

SCOTTISH *swimming*
everyone can swim!

Thank you for your valuable support



Principal partner



Official partners



Pool providers

Scottish Swimming would like to acknowledge and thank Scotland's local authority councils, leisure trusts, universities, and operators of school pools with whom strong partnerships make the successful development of swimming possible.



SCOTTISH *swimming*
everyone can swim!



SCOTTISH SWIMMING FACILITIES STRATEGY

2009 – 2014

Developed by Scottish Swimming in
partnership with sportscotland

Principal partner



sportscotland

Scottish Swimming aims to support pool providers to be able to offer clubs and swim schools the right water at the right time at a reasonable price.

CONTENTS

Preface	4
1 Introduction	5
2 Setting the scene	5
3 The swimmer pathway	6
4 Facility development	7
4.1 Access to Swimming Pools	7
4.2 The Number of Swimming Pools	8
4.3 Quality of Swimming Pools	9
4.4 Location of Swimming Pools	10
4.5 Network of Swimming Pools	10
5 Facility standards	13
5.1 National Standard Facilities	13
5.1.1 Existing National Provision	13
5.1.2 Proposed Additional National Standard Provision	14
5.2 Regional Standard Facilities	14
5.2.1 Existing Regional Standard Provision (50m)	14
5.2.2 Proposed Additional Regional (50m) Provision	15
5.2.3 Existing Regional Standard Provision (25m)	15
5.2.4 Proposed Additional Regional Standard Provision (25m)	16
5.3 Local Standard Facilities	16
6 Summary	17
Appendices	18

About Scottish Swimming

As the national governing body for swimming in Scotland, Scottish Swimming represents our clubs, swim schools, aquatic disciplines, and thousands of talented and committed volunteers across the entire swimmer pathway from development and healthy living through to performance. We are focused on delivering in the following key areas to reach our vision to ensure that everyone can swim: healthy living, learn to swim, club development, community partnerships and performance.

Scottish Swimming

National Swimming Academy,
University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA

Tel: 01786 466520 | Fax: 01786 466521
info@scottishswimming.com

www.scottishswimming.com

Company number: SC246645 Registered in Scotland

sportscotland

Front cover – Tollcross Park Leisure Centre Glasgow, host facility for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Scottish Swimming - Facilities Strategy: 2009-14

Developed by Scottish Swimming in partnership with **sportscotland**

Preface

This strategy provides suggestions for swimming pool facility development for all pool providers in Scotland. The strategy:

- Identifies the preferred location for new swimming pool facilities
- Prioritises Scotland's need for new and refurbished facilities, with a particular focus on regional and national standard pools
- Defines the minimum specifications for swimming training and competition facilities at all levels

The document also offers background on the strengths and weaknesses of our facilities:

- Ongoing investment is required for the development of existing pools
- New pools are required in order to grow participation and improve performance
- Pool programming needs to be improved and more partnership work amongst all parties is required to ensure effective access agreements are in place for all pool users
- Schools, universities, and local authority multi-sport facilities should be considered, where appropriate, as ideal locations for maximum pool usage
- A network of facilities is required to meet all users' needs including national, regional, and local standard facilities

Scottish Swimming aims to support pool providers, clubs, swim schools, and other users to ensure the right water is secured at the right time at a reasonable price. This strategy hopes to assist pool operators to deliver this shared aim.

Scottish Swimming and **sportscotland** would be delighted to discuss ideal specifications with any pool provider wishing to review its facility strategy, develop a new pool, and/or an existing one. We would also be pleased to share suggestions from pool operators and users through our "Pool Management and Programming Guide". Scottish Swimming does not have capital funding to invest in facility provision. However, applications for investment in swimming pools received by **sportscotland** are passed to Scottish Swimming for comment. When given such an opportunity, the messages in this "Facility Strategy" and our "Pool Management and Programming Guide" are used as key references.

www.scottishswimming.com

www.sportscotland.org.uk

1 Introduction

This strategy has been produced by Scottish Swimming in partnership with **sportscotland**. It is presented primarily, but not exclusively, with swimming development and clubs in mind. Although Scottish Swimming does not operate swimming pools, it has an important leadership role in helping to advise and guide the investment of public funding into swimming provision in Scotland. Scottish Swimming also represents the needs of 180 affiliated clubs and swim schools who are often important customers and users of local, public pools.

This strategy provides suggestions for swimming pool facility development for all pool providers in Scotland. The strategy applies to facilities for the whole community, embracing both able bodied and disabled swimmers, and people from all ethnic backgrounds. The strategy:

- Identifies the preferred location for new national and regional swimming pool facilities
- Prioritises Scotland's need for new and refurbished facilities, with a particular focus on regional and national standard pools (these pools being those which have a significant impact upon Scottish Swimming and the upper levels of the swimmer pathway)
- Defines the standard specifications for swimming training and competition facilities at national, regional and local levels

The case for targeting resources to swimming pool facilities is clear:

- It is pivotal that our children are taught to swim in order that they may feel confident and safe throughout their developing years
- Swimming is an inclusive activity for people of all ages and all abilities. This applies whether going up and down the lanes to stay fit, participating in any one of the disciplines or competing for Scotland
- Swimming is a hugely popular activity. For adults, it is rated as the most popular physical activity in Scotland and the UK after walking, and for children, it is rated the third most popular activity after football and cycling
- There is strong public sector provision for swimming in Scotland and there is a tradition of strong clubs and international achievement: facilities are required to maintain and grow this part of Scotland's sporting culture in order to create heroes and motivate our youth

With pool providers, clubs, swim schools, Scottish Swimming and **sportscotland** working together, we can ensure the appropriate facilities and access agreements are in place to take swimming forward in Scotland, fulfilling the Scottish Swimming vision that everyone can swim.

2 Setting the scene

Scottish Swimming's corporate plan runs from 2006-2014 and details a number of ambitious targets for our four business areas: healthy living, development, performance and corporate development. Supporting strategically planned swimming pool facility development is critical to achieving the governing body's vision and goals:

Our vision is to ensure that everyone can swim. Our overarching goal is to ensure that every person in Scotland has access to quality swimming programmes, regardless of age or ability. Our headline targets are focused around the following areas:

- A healthy living strategy to get more people swimming for health, fitness and fun
- Learn to swim programme development and growth
- Club development (volunteers, teachers, coaches, club accreditation)

- Community partnerships between Scottish Swimming, each local authority and the club(s) in their area (partnerships, access agreements, full time paid coaches)
- Support for youth and senior performance programme athletes, coaches and performance centres/home programmes

Our corporate plan is aligned to the plans of **sportscotland** and the Scottish Government. Local authority single outcome agreements feature in our thinking: swimming is able to help our councils and trusts with their aims to have an educated, healthy and confident Scottish population.

Scottish Swimming's membership ranges from 2 to over 90 years in age, reaching out to over 50,000 members and customers including club swimmers, the aquatic disciplines, lifestyle swimmers, teachers, coaches and volunteers. Our membership has grown by 8% over the last 5 years, despite a declining population. Scottish Swimming's 160 clubs vary in size from 8 to 657 members. Swim schools, offering organised learn to swim opportunities, range from a small number of customers to over 5,000 customers. Clubs and swim schools have a wide geographical spread across the nation, including the Islands, the Borders, and the East and West coasts of Scotland. Each of our clubs and swim schools offer a buzz of activity around which a community can come together and rally. Quality facilities are at the heart of these communities and need to be effectively refurbished or replaced to continue to attract participants, providing them with a sense of community.

The governing body has initiated a number of healthy living initiatives, with new staff appointed and funded from Health Scotland to help motivate those who swim for recreation and those who are inactive. We recognise this is a critical area for the Scottish Government and local authorities as we face unprecedented health challenges.

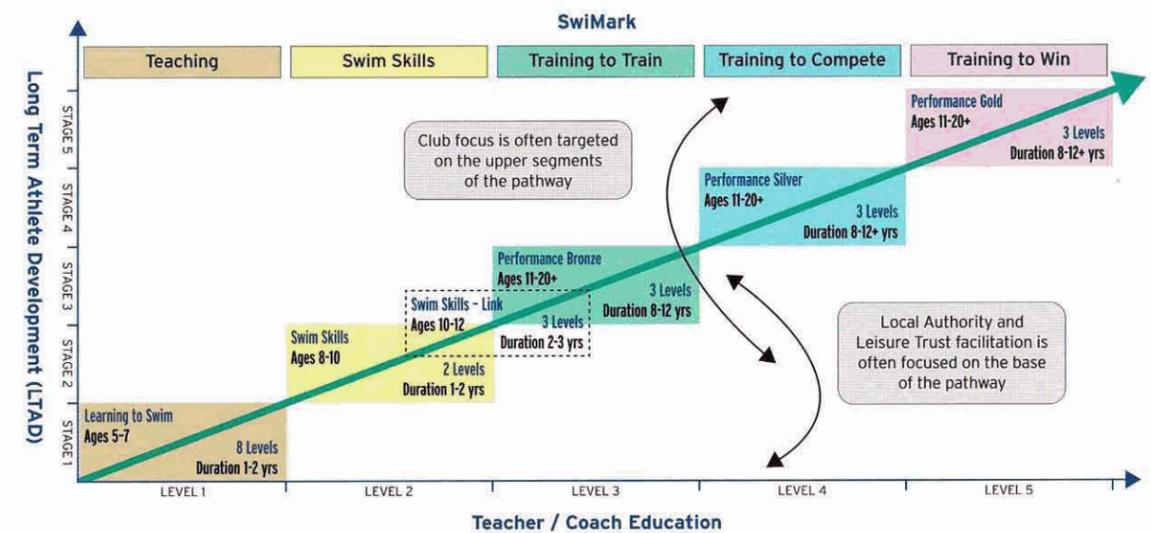
Despite the positive outlook for swimming, with significant public and political attention on the 2012 London Olympic & Paralympic Games and 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, we are aware that the economic climate in Scotland over the next five years is likely to be difficult. It is anticipated that funding for local authorities and leisure trusts may be reduced. This will increase pressure on the provision of all local services, particularly where there is no specific statutory requirement to provide services such as recreation and sport. It is encouraging, however, that the Local Government and Planning Scotland Act (1982) states that Councils should ensure that there is adequate provision of facilities for recreational, sporting, cultural and social activities for their area. Scottish Swimming recognises that swimming pools are a considerable cost item for local authorities and leisure trusts and are unlikely to be immune from the challenging economic times ahead. The financial landscape is also likely to increase pressure on the way in which pools are operated and programmed.

Scottish Swimming views the financial challenges we face as an opportunity to work more collaboratively to ensure our nation's facility development is appropriately targeted, and that our water is used as effectively and efficiently as possible.

3 The swimmer pathway

Scottish Swimming's swimmer pathway (figure 1) is based on long term athlete development and involves a progression from learning to swim through to a comprehensive performance programme for the achievement of swimming excellence. A wide range of quality products are provided by Scottish Swimming to support swimmers at every stage of the swimmer pathway, including a swimming development tool box, swiMark (a club development resource), teacher and coach education and performance programmes. In general terms, pool operators tend to focus on the base of the swimmer pathway and clubs on the pathway's upper end. The ideal scenario is where the two work collaboratively on the pathway in its entirety.

Figure 1: Scottish Swimming's Swimmer Pathway



Scottish Swimming supports a range of aquatic disciplines which all contribute to the athlete pathway. By providing pools that meet the requirements of swimming, we are also servicing the needs of leisure swimmers, masters swimming and, to a large extent, open water swimming. The standard requirements for all disciplines and a review of our gaps in provision for the disciplines are found in Appendix B.

Scottish Swimming and **sportscotland** would be delighted to discuss ideal specifications with any pool provider wishing to review its facility strategy, develop a new pool, and/or an existing one. We would also be pleased to share suggestions for pool operators, clubs, swim schools and other users through our "Pool Management and Programming Guide".

4 Facility development

4.1 Access to Swimming Pools

Despite a challenging economic climate and a complex number of competing priorities, we appreciate that many local authorities, leisure trusts and other pool providers are delivering quality swimming facilities and programmes. Our "Pool Management and Programming Guide" highlights examples throughout Scotland and offers templates for operators wishing to review their management approach and make better use of their pools.

Feedback from many clubs indicates that it is becoming harder to secure water at their current pools and that the cost of the water they are able to secure is increasing at a rate greater than inflation. Many learn to swim and club programmes are turning away potential participants due to lack of water time/access. Pool operators are commenting on the growing cost of heating bills and subsidies required to operate their pools. Demand and costs for water are both increasing. Operators are also commenting on their frustration in engaging with some clubs who do not appear to appreciate the complex nature of facility programming, balancing competing needs. If we can better manage our existing water, we could target and grow swimming participation by a range of users. Failure to keep pool programming under review could impact negatively on the viability of our pools. This could result in the decline of our clubs and swim schools, and a subsequent loss in performance results to inspire young participants.

Through the guide, we hope to enthuse those clubs and pool providers who have not had the opportunity to reflect recently on their approach to swimming development and water management. We believe there is a tremendous opportunity for clubs and pool providers to review their practices and work more closely toward shared aims and access agreements. The detail of the guide is not captured here, however, in summary, Scottish Swimming would like to support:

- A review of pool programming
- The extension of swimming pool opening hours, where appropriate
- Improved access to school pools for community use, including access during mornings, evenings, weekends, and holiday
- The inclusion of swimming pools in new schools where this facilitates strong community use
- The development of partnerships between pool providers, clubs and swim schools where solutions to water constraints are brought forward collaboratively
- The development of access agreements for new pools and the development of revised agreements for existing pools

4.2 The Number of Swimming Pools

Based on population, the overall number of pools in Scotland does not require to be increased significantly. Across Scotland, 79% of the population are within a 20 minute drive to a 25m, 6 lane pool. Further, 45% of the population are within a 30 minute drive to a 50m pool. It is in Grampian and the Highlands where 25m pool provision is poorest (51% and 32%, respectively). It is in Grampian, the Highlands, and Tayside and Fife where there is virtually no 50m pool coverage within a 30 minute drive (Appendix C). Benchmarking against other countries shows the population per 50m pool, based on the most recently published data (2007), as follows:

Population per 50m swimming pool (Ref: LEN European Market Review 2007)

Rank	Country	Population per 50m pool
1	Sweden	602,733
2	France	672,178
3	Scotland	1,273,700
4	Netherlands	1,481,727
5	Britain	2,841,333

In the short term, the focus should be on increasing access to our existing swimming pools. However, in the long term, if we are truly going to shift participation in swimming and meet the needs of learn to swim and club programmes, new pools and refurbished pools will be required. Attention to the development of Scotland's pools is required as follows:

- The quality of and access to our pools should be improved (for swimming clubs and other organised swimming groups in particular)
- A small number of new pools in specific locations is required to meet gaps in provision
- A network of larger national and regional standard pools is required to facilitate Scottish Swimming's development and performance objectives



4.3 Quality of Swimming Pools

Based on existing levels of pool usage in Scotland, where anecdotally **sportscotland** and many local authorities are reporting a fall in user numbers, the quality of many facilities in Scotland is very poor. There is significant evidence outlining that a need for substantial investment in maintaining, upgrading and/or replacing existing pools is required, including:

- **sportscotland's** review of swimming pool provision "The Ticking Time Bomb" (2001)
- The more recent "**sportscotland** Audit of Sports Facilities" (2005)

Since the last edition of the Scottish Swimming Facility Strategy was published (2004), some progress has been made. However, much is still required to be done and significant levels of investment are needed.

While priority is given to those facilities mentioned on Pages 11 of this strategy, Scottish Swimming continues to work with **sportscotland**, local authorities and partners on their plans to refurbish or replace a number of other pools in key areas. There are still a number of post war pools and a small number of Victorian pools which can still be refurbished and offer value for money to provide an appropriate level of swimming along the swimmer pathway. Many of these projects might come on stream sooner than some of the priority projects aforementioned and will be considered as opportunities for investment- particularly where this investment can add value and make a real and lasting impact.

At the time of print, some local authorities are currently realising long awaited investment to either refurbish or replace pools (even in these difficult economic times). As local authorities develop their water management plans, they will be better able to make decisions on the scale of provision, design and operation for their new projects.

4.4 Location of Swimming Pools

The location of pools needs to be considered carefully and several key principles are outlined below:

- Pools should be located in easily accessible areas, taking account of a variety of transport options
- Where strong community access can be achieved, an ideal site for a local community pool could be at a school. During the day, the pool is accessed by the school. During the early mornings, evenings, weekends and holiday periods, the pool can be accessed by the local community. This is often best achieved in rural settings where travel between school and recreational activities can be challenging
- While local authorities can be effective sites for 50m pools, an ideal site for a performance focused pool is also at a university, where performance swimmers can receive first choice of weekly water time. Universities are playing an increasingly important role in developing facilities of national or regional significance. For example, the National Swimming Academy at the University of Stirling is a national 50m training facility that hosts a British Swimming Intensive Training Centre (ITC), a British Swimming Disability programme, and also accommodates performance programmes for Scottish Swimming and Triathlon Scotland
- The recent Health and Sport Committee report (2009) recommends that local community facilities should be provided in the form of a multi sport hub facility. This could be a more cost effective and sustainable model that shares the overhead costs and heat recovery systems across a number of linked facilities. More importantly, however, Scottish Swimming supports the view that these multi sport hub facilities are likely to deliver better sport and health outcomes than existing single sport facility provision. A good example of this is the Stirling Sports Village

4.5 Network of Swimming Pools

A network of facilities is required to cater for all levels of participation.

- National standard facilities are required in designated locations to cater for high performance training and competition
- Regional standard facilities are required across the country to support development pathways of competitive swimmers
- Local standard facilities are required countrywide to encourage learn to swim, mass participation and local community club use

A summary of current and proposed swimming pools within six regions set against the headings of “national” and “regional” is presented with more detail in the pages that follow. The regions are mapped to the six regional hubs proposed by **sportscotland**.

The joint Scottish Swimming and **sportscotland** priorities outlined within the document are focused on regional and national standard facilities with a focus on competitive swimming (those pools which have a significant impact upon Scottish Swimming and the upper levels of the swimmer pathway). **However, both agencies also strongly support participation related facility development.** Councils and leisure trusts may also be interested in developing 50m pools and they are encouraged to do so if this approach is what best serves their wider community above and beyond the regional/national network proposed within this strategy.

The priorities have been identified in order to ensure the right mix of opportunity is established across Scotland.

Priority 1 – Aberdeen National Standard 50m pool	The gap in long course training in the North has been identified for over 10 years, with the 50m pool project in Aberdeen being the governing body’s number one priority when Scottish Swimming produced its first facility strategy. Appendix C details a 0% coverage for 50m pool access within a 30 minute drive in the Grampian Area.
Priority 2 – Dundee Regional Standard 50m pool	There is strong support for a 50m pool in Dundee, with only 1.7% coverage for 50m pool access within a 30 minute drive in the Tayside and Fife area.
Priority 3 – Glenrothes Regional Standard 25m, 8 lane pool	This is a pool which will replace the existing 25m 6 lane facility and Scottish Swimming welcomes the upgrade in facility specification.
Priority 4 – Aberdeenshire Regional Standard 25m, 8 lane pool	Appendix C highlights that only 26.2% of the Aberdeenshire population have access to a 25m, 6 lane pool. Scottish Swimming believes investment in this area is a priority.
Priorities 5 and 6 – East Regional Standard 50m pool and 25m, 8 lane pool	While coverage and square metres of water per 1000 people in the East is relatively strong, it is the governing body’s view, based on strong anecdotal evidence of need from the swimming community, that a second 50m pool in the area would be hugely beneficial. The pool could be built outside of the City of Edinburgh boundaries and would not necessarily need to be funded or operated by the Council/Trust. A new 50m pool could be targeted for club swimming, performance swimming, and other programmed activity. The structure could be basic but functional, a no frills option. Anecdotal evidence also suggests the need for a further 25m, 8 lane facility in the area. Both pools would relieve pressure on the refurbished Royal Commonwealth Pool and the other facilities in Edinburgh, which are understood to be at capacity with large learn to swim waiting lists.

It is essential that all parts of the swimmer pathway are provided for through quality facility provision. **We encourage all local authority councils and trusts to have a swimming pool facility strategy alongside a robust water management plan.** **sportscotland’s** facility planning model is available for local authorities to draw upon which maps the population to the geographic positioning of existing and proposed swimming pools.

FACILITY TYPE		EAST		WEST		CENTRAL		TAYSIDE AND FIFE		GRAMPIAN		HIGHLAND	
National Standard	National Standard Competition (50m)	✓ – Royal Commonwealth Pool (once refurbishment complete)	✓ – National Swimming Centre Tollcross Park, Glasgow	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	PRIORITY 1 Proposed in Aberdeen	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required
	National Standard Training (50m)			✓ – National Swimming Academy, Stirling									
Regional Standard	Regional Standard Competition And Training (50m)	PRIORITY 5 Additional venue needed (50m)	✓ – Dollan Aqua Centre (50m) East Kilbride	Not required	PRIORITY 2 Dundee (50m)	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required
	Regional Standard Competition And Training (25m x 8 lane)	PRIORITY 6 Additional venue needed (25m)	✓ – Dumfries (25m)	✓ – The Peak, Stirling (25m)* (User agreement required)	PRIORITY 3 Glenrothes (25m)	Not required	Not required	Not required	PRIORITY 4 Additional venue needed in Aberdeenshire (25m)	Not required	Not required	Not required	✓ – Inverness (25m) (Review of user agreement required)
Local Standard	Regional Standard Training (25m)	✓ – Ainslie Park, Edinburgh (User agreement required)	✓ – Scotstoun, Glasgow (25m) (User agreement required)	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required
	Local Standard Competition And Training (25m)												

Scottish Swimming and sportscotland support local authorities to develop facilities to support community use. Our recommended minimum standard for new and refurbished pools is 25m 6 lanes, with a learner pool. A movable floor is recommended to increase access to a wide range of users including: young people and adults learning to swim, disabled swimmers, swimmers from minority backgrounds, club training, local competitions and recreational public use.

* It should be noted that Scottish Swimming is introducing a new standard for regional competition and training venues (25m) of 8 lanes, rather than 6 lanes. However, the specification for The Peak in Stirling was agreed as a regional competition and training venue by Scottish Swimming prior to the introduction of these new standards.

5 Facility standards

5.1 National Standard Facilities

Scottish Swimming needs a network of 50m pools to meet national training and competition requirements.

The standard requirements for national competition and training facilities are (as set by Scottish Swimming taking account FINA regulations):

- 8 lane x 50m x 2m depth pool with a boom and movable floor
- Lane width 2.5m, including 0.5m on each side of the pool, i.e. 8 lanes equates to 21m
- Appropriate warm up facility
- Seating for at least 500 spectators, plus the ability to erect temporary seating
- Access to appropriate dry land facilities
- Electronic timing equipment

The standard requirements for national training facilities are:

- 6 lane x 50m x 2m depth pool with boom
- Lane width 2m, including 0.5m each side of the pool i.e. 6 lanes equates to 13m
- Access to appropriate dry land facilities

Requirements, together with existing provision, are identified below:

5.1.1 Existing National Provision

Facility Type	Area	Location	Comments
National Standard training and competition	West	National Swimming Centre, Tollcross, Glasgow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 50m x 10-lane, ■ depth 2m / variable ■ transverse boom ■ moveable floor 	Meets FINA requirements for major events. 50m 6 lane training/warm up pool to be added for CG 2014. Need to ensure club/performance access based on an agreed facility access agreement. Not suitable for diving or synchro.
National Standard training and competition	East	Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 50m x 8-lane with boom ■ depth 2m to 1m ■ diving pool 25m x 16.25m, depth 5m ■ Learn to swim pool 25m 	Diving pool will meet FINA requirements for major diving events. Should accommodate synchronised diving and dryland diving. Major upgrade start in Summer 2009, completion in Spring 2011. Need to ensure club/performance access based on an agreed facility access agreement.
National Standard training	Central	National Swimming Academy, University of Stirling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 50m x 6-lane ■ depth 2m / variable plus transverse boom 	Purpose-built training venue but does not meet FINA requirements for major events due to lack of width and limited spectator provision. Quality access agreement is in place.

Training requirements for swimming and a range of other aquatic pursuits are catered for at the National Swimming Academy in Stirling.

Tollcross Park in Glasgow is the only facility which will fully meet the FINA specification for a major swimming competition venue in Scotland (once the additional 50m warm up and training pool has been completed). With the advent of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow it is planned that there is an additional 50m x 6 lane pool added to the existing facility.

The Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh will be upgraded as part of the National and Regional Sports Facilities Strategy to provide a major competition diving facility which meets FINA specification.

5.1.2 Proposed Additional National Standard Provision

Facility Type	Area	Location	Comments
National Standard training and competition	Grampian	Aberdeen City Council and University of Aberdeen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 50m x 8-lane ■ depth 2m, movable floor ■ transverse boom ■ 20m x 15m, depth 5m diving pool 	Purpose-built training and competition venue. Need to ensure club/performance access based on an agreed facility access agreement.

The existing national standard facilities provision is limited to the central belt. There is a need to extend the provision to the north of the country where there is a significant need and demand for a flexible 50m facility that also includes diving provision.

5.2 Regional Standard Facilities

To meet regional training, competition and development requirements, Scottish Swimming needs a network of 50m x 6 lane pools with variable depth, transverse boom, and 25m x 8 lane pools with a supporting learn to swim pool of 16m x 8m. Requirements, together with existing provision, are identified below:

The requirements for regional competition and training standard (50m) facilities are:

- 6 lane x 50m x 2m variable depth main pool with a boom and movable floor for 25m
- Lane width 2.5m, including 0.5m on each side of the pool i.e. 6 lanes equates to 16m.
- Appropriate warm up facility
- Seating for at least 250 spectators, plus the ability to erect temporary seating
- Access to appropriate dry land facilities

5.2.1 Existing Regional Standard Provision (50m)

Facility Type	Area	Location	Comments
Regional training and competition standard	West	Dollan Aqua Centre, East Kilbride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 50m x 6-lane ■ depth 4.3 to 0.9m 	Meets Scottish Swimming requirements for regional (District) events. Need to ensure club access based on an agreed facility access agreement upon completion of upgrade.

5.2.2 Proposed Additional Regional (50m) Provision

Facility Type	Area	Location	Comments
Regional training and competition standard	Tayside & Fife	Dundee – Olympia replacement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 50m x 6 lane ■ 2m variable depth ■ transverse boom ■ diving facility 	Need to ensure club access based on an agreed facility access agreement.
Regional training standard	East	Venue to be determined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 50m x 6 lane ■ 2m variable depth ■ transverse boom 	Need to ensure club access based on an agreed facility access agreement.

The standard requirements for regional competition and training standard (25m) facilities are:

- 8 lane x 25m x 2m variable depth main pool
- Lane width 2.5m, including 0.5m on each side of the pool, ie, 8 lanes equates to 16m.
- 16m x 8m learn to swim / warm up pool, with optional movable floor
- Seating for at least 250 spectators, plus the ability to erect temporary seating
- Access to appropriate dry land facilities

It should be noted that a new minimum standard for regional competition and training venues (25m) of 8 lanes, rather than 6 lanes, is being introduced. However, the new regional centre at Stirling was agreed as a regional competition and training venue by Scottish Swimming prior to the introduction of the new standards.

5.2.3 Existing Regional Standard Provision (25m)

Facility Type	Area	Location	Comments
Regional training and competition standard	West	Dumfries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 25m x 8 lane pool ■ 20m x 8m (4 lane) with variable floor (1-2m) learner/warm up pool 	Meets Scottish Swimming requirements for regional (District) events. User access agreement in place.
Regional training and competition standard	Highlands	Inverness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 25m x 8 lane x 2m depth pool with movable floor ■ leisure water 	Meets Scottish Swimming requirements for regional (District) events. Review of user access agreement in place.
Regional training and competition standard	Central	Stirling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 25m x 6 lane pool ■ learner/warm up pool 	Did meet Scottish Swimming's original requirements for regional centre. User access agreement required to be put in place.
Regional training standard	West	Scotstoun, Glasgow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 25m x 10 lane pool ■ learner/warm up pool 	Insufficient spectator seating to accommodate regional (District) events. Need to ensure club/performance access based on an agreed facility access agreement.
Regional training standard	East	Ainslie Park, Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 25m x 8 lane 	Insufficient spectator seating to accommodate regional (District) events. Need to ensure club/performance access based on an agreed facility access agreement.

5.2.4 Proposed Additional Regional Standard Provision (25m)

Facility Type	Area	Location	Comments
Regional training and competition standard	Tayside & Fife	Glenrothes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 25m x 8 lane ■ plus 20m x 8m learner/warm up pool 	Meets Scottish Swimming requirements for regional (District) events. Need to ensure club access based on an agreed facility access agreement.
Regional training and competition standard	East	Location to be decided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 25m x 8 lane x 2m variable depth ■ plus 20m x 8m learner/warm up pool 	Meets Scottish Swimming requirements for regional (District) events. Need to ensure club access based on an agreed facility access agreement.
Regional training and competition standard	Grampian	Location to be decided, but preferred location Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 25m x 8 lane x 2m variable depth ■ plus 20m x 8m learner/warm up pool 	Meets Scottish Swimming requirements for regional (District) events. Need to ensure club access based on an agreed facility access agreement.

5.3 Local Standard Facilities

To meet local swimming development and community use needs, Scotland requires a strong network of high quality, flexible local pools in every local authority area. Within this network, there should be a minimum of at least one facility, but ideally 3 or more depending on the size of the local authority, in each local authority that complies to the following standard:

- 6 lane x 25m x variable depth main pool, with optional movable floor
- 12m x 6m learn to swim / warm up pool, with optional movable floor
- Seating for at least 100 spectators
- Access to appropriate dry land facilities

Where a pool provider is considering a choice between an 8 lane x 25m pool without an associated learn to swim or warm up pool or a 6 lane x 25m pool with associated learn to swim or warm up pool, Scottish Swimming's preference is for the latter. A learn to swim or warm up pool offers greater flexibility for use by all sections of the local community.

Local pools could include school pools with appropriate club and community access arrangements. Local community pools need to be able to cater for a range of users including young people and adults learning to swim, disability swimmers, swimmers from minority backgrounds, club training, local competitions and recreational public use. As a result, there should be first class changing rooms and pools access for disabled users, anti-turbulence ropes, starting blocks, timing equipment and spectator accommodation available.

Major local facility challenges for operators to consider within their pool strategies are maintenance, upgrading and replacement of existing stock and the need to ensure facilities are sustainable into the future.

6 Summary

Progress has been made to enhance Scotland's provision of swimming pools since the last version of this strategy was published (2004). However, there are considerable opportunities to make further improvements.

- Ongoing investment is required for the development of existing pools
- New pools are required in order to grow participation and improve performance
- Pool programming needs to be improved and more partnership work across all parties is required to ensure access agreements are in place for all pool users
- Schools, universities, and multi-sport facilities should be recognised as ideal locations to encourage greater club usage
- A network of national, regional and local standard facilities is required to meet the needs of all users

Scottish Swimming aims to support pool providers, clubs, swim schools, and other users to ensure the right water is secured at the right time at a reasonable price.

Scottish Swimming and **sportscotland** would be delighted to discuss ideal specifications with any pool provider wishing to review its facility strategy and/or develop a new pool. We would also be pleased to share suggestions with pool operators and users through our "Pool Management and Programming Guide".

www.scottishswimming.com

www.sportscotland.org.uk



The refurbishment option –
Port Glasgow Swimming Pool

Appendix A - Implementation Plan

This section prioritises Scottish Swimming’s facilities development requirements for 2009-14. Any local authority wishing to review its facility strategy, develop a new pool, and/or refurbish an existing one is encouraged to consult with Scottish Swimming and **sportscotland** over the ideal specification. The priorities are outlined below:

National standard competition facilities (50m)

- Provide input and assistance to City of Edinburgh Council to ensure that the upgrading works to the Royal Commonwealth Pool will meet Scottish Swimming’s future training and competition needs and, particularly, to ensure major swimming and diving events can be accommodated
- Complete access agreement at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in conjunction with Edinburgh Leisure, **sportscotland** and clubs
- Work in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and the University of Aberdeen to establish a 50m x 8 lane training and competition pool in Aberdeen
- Work in partnership with Culture and Sport Glasgow and **sportscotland** to agree improved access and fees at the National Swimming Centre at Tollcross in Glasgow
- Provide input to the new 50m x 6 lane pool at the National Swimming Centre at Tollcross

Regional standard training & competition facilities (50m)

Scottish Swimming’s second priority is to expand the network of regional training and competition facilities and specifically the following:

- Consult with the governing body swimming committee, Districts, and relevant Discipline committee and other technical experts
- Work in partnership to establish a 50m x 6-lane training and competition pool in Dundee
- Work in partnership to establish an additional 50m x 6 lane training pool in Edinburgh and the Lothians
- Provide input and assistance to South Lanarkshire Council to ensure that the upgrading works to the Dollan Aqua Centre, East Kilbride will meet Scottish Swimming’s future regional training and competition needs

Regional standard training & competition facilities (25m)

- Consult with the governing body swimming committee, Districts, and relevant discipline committees and other technical experts
- Provide input and support to Fife Council’s project to establish a 25m x 8-lane training and competition pool with learn to swim/warm up support pool in Glenrothes
- Work in partnership to establish a 25m x 8-lane training and competition pool with learn to swim/warm up support pool in Grampian
- Work in partnership to establish a 25m x 8-lane training and competition pool with learn to swim/warm up support pool in the East

1 Appendices

- a) Implementation Plan
- b) Facility Standards and Development for the Disciplines
- c) Swimming Pools Provision by Region and Local Authority

2 References

- 2.1 LEN European Market Review 2007
- 2.2 The Ticking Time Bomb (2001)
- 2.3 **sportscotland** Audit of Sports Facilities
- 2.4 Health and Sport Committee Report (2009)

3 Supplementary documentation

- 3.1 Scottish Swimming Pool Programming and Management Guide

4 Key contacts

- 4.1 Scottish Swimming – Main office 01786 466520
facilities@scottishswimming.com
www.scottishswimming.com
- 4.2 **sportscotland** – www.sportscotland.org.uk

Local standard facilities

Scottish Swimming's fourth priority is to ensure that an adequate stock of good-quality local pools exists and that clubs and squads can secure priority access at reasonable cost and times. Scottish Swimming will:

- Encourage local authorities and other pool providers to take a strategic approach to pool provision to ensure that any rationalisation proposals take full account of community and swimming development needs
- Encourage local authorities to prepare water management plans for all pools in their area so that most effective use can be made of existing pools
- Encourage local authorities to prepare swimming development plans
- Provide input and support to Fife Council's project to upgrade Dunfermline Carnegie pool and replace the pool in Kirkcaldy
- Provide input and support to South Lanarkshire Council's project to replace the pool in Lanark
- Provide input and support to West Lothian Council's project to replace Bathgate's pool
- Provide input and support to Angus Council's project to replace the pool in Montrose
- Ensure each local authority has at least one 25m x 6 lane pool with support learn to swim pool of 12m x 6m dimension
- Consult with the governing body swimming committee, Districts, and relevant discipline committees and other technical experts

Appendix B – Facility Standards and Development for the Disciplines

As mentioned within the main document, Scottish Swimming supports a range of aquatic disciplines which all contribute to the athlete pathway. Particular attention is needed to the following requirements for our disciplines:

Open Water

Provision of swimming pools. Outdoor competition requires access to suitable expanses of water with access for safety and rescue craft as well as changing facilities for competitors and access for emergency first aid provision. Scotland benefits from Strathclyde Park, Hamilton, which will host triathlon swimming in 2014. However, this is likely to require modernisation to ensure that it meets international competition standards, particularly if it is to be used for open water as part of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Masters

The provision of facilities for masters swimming is covered effectively by the provision of pools for swimming.

Water Polo

Recreational club level water polo is serviced effectively by local and regional swimming pools that are 25m x 12m with a constant depth of 2m. Unfortunately, unless a movable floor is in place, a constant depth is not likely to be achieved.

However, there is a requirement for pools hosting international events to have the following dimensions:

- Men: length 30m, width 20m, minimum 1.8m constant depth (2m preferred)
- Women: length 25m, width 20m, minimum 1.8m constant depth (2m preferred)
- The minimum distance from the goal line to the pool wall is 1.66m
- The goal posts must be fixed at equal distances from the sides and at least 0.3 metre in front of the ends of the field of play or of any obstruction

There are a number of additional features that water polo require:

- Sufficient storage for goals, nets and electronic shot clocks and scoreboard
- Any fixtures or fittings should be robust and protected from damage by balls
- Lights should have protection fitted where they are likely to be struck by a ball
- Emergency push buttons and Fire Alarm break glass units should be kept well away from the end walls
- Provision should be made for the supply of both senior and junior floating goals and a storage area allowed for
- Storage for balls to be provided (approximately 30)

Dalkeith Schools and Community Campus Pool
– a good example of a school/community pool



Diving

Requires specialist facilities that can be provided as part of an aquatic facility complex. The standards are:

- National standard facilities need a minimum of a dedicated diving pool of at least 5m depth with 2x1m springboards side by side, 2x3m springboards side by side, 1x 5m platform, 1x10m platform
- Regional standard facilities need a minimum of a dedicated diving pool of at least 4m depth with 1x1m springboard, 1x3m springboard, 1x5m platform
- Local standard facilities need a minimum depth of 3m with 1x1m springboard

Synchronised Swimming

Generally synchronised swimming requires facilities with a minimum depth of 2.5m. Often synchronised swimming will take place in an appropriate diving pool as this will often have the required depth. However, there is a requirement for pools hosting international events to have dimensions of 12m x 25m with a depth of 3m.

The majority of the priorities outlined in the strategy are focused on swimming, which, in turn, caters for open water, masters and water polo.

With respect to water polo, diving and synchronised swimming, national provision of facilities is poor. For diving and synchronised swimming, overall, there is a dearth of local standard facilities in Scotland, particularly in the West. In summary:

- The venues suitable for synchronised swimming will be linked closely with those facilities targeted for diving: the refurbished Royal Commonwealth Pool (which will be one of the best in Britain once complete), and the potential new Aberdeen and Dundee diving facilities
- Water polo will also be best supported at the above mentioned facilities due to plans for 50m pools (although not all will have 2m constant depth). The single Scottish facility currently appropriate for international level water polo is Tollcross (Glasgow) with the water polo community adapting their approach to development in order to meet the challenge of our facility constraints
- Quality replacement national diving facilities are needed in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee
- Diving facilities are available in South Ayrshire, but, the facility is ageing
- Although Tayside and Fife seem to have over provision of regional standard facilities, the proposed replacement pools at Montrose and Fife Institute will not have diving facilities. The replacement pool for Kirkcaldy will mean that there are no local standard diving facilities in Tayside & Fife
- There are no regional standard diving facilities in Highlands
- There are no diving facilities in Central
- When a swimming facility is refurbished or replaced by a local authority, the diving facilities are often being removed. Scottish Swimming encourages the preservation and maintenance of Scotland's few remaining diving facilities and the consideration for installing boards into existing and new pools, even where a separate diving tank is not in place and the depth of the pool allows

Full details on diving facilities and those pools suitable for synchronised swimming are outlined overleaf.

Facility Type and location summary matrix

	EAST	WEST	CENTRAL	TAYSIDE AND FIFE	GRAMPIAN	HIGHLAND
National Standard	Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh (2x1m & 3x3m springboard, 5m platform, 10m platform)	A national standard facility would be welcome	Not a priority at this time	Not a priority at this time	A national standard facility would be welcome	Not a priority at this time
Regional Standard	A potential venue at Newbattle in Edinburgh Not a priority at this time		Not a priority at this time	Dundee (1m & 3m springboard, 5m platform) Montrose (1m & 3m springboard, 5m platform) Fife Institute, Glenrothes (1m & 3m springboard, 5m platform)	Peterhead Academy (1m & 3m springboard, 5m fixed)	Not a priority at this time
Local Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wester Hailes Education Centre (1m springboard, 2m platform) Newbattle (3m springboard, 5m platform) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citadel, Ayr (1m & 3m springboard) Western Baths (1m springboard, 2m platform) 	Not a priority at this time	Kirkcaldy (1m & 3m springboard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banff (1m springboard) Ellon Academy (1m springboard) Forres (1m springboard) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirkwall Grammar (Orkney) (1m platform) Clickimin (Shetland) (1m springboard, 3m platform)

Appendix C: Pool provision by region and local authority¹

Area	Council	Total No. of Pools*	(Leisure only pools)	No. of 25m 6 lane Pools	No. of 50m Pools	Sq Metres of Water** per 1,000 People	% Population within 20 mins of 25m+6 lane Pool	% Population within 30 mins of 50m Pool
Central		15	0	3	1	16.1	91.7%	85.5%
	Clackmannanshire	2	0	0		13.0	88.0%	99.0%
	Falkirk	9	0	2		16.5	99.9%	82.1%
	Stirling	4	0	1	1	17.3	79.8%	83.8%
East		43	7	9	1	12.1	84.2%	64.6%
	East Lothian	6	1	1		18.0	77.2%	62.5%
	Edinburgh City	14	2	1	1	9.0	90.9%	96.2%
	Midlothian	5	1	2		15.1	100.0%	99.6%
	Scottish Borders	8	1	1		15.4	26.7%	0.0%
	West Lothian	10	2	4		13.8	100.0%	3.3%
Grampian		33	2	4	0	14.7	51.4%	0.0%
	Aberdeen City	14	1	2		15.2	99.9%	0.0%
	Aberdeenshire	13	0	2		13.9	26.2%	0.0%
	Moray	6	1	0		15.7	0.0%	0.0%
Highland		38	0	4	0	24.5	32.2%	0.0%
	Highland	18	0	1		17.3	27.0%	0.0%
	Orkney	7	0	1		58.7	52.3%	0.0%
	Shetland	8	0	1		49.0	49.0%	0.0%
	Western Isles	5	0	1		35.2	44.9%	0.0%
Tayside & Fife		29	2	6	0	9.1	71.8%	1.7%
	Angus	7	0	1		14.3	49.5%	0.0%
	Dundee City	4	0	1		6.4	98.7%	0.0%
	Fife	14	2	3		9.4	84.8%	1.3%
	Perth and Kinross	4	0	1		6.9	54.2%	5.9%
West		74	3	29	2	9.0	86.6%	61.5%
	Argyll and Bute	8	0	3		21.3	45.0%	0.0%
	Dumfries and Galloway	7	0	1		13.1	32.0%	0.0%
	East Ayrshire	4	0	0		5.0	30.0%	31.5%
	East Dunbartonshire	3	0	3		9.4	100.0%	74.4%
	East Renfrewshire	3	0	1		9.6	100.0%	99.1%
	Glasgow City	14	1	6	1	9.3	100.0%	97.7%
	Inverclyde	2	0	1		6.0	96.6%	0.0%
	North Ayrshire	4	0	1		9.0	83.1%	0.0%
	North Lanarkshire	8	0	4		5.9	100.0%	98.9%
	Renfrewshire	5	1	2		6.9	100.0%	53.3%
	South Ayrshire	5	0	1		10.7	76.4%	0.0%
	South Lanarkshire	8	0	5	1	8.5	96.5%	88.1%
	West Dunbartonshire	3	1	1		10.9	81.2%	0.6%
Scotland		232	14	55	4	11.4	78.5%	44.9%

* Main public and education establishment pools with community access. ** Excluding leisure water

¹This information is held by sportscotland. If your circumstances regarding swimming pool provision have changed, we would be grateful if you could contact sportscotland to let them know of your updated position so that our data is as current and accurate as possible. We are also interested in the total number of dedicated leisure pools (no lanes swimming) and school pools in your local authority.

