

## **sportscotland submission of 14 July 2023**

### **PE2018/D: Recognise the value of swimming pools and provide financial relief to help keep pools open**

Thank you for your recent letter in relation to the petition to 'recognise the value of swimming pools and provide financial relief help keep pools open' (PE2018). I am happy to provide further information on the Scottish Swimming Facilities Project, referenced in the Scottish Government submission to the Committee on 12 May.

Scottish Swimming have highlighted facilities as the highest risk to their sport. We are supporting Scottish Swimming to commission the Scottish Swimming Facilities Project, to complete a detailed piece of work to understand accurately the current pool provision, life cycle and predict the landscape in the short, medium and long term. This will likely be the first phase of a multi-layered piece of work to fully appreciate the significance and lead into what, how and who will be required to safeguard and ensure future generations will have the opportunity to realise the benefits aquatics has for all.

The project has three phases:

1. Provide a high-level update on change since the Ticking Time Bomb report was produced in 2001. That report reviewed Scotland's public swimming pools and the costs associated with maintenance, upgrades and refurbishment. This new work will provide an update from the 2001 report, with a focus on the age, condition, numbers, categories and locations of pools.
2. Provide good practice guidance on creating a more economically and environmentally sustainable swimming pool estate. This will consider energy consumption, operational costs, refurbishment, replacement, and adaptations in relation to both new and existing pools. It will also provide guidance on the development and operation of school swimming pools for community access.
3. Work with pilot local authority areas to implement the guidance developed in phase two, to demonstrate the future sustainability of the swimming estate.

In March, Scottish Swimming appointed OLM Consulting to undertake this work. The work is well underway, and we would expect Scottish Swimming to be in a position to publish the results of phases one and two in the coming months.

We are supporting this work financially, providing £23,250 to the total cost of £42,400. Our Facilities Development team have provided the project with access to data and information we hold and are contributing their expertise to the project on an ongoing basis as part of our wider partnership approach to working with and supporting Scottish Swimming.

**sportscotland** recognises the vital contribution of swimming to achieving our vision of an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport. I hope this information is of value to the Committee as they continue their consideration of this important petition.