoyment of all pool users. Prices and times are subject to change without prior notice. Management decisions on access and usage are final. (Information & prices correct at January 2011.)

CONCESSIONS

STUDENTS	£3.00
GROUPS OF 10+	£3.00
(Group leader swims free)	
REGISTERED DISABLED	£3.00
(Carer swims free)	

SCHOOL HOLIDAY SWIMMING

	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm
MON	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
TUE	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
WED	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
THUR	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
FRI	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
SAT	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler
SUN	Swimwear	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler	Parent & Toddler

Lost entry 1 hour before pool close. Waves on every half hour, except during Sunrises, Adults Only Night, Aqua Aerobics and when the inflatable is in the water. Please note the School Holiday Swimming timetable relates to local public school holidays.

SWIM SHOP

We have a fabulous range of: Swimwear, Goggles, Towels, Floats, Toys, Swim Aids and lots lots more ... 10% DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS!

Neptune's Cafe-Diner overlooks the pool and offers an affordable selection of fast food & drinks.

Boy Brasserie Coffee Shop, Restaurant & Bar has a great range of Snacks, Cakes and Ice Creams! Comfy sofas & large sun terrace.

www.boybrasserie.co.uk

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Admiral Swimming Centre summer Timetable 25th July- 21st August (subject to alteration)
 01803 857151 adults £4.00 child £3.50

	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12am	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm
Monday	Early Birds		Public private lessons	Public				closed	Fun session	Public		£1.50 Swim Special	Public		closed
Tuesday	Early Birds		Public	Public				closed	Fun session	Public		£1.50 Swim Special	Public		closed
Wednesday	Early Birds		Public		Jean's 50+ Aqua Fit	half price Swim Special		closed	Fun session	Public			Public		closed
Thursday	Early Birds		Public					closed	Fun session	half price Swim Special			Public		closed
Friday	Early Birds		Public					closed	Fun session	Public			paignton swim club		closed
Saturday		Early Birds	Public Fun Sessions						Available for Hire/Parties						
Sunday			Child swims for a £1 with Full Paying Adult						Available for Hire/Parties						

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Appendix 5: NATIONAL FACILITIES AUDIT 2011
RUN 5C: POOLS, ITN ROAD NETWORK WITH PATH NETWORK FOR WALKERS

Table 1 - Supply	Torbay UA	Bournemouth UA	Southend-on-Sea UA	Poole UA	Isle of Wight UA	SOUTH WEST REGION	ENGLAND TOTAL
Number of pools	9	8	10	10	8	322	3066
Number of pool sites	7	6	5	7	5	245	2184
Supply of total water space in sqm	1853.5	1693	2086.5	2335.74	1554.5	72253.35	678866.67
Supply of publicly available water space in sqm (scaled with hrs avail in pp)	1680.41	1527.97	1715.63	2053.8	1311.02	59403.71	564377.8
Supply of total water space in VPWPP	13653	12415	13939	16687	10652	482655	4585568
Waterspace per 1000	13.63	10.19	12.57	16.39	10.83	13.53	12.91

Table 2 - Demand	Torbay UA	Bournemouth UA	Southend-on-Sea UA	Poole UA	Isle of Wight UA	SOUTH WEST REGION	ENGLAND TOTAL
Population	136001	166101	166001	142501	143501	5339831	52577100
Swims demanded –vpwpp	6982	9072	9173	7574	7251	287917	2956553
Equivalent in waterspace – with comfort factor included	1227.56	1595.13	1612.92	1331.73	1274.92	50622.74	519833.66
% of population without access to a car	18.7	17.1	20.1	11.7	17	13.5	19.5

Table 3 - Supply/Demand Balance	Torbay UA	Bournemouth UA	Southend-on-Sea UA	Poole UA	Isle of Wight UA	SOUTH WEST REGION	ENGLAND TOTAL
Supply - Swimming pool provision (sqm) scaled to take account of hours available for community use	1680.41	1527.97	1715.63	2053.8	1311.02	59403.71	564377.8
Demand - Swimming pool provision (sqm) taking into account a 'comfort' factor	1227.56	1595.13	1612.92	1331.73	1274.92	50622.74	519833.66
Supply / Demand balance - Variation in sqm of provision available compared to the minimum required to meet demand.	452.85	-67.16	102.71	722.07	36.1	8780.97	44544.14

Table 4 - Satisfied Demand	Torbay UA	Bournemouth UA	Southend-on-Sea UA	Poole UA	Isle of Wight UA	SOUTH WEST REGION	ENGLAND TOTAL
Total number of visits which are met	5394	8382	8316	7134	6029	258817	2667712
% of total demand satisfied	77.3	92.4	90.7	94.2	83.1	89.9	90.2
% of demand satisfied who travelled by car	84.9	76.8	73.4	83.1	83.2	81.7	73.6
% of demand satisfied who travelled by foot	8.4	12.3	13.7	10.9	9.7	12	16.3
% of demand satisfied who travelled by public transport	6.7	10.9	12.9	6	7.2	6.3	10.1
Demand Retained	4813	7096	6943	6286	6029	256288	0
Demand Retained -as a % of Satisfied Demand	89.2	84.7	83.5	88.1	100	99	0
Demand Exported	581	1286	1373	847	0	2529	0
Demand Exported -as a % of Satisfied Demand	10.8	15.3	16.5	11.9	0	1	0

Table 5 - Unmet Demand	Torbay UA	Bournemouth UA	Southend-on-Sea UA	Poole UA	Isle of Wight UA	SOUTH WEST REGION	ENGLAND TOTAL
Total number of visits in the peak, not currently being met	1587	691	858	441	1222	29100	288841
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	22.7	7.6	9.3	5.8	16.9	10.1	9.8
Equivalent in Water space m2 - with comfort factor	279.09	121.42	150.77	77.46	214.85	5116.4	50785.25
% of Unmet Demand due to ;							
Lack of Capacity -	1.3	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	3.9	7.0
Outside Catchment -	98.7	98.9	100.0	99.6	100.0	96.1	93.0
Outside Catchment;	98.7	98.9	100.0	99.6	100.0	96.1	93.0
% Unmet demand who do not have access to a car	72.9	90.8	93.7	84.2	72.7	64.1	74.6
% of Unmet demand who have access to a car	25.8	8.1	6.3	15.4	27.3	32	18.4
Lack of Capacity;	1.3	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	3.9	7.0
% Unmet demand who do not have access to a car	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.3	5.1
% of Unmet demand who have access to a car	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.6	1.8

Table 6 - Used Capacity	Torbay UA	Bournemouth UA	Southend-on-Sea UA	Poole UA	Isle of Wight UA	SOUTH WEST REGION	ENGLAND TOTAL
Total number of visits used of current capacity	5482	9167	8413	8436	6029	258712	2667964
% of overall capacity of pools used	40.2	73.8	60.4	50.6	56.6	53.6	58.2
% of visits made to pools by walkers	8.3	11.2	13.6	9.3	9.7	12	16.3
% of visits made to pools by road	91.7	88.8	86.4	90.7	90.3	88	83.7
Visits Imported;							
Number of visits imported	669	2072	1471	2150	0	2424	0
As a % of used capacity	12.2	22.6	17.5	25.5	0	0.9	0
Visits Retained:							
Number of Visits retained	4813	7096	6943	6286	6029	256288	0
As a % of used capacity	87.8	77.4	82.5	74.5	100	99.1	0

Table 7 - Relative Share	Torbay UA	Bournemouth UA	Southend- on-Sea UA	Poole UA	Isle of Wight UA	SOUTH WEST REGION	ENGLAND TOTAL
Score - with 100 = national share	99	86	109	112	82	107	100
+/- from National share	-1	-14	9	12	-18	7	0

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Appendix 6; ASA Sub Regional/Regional/Local Authority Swimming Pool Facility Review for Torbay
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Current Status of Region**Summary Report on All Swimming Pools in Torbay**

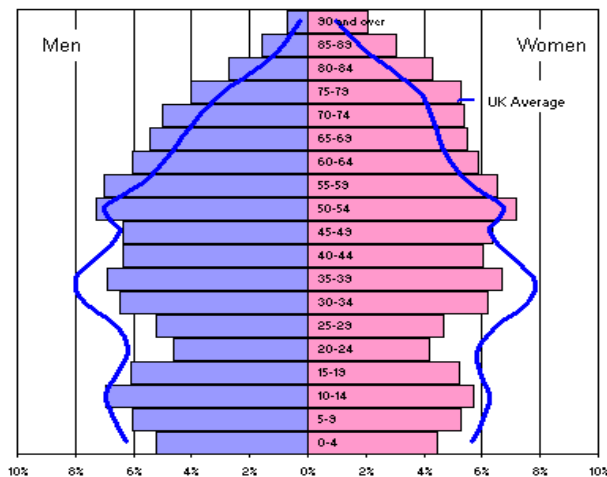
Main/General	11
Leisure Pools	2
Learner/Teaching/Training	9
Diving	0
Lido	18
Swimming Pools - Total	40
Swimming Pool Sites	28

Population of South West Region by County

South West Region Counties	Population
Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay)	1,074,919
Torbay	129,706
South West - Total Population	4,928,458

Age profile of population of Torbay.

South West Region	Water space that swimming clubs, schools and low-income users have access - m ²
Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay)	9,997
Torbay	1,138
Total South West Region	57,373



Torbay

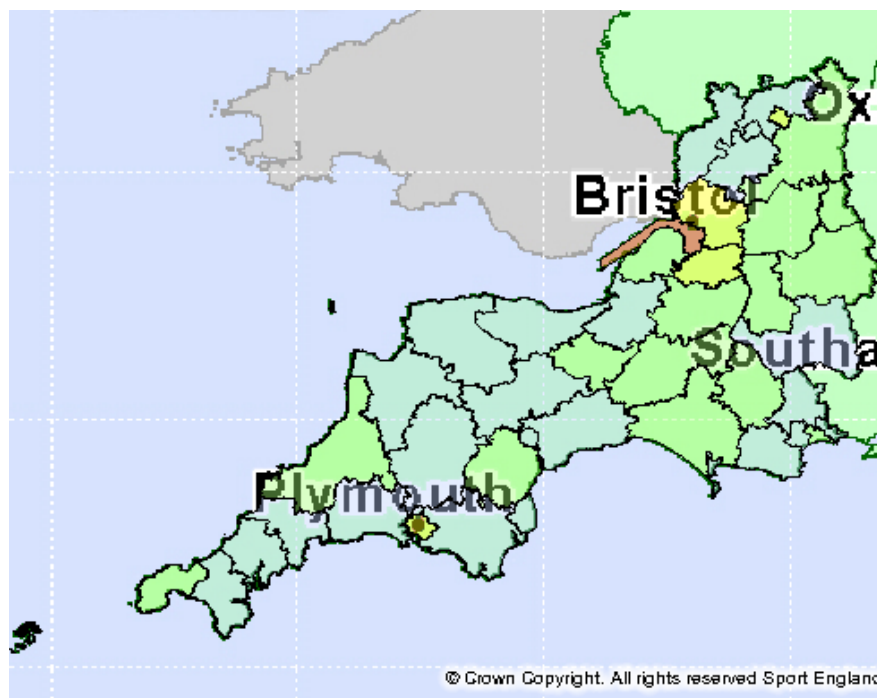
There is an estimated **548m²** (33%) deficit between the water space that swimming clubs, schools and low-income users have access and the ASA's guidelines.

Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay)

There is an estimated **3,977m²** (28%) deficit between the water space that swimming clubs, schools and low-income users have access

South West Region

Applying the ASA guidelines to **South West Region** for the current population of **4,928,458** indicates a requirement of **64,070m²** of water space. There is an estimated **6,697m²** (10%) deficit between the water space that swimming clubs, schools and low-income users have access and the ASA's guidelines.



1 - 6

This thematic map is based upon the count of **Swimming Pool** of Opening/Ownership Group **Community use, except commercial** in **South West Region** using data ranges derived from **South West Region**

The South West Region is the seventh largest in terms of population and fourth largest in terms of geographical area. The Region has eight County Sports Partnerships that are required to consult with the NGB's when formulating their regional strategies in general and in their relationship with the Building Schools for the Future programme. These are:

- Sports West Partnership
- Cornwall Sports Partnership
- Active Devon Sports Partnership** (includes Torbay)
- Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership
- Active Dorset

Wiltshire and Swindon Activity Sports Partnership
Active Gloucestershire
West of England Sport Trust

Finally the South West Region has 159 affiliated ASA swimming clubs, with 24,114 registered members. With 127 x 25-metre swimming pools, 14 x 33.3-metre swimming pools and 2 x 50-metre pool in the region this suggests that a swimming club is operating out of every available training pool and that the only restriction to increasing the amount of swimming club time is pool availability!

Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator

(This is based on nominal usage rates at peak times and does not take into account 'latent demand'. The number of swimming pool lanes and the number of swimming pools refers to a notional 25m x 8.5m four-lane facility)

The Sport England Sports Facility Calculator was devised to assist local planners identify the sports facility requirements in 'new development' scenarios and was not intended as an indicator of total area provision either 'minimum' or 'maximum'. The local facility requirement can only be ascertained taking into account local demographic variations and overlaying them onto the general guidance provided within the Active Power tools resource.

Local Strategic Planning

Sport England has provided the Active Places database resource as an aide to planning local facility strategy. The database provides the total amount of swimming pool water space available in a given area. However it is important when planning a local strategy to be aware that the water space identified cannot always be accessed by certain significant swimming pool users, e.g. schools, swimming clubs and economically disadvantaged users.

The sub-divisions provided within the database do not necessarily reflect the types of pool that certain users can access.

Active Places Sub-divisions of providers are:

- a. Community use, all ownership types
- b. Community use, commercial ownership
- c. Community use, except commercial ownership
- d. Community use, local authority ownership

For example:

- ❖ Commercial health club swimming pools accommodate general 'pay and play' swimming for their membership but schools and swimming clubs rarely can gain access to this type of facility because of their ethos of use. Additionally some commercial health clubs have relatively exclusive membership criteria that tend to exclude lower socio-economic groups by price.
- ❖ Some pools are so small that the ability to learn to swim a significant distance is negated rendering their water area not 'fit for purpose' (see county anomalies).
- ❖ Some swimming pools are so designed that large areas of the water area are cosmetic and again 'unfit for purpose' e.g. the shallow beach areas of a leisure pool (see county anomalies).
- ❖ Some swimming pools are open-air pools (lidos) and are open for relatively short periods each year.

Additionally Sport England's Active Places Database identifies swimming pools into five types of swimming pool.

Main/General – this term can be applied to any pool of any dimension as the list of pools demonstrates, this term should therefore be used with caution.

Learner/Teaching/Training – Although a learner and teaching pool can be the same thing, a training pool is usually not a learner/teaching pool unless it has a moveable floor. The relevance of Learner and Teaching pools usually relate to their depth and dimensions suitable to the swimmer being taught; whereas training pools require sufficient depth for swimming in training mode, which is usually deeper than the depth required for teaching the largest percentage of learner i.e. children.

Leisure – From the data it is clear that the term leisure pool means different things to different pool operators. Hotels and Health Clubs think in terms of small shallow free form pools of less than 100m²; whereas operators such as Butlins and Centre Parcs

and some local authorities see leisure pools in terms of giant free form pool in excess of 1,000m². This term should therefore be used with caution..

Diving – Although the term diving pool denotes a sufficient depth for diving there is nothing in the data set to identify the configuration of any boards in situ, which is surely the point of the pool.

Lido – although it is clear that a lido is an outdoor pool the definition does not identify what use the pool can be put to and whether it is heated and permits longer opening hours than the usual summer season attributed to an unheated pool.

Taking these variables into account the ASA's consider, as a minimum requirement, **13m²** of 'fit for purpose' pool water area per 1,000 head of population that the majority of users (general swimmers, schools, swimming clubs etc.) can access.

(The guideline of 13m² is based on the concept of providing a 25m x 5 lane swimming pool or a 25m x 4 lane pool with an additional learner pool with a water area 'fit for purpose' for a wide range of user activities, for every 20,000 of the population, this also reflects the current national average level of supply.)

Although Active Places indicates whether or not there is spectator seating it provides no indication regarding the number and positioning of the seats therefore there is insufficient data to determine if a venue is suitable to hold competitive spectator events. Generally the majority of commercial facilities have insufficient spectator seating to accommodate main swimming club activities.

Examples of anomalies of water area provision that are indigenous to all regions and counties:

- ❖ The majority of commercial pool provision does not provide conventional divisions of a 100m length and their use is therefore diminished for club training even if access is achieved. Additionally many commercial pools are too small for meaningful training.*
- ❖ Commercial health and fitness clubs prefer constant depth pools varying between 1.2m and 1.4m deep, which is acceptable for fitness swimming but is restrictive for the teaching of swimming to children, which normally requires shallower depths between 0.5m and 1m. (See LA Fitness, Club Moativation, Fitness Express, Cannons Health Clubs, Virgin and David Lloyd Clubs in particular)*
- ❖ Some leisure pools have as much as 30% of water area provision that is unsuitable for any form of swimming because of their 'beach' access, where the water is only at paddling depth.*

ASA Facility Strategy Guidelines

Swimming pool providers should refer to the ASA's facility strategy document "**From Armbands to Gold Medals**" when considering provision options. However points and objectives to consider are:

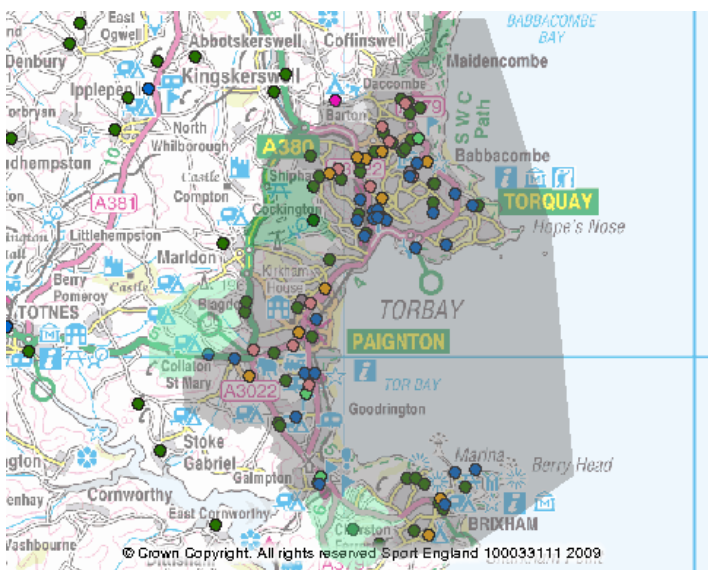
- ❖ *The provision of a minimum of 13m² of 'fit for purpose' water area per 1,000 population.*
- ❖ *Within the regional strategies where appropriate local authorities should be encouraged to enter into cross border partnerships to provide community 50-metre swimming pools thereby reducing the overall burden of provision whilst increasing the opportunity for users.*
- ❖ *The use of moveable floors and bulkheads provides a more flexible use pool that increases revenue and enhances the use profile.*
- ❖ *Encouraging the upgrading of facilities to provide more 25m by 8 lane pools as a minimum length plus a learner pool*
- ❖ *Recommending to pool providers that they provide traditional main pool profiles with depths from 1-metre shallow to 1.8-metres deep to permit the widest range of pool usage.*
- ❖ *Increasing the number of venues suitable for competition and training*
- ❖ *Increasing the number of international and regional standard diving venues*
- ❖ *Ensuring that all schools that aspire to Sports Academy status provide swimming training to lifeguard qualification standard, which would require access to a swimming pool of variable depth with some deep water and be of a sufficient size to enable swimming competencies to be achieved.*

Shortfall provision options:

- ❖ *A 25m x 8.5m - 4 x 2m lane swimming pool provides 212.5m² of water space*
- ❖ *A 25m x 12.5m – 6 x 2m lane swimming pool provides 312.5m² of water space*
- ❖ *A 25m x 12.5m – 6 x 2m lane swimming pool plus learner pool 8m x 12.5m provides 412.5m² of water space.*
- ❖ *A 25m x 16.5 – 8 x 2m lane swimming pool provides 412.5m² of water space*
- ❖ *A 25m x 16.5 – 8 x 2m lane swimming pool plus learner pool 16.5m x 10m provides 577.5m² of water space.*
- ❖ *A 25m x 20.5m – 10 x 2m lane swimming pool provides 512.5m² of water space*
- ❖ *A 25m x 20.5m – 10 x 2m lane swimming pool plus learner pool 20.5m x 10m provides 717.5m² of water space.*
- ❖ *A 50m x 17m – 8 x 2m lane swimming pool provides 850m² of water space*

❖ A 50m x 17m – 8 x 2m lane swimming pool plus learner pool 17m x 10m provides 1,020m² of water space

(The option that is chosen should best reflect the needs of the general community it is to serve and consider the age and estimated life of existing facilities and the demographics and travel and transport issues of the area. As indicated above the use of moveable floors and booms can increase flexibility of use and may reduce water area accordingly. 50-metre pools designed for major and international competition would require 2.5-metre lanes)



Symbol	Range
	Urban > 10K
	Town and Fringe
	Village
	Hamlet & Isolated Dwelling

Despite being in a very rural county Torbay is a heavily urbanised area.

The existing community use pools in Torbay show an even spread across the district although there may be merit in distancing the two facilities in Torquay (currently the Riviera Centre and Swim Torquay) from each other.

Riviera Centre

Swim Torquay

There is an estimated **542m²** (31%) deficit between the water space that swimming clubs, schools and low-income users have access and

The ASA's guidelines or the equivalent of one 25m x 16.5 – 8 x 2m lane swimming pool plus learner pool 16.5m x 10m provides 577.5m² of water space.

The above estimate does not take into account:

- ❖ Any anticipated future population variations in the area
- ❖ Any anticipated variations to the future school places demand in the area
- ❖ Government initiatives to increase sports participation
- ❖ Population increases since 2009 Census

Taken as a whole these variables will tend to increase shortfalls and decrease surpluses.

Age and attractiveness of swimming pool stock

20% of the current swimming pool stock is over 30 years old; and therefore is not a significant issue. **However of the 5 sites that are available for swimming clubs, schools and low-income users 3 (60%) are over 30 years old and this is a significant issue that needs to be addressed.**

+81% of the swimming pool provision is provided by commercial organisations, which normally prohibit access to swimming clubs and school use. This high % reflects the tourist nature of the area and county and this is not surprising. Given this large commercial contribution to the swimming stock there should be a recognition that the local authority does not need to provide leisure water for tourism as it is being adequately catered for already. There is therefore every indication that the local authority should concentrate on providing swimming facilities for the local residents whose main priorities will be learning to swim, fitness swimming and exercise classes, school swimming and club and other hire activities. Consideration should also be given to the above average aged population of the district and the need to programme for the over 50's fitness swimming demand.

There are **3** x 25-metre short course length swimming pool is Torbay suitable for club use.
There are **no** 50-metre community swimming pools in Torbay.

Aquatic disciplines

Diving –

There are **3** swimming pools with a water depth sufficient for poolside flat competitive and plunge dives can be taught safely.
There are **no** swimming pools with diving boards and springboards where more advanced diving can be taught.

Synchronised Swimming –

The teaching and practice of the most basic introductory water skills may be carried out in pools which have areas of water of 1.0m or more in depth.

There are **3** swimming pools that have sufficient depth for synchronised swimming training to be undertaken

There are **no** swimming pools with sufficient depth and area for synchronised swimming competition to be undertaken.

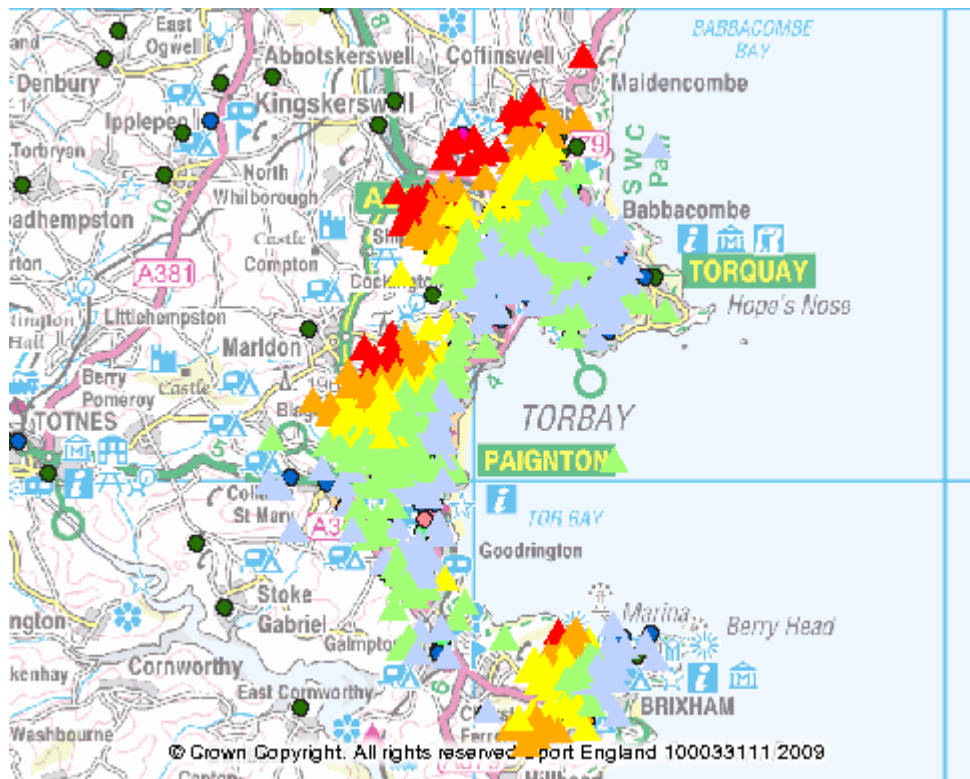
Water Polo –

Ideally Water Polo should be played in pitches with a minimum depth of 1.8m however low-level training and competition can take place in conventional 25m x 10m x 0.9m to 1.8m depth main pools.

There are **1** swimming pools that have sufficient water space and depth for low-level water polo competition to take place.

There are **no** swimming pools that have sufficient water space and depth for a major competition to take place.

Travel times and other geographical issues



Time to the Nearest site

Facility type: Swimming Pool
Sub Facility Type: All
Local Authority: Torbay
Travel Type: Travel Time
Mode of Travel: By Car

Symbol	Range (minutes)	Site count
▲	2.85 - 4.16	148
▲	4.17 - 5.47	157
▲	5.48 - 6.78	75
▲	6.79 - 8.09	52

Apart from congested periods travel around the District takes a relatively short time and no resident needs to travel further than 10 minutes by care to a facility.

Options

The Amateur Swimming Association would wish to see the swimming pool stock in Torbay increased in line with the national average and the recommended level of water area by the addition of one new pool together with the replacement of any existing pools that are past refurbishment.

Based on the current provision and the Council's key objectives (a) to ensure the majority of children in Torbay have the ability to swim sufficiently for them to be safe in a water recreational tourist area, and (b) to meet the National Curriculum Learn to swim targets, and (c) to consider a developed 50+ fitness swimming programme it is clear what type of swimming pool is most beneficial for the area.

Comprehensive **Learn to Swim** programmes require a significant area of shallow water and a heavy commitment of time during school hours and the early evening. Fitness swimming requires a straight section of pool water 20-metres to 25-metres long with a depth to accommodate adult swimming of approximately 1-metre plus.

A major dissatisfier is the inability to provide some un-programmed swimming for other swimmers during these periods. It is important therefore to have at least one swimming pool that is sufficiently large enough to be divided into swimming lesson/school/club use on one side and un-programmed public swimming, or fitness swimming on the other.

To achieve this the minimum configuration is a 25-metre x 12.5-metre (6 lane) swimming pool, shallow end depth 0.9m, deep end depth 1.8m, with an additional learner/teaching pool approximately 12.5m x 10m. This would enable at least 2 lanes to be kept aside for public lane swimming during most other periods of use.

This type of pool would also be suitable for low level water polo competition, synchronised swimming training and the teaching of plunge dives from the deep end of the main pool.

An even better configuration, which allows the public to use half of the pool whilst lessons and schools are using the facility is a 25m x 16.5 – 8 x 2m lane swimming pool plus learner pool 16.5m x 10m provides 577.5m² of water space.

Although the Amateur Swimming Association is not opposed to leisure water in principle it holds the view that such water space is of little use for any of the prime uses of a swimming pool and is best suited for 'play' use only.

Given the current small percentage of water space provided by the local authority and the near comparable water space provided by small local Trusts it is clearly in the interest of the Local Authority to ensure that the trusts continue to operate effectively as they are providing a significant savings to the council.

Footnote:

Most of the data in this review has been extracted from Sport England's Active Places database. Although it is undoubtedly the most comprehensive database of sports and recreational facilities and in particular swimming pools nevertheless there are significant errors and omissions. When working on the database it becomes apparent that a significant number of school swimming pools have yet to be added, maybe as many as 20%. There are also a significant number of facilities still on the database that are identified as closed or as planned. All in all there is probability about a 10% inaccuracy factor.

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