Appendix 5: Summary Of Aquatics Framework Public Consultation

A public survey asking a number of questions about aquatics and future provision of swimming and other activities in the Borough ran from 22/10/2018 to 11/11/2018.

A total of 156 responses were received to the survey, 87 of which were from organisations.

123 respondents are existing users of ABC swimming pools.

Of the 28 non-users **responding to Question 5: What would encourage you to use our aquatics/swimming facilities**, the following responses were stated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response** | **Total Responses** | **%** |
| More suitable open and closing times  | 43 | 26.54% |
| Provide child care facilities | 17 | 10.49% |
| Better accessibility | 11 | 6.79% |
| Reduced fees | 33 | 20.37% |
| Transport | 2 | 23% |
| Not Answered | 103 | 63.58% |

**Responses to Question 6: What sort of aquatic/swimming pool related activities are most important to you? identified:**

| **Options** | **Total Responses** | **%** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| School swimming lessons  | 52 | 32.10% |
| Children's swimming lessons | 96 | 59.26% |
| Adult swimming lessons | 41 | 25.31% |
| Parent and baby swimming lessons | 31 | 19.14% |
| Disability swimming lessons | 23 | 14.20% |
| Lane swimming | 77 | 47.53% |
| Swim a mile | 25 | 15.43% |
| Lounger to lengths | 33 | 20.37% |
| Fun sessions with inflatables  | 55 | 33.95% |
| Fun sessions in a fun pool  | 71 | 43.83% |
| Aquaerobics / aquafit  | 40 | 24.69% |
| Outdoor swimming | 39 | 24.07% |
| None of these  | 1 | 0.62% |
| Not Answered | 2 | 1.23% |

Respondents identified the following activities that they would like to see in the swimming pools in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (grouped to provide a summary):

| **Fun Sessions** | **Swimming Lessons** | **Other Activities** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * More fun sessions for children / families
* Waterslides
 | * Smaller swimming lessons - especially for the beginners
* Lessons for adults.
* More provision for lane swimming in evenings or even a Masters Swimming Club
* extended pool availability for swimming only
* Family sessions
* Female only sessions
* Swimming Clubs
* A lot of the Mum and baby sessions are on during the day a sat morning class or evening class would suit when parents are back at work.
* Swimming lessons are overcrowded at Portadown
* School swimming lessons
* Development of an outdoor pool and facilities
* Why is there not more feedback from swimming coach until the end of a block session
* CPR as part of the swimming lessons
* 1 – 1 swimming lessons
* There are too many schools to use one new leisure facility for all their swimming lessons.
* Children’s swimming at more suitable times e.g. not over meal times or after 6pm on weeknights - all day at the weekends
* More choice and flexibility without waiting lists for children’s swimming lessons
* Easily accessible club swimming especially for children of all ability ranges.
 | * synchronised swimming club
* Lifesaving club
* Better availability for private lane hire
* Birthday parties availability.
* Would like to continue to hire the learners' pool for our sure start activities specifically for our families. This includes for introduction to the water session for babies and also fun activities to encourage families to attend the swimming pool.
* Men swim night only
* Yoga
* Water polo
* Aqua Running
* Diving Lessons
* A crèche so that mothers are able to use the facilities
* More Jacuzzis
* Kayaking
* Children's aquafit classes - upper primary age.
* Organised pool games for children
* Children’s fitness classes e.g. pool aerobics
* More fitness activities
* Would be great if there was a water disco kind of thing
* Lazy river
 |

| **Other Comments** | **About the Swimming Pools** | **Disability Swimming** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * More incentives to get people swimming
* Better sauna/ steam room
* Separate swim pools and fun pools with slides (note plural, more than one, like it was supposed to be originally). You need a better swimming/ leisure pool than Lisburn to attract people.
* More parking
* Why does your current membership NOT include class only options?
* Include swimming within membership
* Please ensure teachers and parents do not walk along poolside in outdoor shoes spreading infection
* Foot baths reinstated to disinfect feet.
* Mixed sex changing rooms for parents looking after children 8-12 yrs. of opposite sex - not appropriate for kids this age to be in changing rooms without adult supervision
* Earlier later opening times
* All day swimming availability
* No closure please on Sundays
* You currently have 2 ladies showers available in ladies swimming pool toilets -inadequate!
* 3 hairdryers available - always a queue!
* better access to Astro Turf hockey pitch. One pitch in the greater Armagh area is insufficient!
* The swimming pool at Orchard Leisure Centre is earmarked for closure, this will be such a shame as it is in a central and local area and people using it are local people who don't necessarily need to use their cars or transport to get to it. If there is a new Leisure centre built in Armagh, I can’t see it being as accessible to the whole community.
* Complimentary hairdryers not coin operated.
* Warmer showers
 | * Warmer changing areas
* Banbridge swimming not deep enough to swim comfortably in
* Swimming club for children which isn't favoured by religion as is presently at Portadown swimming pool
* I would like to be able to swim in morning after kids have gone to school and this is not currently possible.
* Better changing provision for families
* A separate dedicated pool for lessons so that the public can access whole pool all day.
* Dedicated children swimming in warm pools.
* Warm pool as waves pool Lurgan is freezing cold cannot bring kids to waves lips go blue
* 1 – 1 lessons
* Warmer pools
 | * Swimming lessons specificity for children with disabilities. i.e. Autism
* Access is very difficult
* A small warmer pool for people with disabilities to be able to participate low level aqua exercises up to more moderate level. Normal pool temperature is too cold.
* There needs to be more provision of 1-1 swimming lessons and priority for those with special needs.
* Some Showers should have temperature controls for those with sensory issues
* Pools need a sloped ramp for people with mobility problems to access easier
 |

**Respondents identified the main things that would encourage them to use the ABC swimming pools as:**

* The pool is too cold for young kids - we live in Banbridge and regularly go to Lisburn.
* Warmer water especially in baby pool
* Banbridge pool is not deep enough to comfortably swim in. Such a shame, as I used to swim every morning at the old pool.
* I live in Finland, though I am from the Hillsborough / Dromore area. Here in Finland I regularly take part in Aqua running- I wear a floatation belt and run up and down the pool. As I have asthma, I can buy a ticket for 55€ that is valid for 1 year. This special ticket is also offered to pensioners and people with e.g. Heart trouble. I would recommend the introduction of such a scheme to ABC.
* Smaller sized swimming classes
* Update them
* Swim lanes at times to suit people leaving work.... If not one lane always in place
* Warmer pool water. It's freezing! Adult only swim times.
* Family changing facilities
* increase in water temperature. increase in air temperature. pleasure pool for children. larger showering area.
* Better changing rooms and showers, leaving a lane or 2 for free swimming from 6 to 8pm
* better facilities and more lessons for children at suitable times, weekends
* Can't get always closed due to lessons.
* Better family changing facilities - at Armagh too few provided. At Portadown no proper facilities
* More fitness classes
* Access for swimming at all times.
* Swimming Ladies evening
* If there was better access for adults, as lanes are closed regularly for swimming lessons
* Better private changing facilities.
* The pool/gym open early mornings for public use i.e. 6am - 10am
* Would like to have a women only session, even once a month would be good. Many women post-breast surgery are very self-conscious and would not go swimming in a mixed session
* I would like to see women only sessions
* Most people start work between the hours of 8 and 9am. I start at 8/8 .30am and would love go for a swim in the morning before work but the opening time of 7.30am is much too late. When I lived in Belfast, working in Carrickfergus I joined attended the Carrickfergus pool every morning as it had a much more morning friendly opening hour of 6.30am. This suits people for that pre-work access.
* no longer have women only swimming
* Not a very good swimmer, more interested in other sports and not a good selection of slides for kids.
* Let adults in during the day!!
* cafe/coffee bar and changing rooms with cubicles for privacy (unisex fine)
* Better and more public swimming times not enough time to allow public to swim. Stop closing during holiday periods we except main hols Christmas and Easter and 12th July only