



Position statement regarding Lincolnshire Echo 50m Swimming Pool campaign

The position of Lincolnshire Sports Partnership, a third sector body established to provide strategic support to sport across the county, regarding the Lincolnshire Echo 50m Pool campaign has been recently misrepresented. The true position of the Partnership on this issue is as follows:

- The Partnership has no vested interest in any facilities across the county. What the partnership does provide is an objective viewpoint of particular developments, highlighting the benefits and hurdles and risks when asked, based on available research.
- The Partnership bases the majority of its facility comments on data that is provided by the county facilities framework, which it commissions.
- The Partnership would in all cases differ to the strategic planning decisions of the relevant local authority or national governing body on any facility specific issues.
- In our understanding the Lincolnshire County Council and City of Lincoln Council have formerly acknowledged receipt of the Lincolnshire Echo 50m Pool Campaign petition.
- No partner has initiated or asked to have initiated any further feasibility/costing surveys outside of the existing work that has been done around facility planning for the City or the County.
- The current Lincolnshire facilities framework does not recognise any quantitative need for a 50 metre pool in the greater Lincoln area and reports in the local press have expressed clear views both for and against such a proposal.
- There are six swimming pools in the wider Lincoln area (population approximately 142,000), although public access to three of these is limited due to access policies of the schools, on whose sites they reside. This would seem to be a major issue from previous consultation work and feedback from members of the public.
- There is no quantifiable figure for the capital build of any 50m Pool locally, although figures have been sought regarding running costs from a range of partners for such a facility (at the request of LCC members). Capital Build costs are very dependant on site, existing infrastructure, design, complementary facilities and scale.
- The Partnership has never equated a lack of participation to the specifics of building a 50m Pool, but has pointed out the competing usage needs of different facility users that have been brought up by members of the public in letters to the Lincolnshire Echo.

- It is also recognised that a facility with such a regional impact would require significant ongoing support from partners outside of the City of Lincoln Council, who appear to be the main target of the campaign and the lobby.
- It is also believed that the population required to ensure the viability of a 50m Pool, whilst retaining the existing pool infrastructure would be significant and certainly higher than the estimated population of the wider Lincoln area.
- Despite all the risks and issues alluded to above the Partnership congratulates the 50m Pool Campaign organisers for raising the sporting aspirations of Lincolnshire residents.
- The Partnership supports many successful facility development projects across the County, including pool developments in Louth, Boston, Market Rasen and Sleaford. In addition to other facility developments in Kirton, Long Sutton, Grantham, Caistor, Gainsborough, despite the fact that it has no dedicated resource for such initiatives.