Swim Ireland report on

SWIMMING POOL
EVOLUTION & INNOVATIONS

SWIM IRELAND

This report has been prepared by Swim Ireland in line with our strategic goal to work with Government, Local Authorities and others to influence and create awareness of the evolution of Swimming Pool infrastructure.

November 2022

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Background

Swim Ireland

Swim Ireland is the National Governing Body for the aquatics on the island of Ireland. Our vision is a simple one, to develop an island of swimmers. In this we are supported by Sport Ireland and by Government who have recognised the importance of swimming as a fundamental life skill as well as a sport.

Policy Context

The capacity of swimming to make a significant medium- and long-term contribution to the public health and social capital of the nation is well recognised at a policy level. The National Sports Policy has rightfully recognised swimming as a priority sport, due to its ability to retain participants over the full life course. The Sports Action Plan has prioritised the development of a National Swimming Strategy whose aim is to provide opportunities for people to swim. Swim Ireland sees facilities as being core to this and our organisational strategy is focused on the implementation of National Swimming Strategy and includes a National Infrastructure pillar.

Swim Ireland foresees the need for significant investment in facilities if we are to deliver the vision of the developing National Swimming Strategy. We have, for some time now been looking at innovation in the sector and together with consultancy firm ReCreation, have identified solutions that we believe will deliver more impact for less investment. We have also begun work on a swimming facility planning model that can be used by local authorities to facilitate data driven decision making. In short, we need to change how people look at swimming pools.

Pools Overview

Swim Ireland is about to undertake a detailed analysis of swimming pools in the country. 2017 figures supplied by Ireland Active estimate that there are 425 pools in the country, the vast majority of which are privately, or hotel owned broken down as follows:

109 LOCAL AUTHORITY

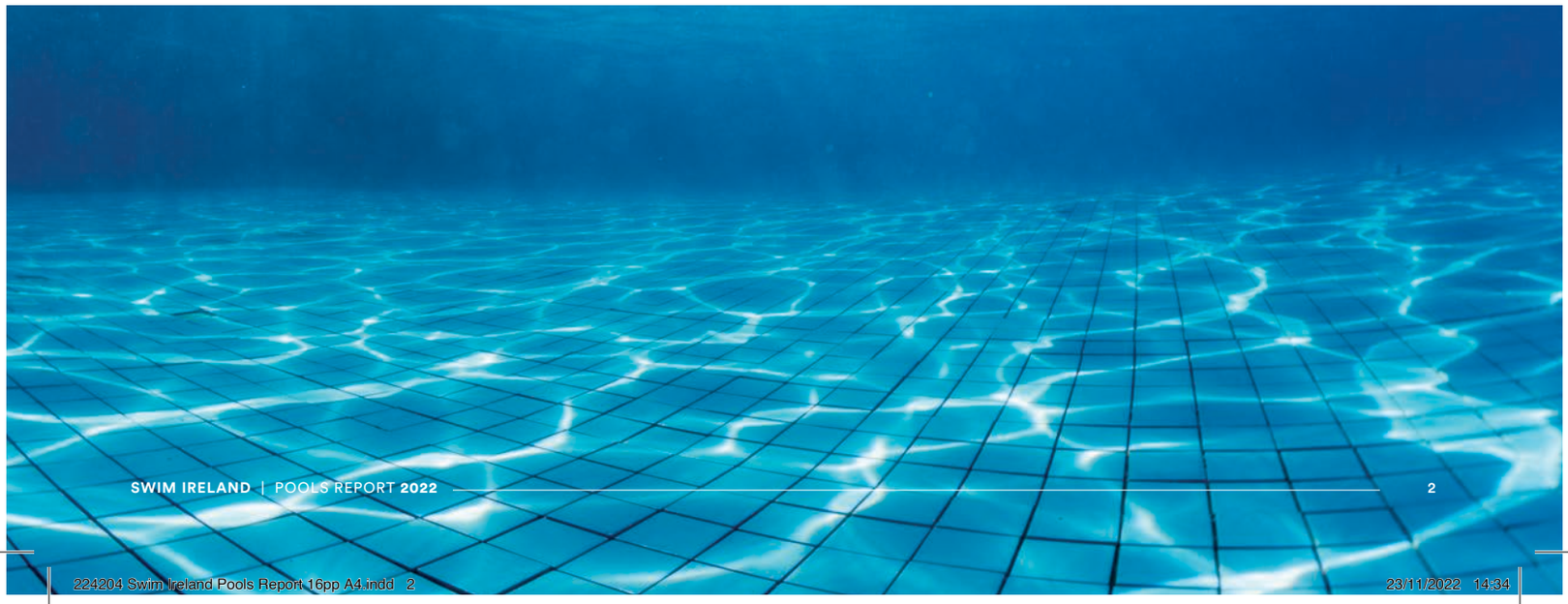
304 HOTEL/PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

12 SCHOOLS/COLLEGES

Many of the local authority public pools have been handed over to private operators and there are multiple operating models within the sector.

In addition to the complex and disparate provisions for public swimming much of the pool stock is aging and needs to be renovated or replaced. The Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme, initiated in the early 1970s successfully created a network of public pools throughout the country but this closed in the early 2000s. A Value for Money & Policy Review of the Programme conducted in 2008 recognised the importance of the programme in advancing broad social, health, civic and sporting objectives but concluded that the accumulated infrastructure was often underfunded and under pressure due to lack of maintenance, private sector competition and the legacies of less-than-optimal operational standards. The situation was not improved with the economic crash in 2008.

If we are to deliver National Swimming Strategy, we need to invest in infrastructure, but we also need to be smart and target innovative and sustainable investment decisions



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Executive Summary

Swimming Facilities built during the 1980s are nearing the end of their lifespans. Running costs and the capital required for new builds have proven to be a barrier in the past. The narrative must change to developing a more cost and operationally effective model through sustainable community pools which provides the right programming and access to who need access the most. The focus of this Report is on community swimming, and it sets out the case for using innovative, modern methods of construction and gives tangible, costed options for building and operating 4 different models for community swimming. Swim Ireland is also looking at the communities that the facilities serve. Trying to cater for too many user types within a single facility often results in significantly higher capital and operating costs. The report references the development of a Swimming Facility Planning Model which will be suitable for use by local authorities to determine the best fit solution for provision of swimming pools at local and regional level.

Finally, this report also sets out costed options for building community swimming pools using innovative methods of construction to minimise building and maintenance costs. It considers the operating costs and sets out sustainable business models with an expected return on investment. Regarding the innovative community pools, examples include:

- Pop-Up Pool: which is a moveable pool, built from a shipping container, measuring 12m x 3.2m with a depth of 1.2m. A Pop-Up Pool can be purchased for circa €112,000 plus ancillary costs.
- Swim Box Pools: modularly constructed pools with dressing rooms, spectator areas, showers and toilets that are designed to be built within an existing warehouse or community hall. The cost of a 10×6 Learn to Swim pool, housed within a warehouse is circa €150,000 with the 25m version costing €250,000.
- The 20m Community Pool concept utilises the latest modern methods of construction and leveraging above ground swimming pool technology, at a fraction of the traditional cost of a swimming pool facility. The total project cost is approximately €2.9 million
- The 25m Community Pool has reduced op-ex costs and less maintenance due to refined design and layout, with a project total of approx. €5.1 million.

Each of these community swimming pool designs present an alternative to traditional swimming pools and leisure facilities and will cater for each of the target groups and user types through a more cost-effective and functional build model.

The report also sets out a private operator model to deliver learn to swim that takes on a 7,000 ft² existing building, preferably located at a retail park mapped by data and fits out the facility, utilising aboveground swimming pool technology to provide an owned and operated low capex/low opex learn to swim solution.

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Overview

Swimming Overview

The commitment to prioritise swimming as part of the National Sports Policy (2018-2027) and the ensuing Sports Action Plan (2021-2023) recognised the important contribution that swimming makes, not only to the sporting landscape but also to the health of our nation. Some of the benefits set out in successive Irish Sports Monitor reports include:

- Swimming is the most participated sport across the life cycle of all sport
- It is the sport that most people come back to in their adult years
- 9% of adults participate in swimming. Over 340,000 people swam once a week in 2019
- Swimming forms a critical part of the €230m sports and fitness industry in Ireland which employs 9,500 people across the country
- Swimming is the second most popular participation sport behind personal exercise
- Swimming is the number one sport for people with a disability
- Swimming is the number one sport for women
- Swimming Improves mental health and has psychological, emotional, and social benefits

The appetite for swimming amongst the public is evidenced through the significant response (over 6,000) received as part of the public consultation for the development of the State's first National Swimming Strategy. This underlines the necessity for strategic investment in swimming pools to satisfy public demand and to allow swimming to fulfil its potential to improve longer term health outcomes and reduce the gap in activity levels amongst the hard to reach groups who are specifically targeted within National Sports Policy. One of the core strategic focus areas for Swim Ireland in the current Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026), is National Infrastructure for the Aquatics. We see this as being key to delivering our vision which is to create 'An island of Swimmers'.

Under the National Sports Policy (2018-2027) (NSP) key actions were highlighted in relation to Swimming Pool Infrastructure. The first was Action 20 which notes close engagement and work would commence with relevant Government Departments, Local Authorities, sporting bodies and other stakeholders to agree a coherent national strategy for swimming. Swim Ireland is part of the working group developing the Strategy. The National Sports Policy further commits to review swimming pool provision to identify where gaps exist and how these can be met. This report sets out how Swim Ireland is contributing to this through the development of a Swimming Infrastructure Planning Model, which aims to use data modelling to plan infrastructure.

There has also been considerable capital investment under the Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme (LASPP) as well as current support e.g., local authorities providing grants, subvention or management payments related to the operation of a pool and/or the access to pools by older or socio-economically disadvantaged people. As part of a new approach under National Sports Policy, the intention was to review the provision of swimming pools, whether publicly or privately owned, across the country to identify where gaps in provision for schools and communities can be met and, if pertinent, where sufficient potential demand exists, both among children and adults, to justify the building of a new pool.

Under the NSP, it was further recognised that ensuring access by schools to swimming pools to fulfil the aquatics strand of the PE curriculum was an important objective and would be considered in the envisaged review. Swim Ireland is using the Pop-Up Pool to bring cost effective swimming lessons to more schools by reducing the transport costs and reducing time spent out of the classroom.

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Innovation Overview

The Irish Sports Monitor (ISM), a large population study undertaken biennially, provides trends in participation in sport and physical activity in Ireland. ISM data has consistently shown swimming to be the second most popular sport amongst adults in Ireland, second only to personal exercise. The extended closure of pools and public health restrictions on swimming lessons for an even longer period, had a severe impact on the sport. We estimate that circa 500,000 children missed out on swimming lessons and more worryingly, the industry does not have the capacity to make up lost ground. Swim Ireland has no specific responsibility for facilities but the longer-term impact of a generation of children losing out on learning this life skill is worrying and we quickly recognised that innovative solutions would be required to rebuild swimming. In doing so we began a journey that took us out of our comfort zone to seek different ways of doing things.

Our **Pop-up Pool**, a movable pool that can be transported between locations, is a perfect example of this. In our inaugural location, Donabate, the community embraced the pool enthusiastically and over the course of 16 weeks there were almost 1,000 public swims, 543 children in learn to swim, 30 adults in lessons and 9 community groups availing of the pool. We see it as tangible proof that things can be done differently.

Further detail on the Pop-Up Pool is set out later in the report.

We see the Pop-Up Pool as being the starter solution for pool options and one that will help local authorities to establish demand. It is the first option across a spectrum that provides a range of affordable modular builds that are new to market and use innovative ways of building and renovating pools and ultimately deliver more for less. Some of the key innovations are:

- **Above ground tanks**, negating excavation costs reducing construction costs and construction build times. Easier access for maintenance
- **Steel v concrete** –using a steel tank is more economic in terms of material and construction cost
- Reduced build time and providing economic certainty through pre-designed, **off-site modular construction**.
- Use of **membranes** rather than tiles is more cost effective and more environmentally sustainable
- New deck membrane – which is anti-slip and can be used instead of tiles

Innovation is not restricted to new builds. There are multiple options for **renovating aging pool stock** with some of the following considerations:

- A 25m pool which has a deep end can be converted to a constant depth without adding more concrete but instead using a type of foam and this automatically allows for more Learn to Swim and less water means less electricity, less backwashing and lower costs
- A temporary pool whilst refurbishment is going on can be used and then relocated to the refurbished building with only the membrane needing to be replaced
- Refurbishment allows for better facilities around the pool to include recessed steps, handrails on the gutters, deck level pools, lane ropes in the gutter etc.

The table below provides a comparison of modular builds over traditional methods of construction:

20m Swimming Pool Facility	Modular Facility with above ground pool	Traditional Facility with an in-ground pool	**25m Swimming Pool Facility**	Modular Facility with above ground pool	Traditional Facility with an in-ground pool
	Dukeries Leisure Centre Pool Facility (opened June 2021)*			Rainham Leisure Centre – To open June 2023*	
Capital Cost	**£2.4m**	£4.5m	**Capital Cost**	**£7.9m**	£11m

***Please see appendices – Appendix A for Dukeries Leisure Centre Case Study**

**** Please see appendices – Appendix B for Rainham Leisure Centre Case Study**

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Modern Methods of Construction - Above Ground Swimming Pools

Traditionally, swimming pools have been built inground, this is done by excavating the site and filling the hole with reinforced concrete, which is later waterproofed (usually with a resin-based render) and then tiled.

In recent years, above-ground pools have become more common, especially across mainland Europe. This is due to the significant savings made on time, cost, and environmental impact. Since less materials are being used and limited groundwork required, construction of a permanent, aboveground pool can be completed quicker than a traditional inground pool. Timeframe comparisons (excluding design, planning and procurement) are as follows:

- Above-ground pool - 14 months
- Concrete inground pool – 18 months

Above ground swimming pools are designed to last the life span of a building when maintained correctly. Ease of maintenance means repairs can be made without large-scale, structural changes

- Above-ground pool – 15-year structural guarantee – min 50-year life span
- Concrete inground pool – 10-year structural guarantee – 50-year life span

Due to the **stainless steel** structure of an above-ground swimming pool, maintenance is predictable and a fraction of the cost of an in-ground swimming pool. Expected maintenance costs over a 40-year period:

- Above-ground steel pool - €81k
- Concrete in-ground pool - €200k

Building an above-ground swimming pool leads to a significantly lower carbon footprint and saves hundreds of tonnes of materials. There is an immediate 50% reduction in CO2 emissions for an above-ground pool compared to an in-ground pool, due to not having to excavate and then pour hundreds of tonnes of concrete into the ground.

Over 285 tonnes of material will be saved when developing a like for like above-ground swimming pool, on average 143 tonnes of materials are used on an above-ground pool versus 329 tonnes of materials used on an in-ground pool.

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Community Swimming Options

The main purpose of this report is to set out tangible, costed options for building and operating community swimming pools. Below we set out four options for information and consideration including associated appendices. We have given more detail (including operating models and return on investment estimates) for the 20m and 25m community pools.

We should clarify that other options that can be considered including the Swim & Gym model, and combined competition and leisure pool that caters for multiple users. We would make the point that trying to cater for too many user types within a single facility often results in significantly higher capital and operating costs. Swim Ireland is currently developing a Swimming Infrastructure Planning Model suitable for use by local authorities to determine the best fit solution for provision of swimming pools at local and regional level. The Model will be used as a planning tool to provide an independent, evidence-based assessment of the existing water infrastructure and population data to enable objective decisions to be made on new or refurnished swimming pool facility development. The model will pull background datasets on population demographics, journey times, swim activity levels and local competition to determine the need for additional facilities and specifically the type of facility in a catchment or locality. It will include a scenario testing functionality to enable a range of permanent or temporary swim facility solutions or differing sizes to be fully modelled. The long-term ambition is to develop a full business case report in terms of predicted income costs and return on investment report to accompany the chosen scenario. We have chosen to present these specific options in detail as we consider that they will deliver best value for money. The options are:

1. Pop Up Pool

The Pop-Up Pool is a moveable pool, built from a shipping container, measuring 12m x 3.2m with a depth of 1.2m. The pool travels to areas that are under served in terms of pool provision. It is a fraction of the cost of a 'traditional' pool and can be placed on a suitable site without the need for planning permission for a period of up to 12 weeks. Fully equipped with an in-built plant room and heated to 30 degrees, the pool is located within a hard sided marquee. It has 3 changing bays and is fully accessible with a ramp and hoist.

Currently built in the UK by Concept Pools, lead time is a minimum of 4 months. The Pop-Up pool itself costs €112,000 and ancillary equipment including the hard sided marquee, changing areas, staging, ramps and hoists cost €124,000 bringing the total capital investments costs to €236,000. Prices are from quotes received in September 2022.

The Pop-Up Pool can be operated by Swim Ireland who will take responsibility for staffing and programming the facility. The most expensive operating cost is the transportation of the pool and equipment and the set up and take down. This must be borne by the host location.

The final cost for a host location is dependent on variables such as transport distance, receiving site conditions, proximity of power and water sources and the amenities on site. Estimates are €15-20k per move.

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2. Swim Box

Swim Box Pools are no frills modularly constructed pools that are housed within a warehouse or a community hall that are suited for delivering swimming lessons and community swimming. The pool sits above ground and houses the filtration and pool plant within the structure. There are two size options, a 10×6 lessons pool and a 25m x 6 lane pool.

Installation is very quick, 6 months from approval to construct the 25m option and about 10 weeks for the smaller 10m option. Timescales are dependent on site conditions/access etc. UK prices estimates in October 2022 are set out below. In the cost estimate for the warehouse option the estimate is for the pool, pool plant and installation costs but does not cover the cost of the warehouse itself or ancillary works such as dressing rooms, showers etc. These services may already be on site. The cost estimates for the standalone buildings includes all works and project management and is based on suitable site conditions.

- Swim Box 10×6 Learn to Swim Pool housed within a warehouse or community centre - €150,000
- Swim Box 10×6 Learn to Swim Pool in a standalone building with ancillary services - €1.8m
- Swim Box 25×6 lane competition spec pool housed within a warehouse or community centre - €250,000
- Swim Box 25×6 lane pool with 70-seater spectator area in a standalone building with ancillary services - €6.7m

Appendix C is the floor plan and cost breakdown of the Swim Box 10 and Swim Box 25 options.

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3. 20m Community Pool

Dukeries 20m Swimming Facility – Ollerton (2021)

Dukeries 20m Swimming Facility – Ollerton (2021)

Overview

Utilizing the latest modern methods of construction and leveraging above ground swimming pool technology, there is the opportunity to provide communities with an optimum community use swimming pool facility, at a fraction of the traditional cost.

The proposed breakdown of such a facility would be as outlined below:

- 20m 5 lane (10m) swimming tank with a constant depth of 1.2m
- Changing village style changing rooms with full disability access
- Reception
- Viewing gallery/lobby
- First aid room
- Staff room
- All associated pool plant and mechanical & electrical work
- All associated ground and enabling works

The proposed usage of this type of pool would be a split between community use and learn to swim. With the constant depth of 1.2m this provides the operator with the opportunity to maximise learn to swim across the entire swimming pool if required, increasing revenue opportunities.

This pool depth is also adequate for lane swimming with the option to accommodate swimmers wishing to tumble turn the length of their swim. The depth would also allow for extended community group activities such as aqua fit and other similar type sessions.

Suitable activities

- 900 capacity child learn to swim programme
- Parent and child, and adult learn to swim programme
- Community swimming sessions
- Community aqua sessions e.g. aqua fit
- Lane swimming

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Benefits of 20m Modular Build

Reduce Op-ex costs

A reduction in operation costs due to the following:

- No deep end of the swimming pool to heat when not used
- Above ground insulated swimming tank and pipework
- Reduced footprint of entire facility means less space to heat
- Less maintenance due to refined design and layout

Building Design Features

Cost effectiveness and quality have been the forefront of the design of the superstructure and swimming pool, therefore the following is proposed for this type of facility

- Min 200mm thick reinforced concrete, ground bearing slab
- Metal A-framed building
- Kingspan or similar insulated panelled external walls
- GRP (recycled plastic) pool surround staging system
- Galvanised steel tank aboveground swimming pool tank
- Microfiltration system (recycled glass media)

Capacity

20m pool facility design allows for the following occupancies:

Modular 20m swimming pool facility	
Max building occupancy	120
Max swimming pool occupancy	67
Max changing village occupancy	66
Max viewing gallery occupancy	40
Learn to Swim Programme (heads)	1300

Estimated project costs

Estimated costs for developing a 20m Pool Facility will be as below:

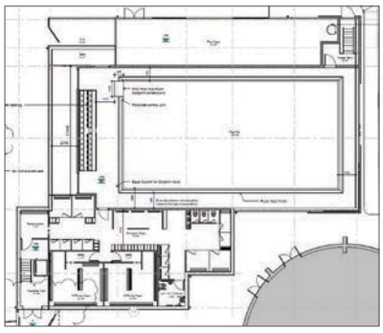
Costs		
Construction	680m² @ €3,700 per m²	€2,516,000.00
Professional Fees	10%	€251,600.00
Developer Fee	6%	€166,056.00
Project Total		**€2,933,656.00**

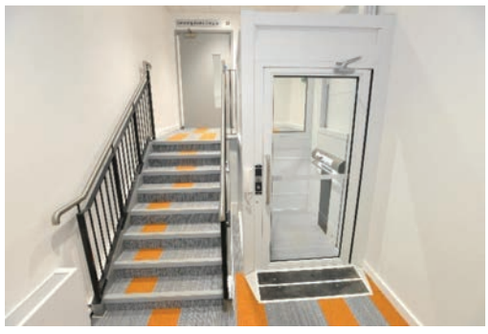
Estimated project timelines

Task	Timeline
Feasibility	8 weeks (2 months)
Planning Stage	19 weeks (5 months)
Detailed Design and Tender Stage	20 weeks (5 months)
Construction	28 weeks (7 months)
Commissioning & Handover	4 weeks (1 month)
Total	**79 weeks (20 months)**

Design

The overall design feature for this type of proposed facility is simplicity and cost effectiveness, while not minimizing quality or customer journey.





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4. 25m Community Pool

Rainham 25m Leisure Centre – Havering (2023)

Rainham 25m Leisure Centre – Havering (2023)

Overview

Utilizing the latest modern methods of construction and leveraging above ground swimming pool technology, there is the opportunity to provide communities with an optimum community use swimming pool facility.

The proposed breakdown of such a facility would be as outlined below:

- 25m 6 lane (12m) swimming tank with a constant depth of 1.2m
- Changing village style changing rooms with full disability access
- Reception
- Viewing gallery/lobby
- First aid room
- Staff room
- All associated pool plant and mechanical & electrical work
- All associated ground and enabling works

The proposed usage of this type of pool would be a split between community use and learn to swim. With the constant depth of 1.2m this provides the operator with the opportunity to maximise learn to swim across the entire swimming pool if required, increasing revenue opportunities.

This pool depth is also adequate for lane swimming with the option to accommodate swimming clubs to undertake training and swimmers wishing to tumble turn the length of their swim. The depth would also allow for extended community group activities such as aqua fit and other similar type sessions.

Suitable activities

- Children, parent and children, and adult learn to swim programme
- Community swimming sessions
- Community aqua sessions e.g. aqua fit
- Lane swimming
- Swimming Club training sessions

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Benefits of 25m Modular build

Reduce Op-ex costs

A reduction in operation costs due to the following:

- No deep end of the swimming pool to heat when not used
- Above ground insulated swimming tank and pipework
- Reduced footprint of entire facility means less space to heat
- Less maintenance due to refined design and layout

Building Design Features

Cost effectiveness and quality have been the forefront of the design of the superstructure and swimming pool, therefore the following is proposed for this type of facility

- Min 400mm thick reinforced concrete, ground bearing slab
- Metal A-framed building
- Kingspan or similar insulated panelled external walls
- GRP (recycled plastic) pool surround staging system
- Galvanised steel tank aboveground swimming pool tank
- Microfiltration system (recycled glass media)

Capacity

25m pool facility design allows for the following occupancies:

MODULAR 25M SWIMMING POOL FACILITY	
Max building occupancy	180
Max swimming pool occupancy	100
Max changing village occupancy	100
Max viewing gallery occupancy	50
Learn to Swim Programme (heads)	1600

Estimated project costs

Estimated costs for developing a 20m Pool Facility will be as below:

COSTS		
Construction	1188m² @ €3,700 per m²	€4,395,600.00
Professional Fees	10%	€439,560.00
Developer Fee	6%	€290,109.00
Project Total		€5,125,269.00

Estimated project timelines

TASK	TIMELINE
Feasibility	8 weeks (2 months)
Planning Stage	19 weeks (5 months)
Detailed Design and Tender Stage	24 weeks (6 months)
Construction	35 weeks (9 months)
Commissioning & Handover	4 weeks (1 month)
Total	**90 weeks (23 months)**

Design

The overall design feature for this type of proposed facility is simplicity and cost effectiveness, while not minimizing quality or customer journey.

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Making swimming facilities profitable

When designing a cost effective, affordable community use swimming facility, the need to ensure the facility can operate efficiently and produce a profit is key. This is controlled in two ways, firstly, the design of the facility which controls the capex and energy costs and secondly, how the facility is operated. Trying to cater for multiple audiences within a single facility considerably increases capex and operational costs and is not always the best approach.

Designing a cost-effective facility, the 20m and 25m pool facility examples provided, showcase how to keep the footprint of a facility to a minimum, keeps the capital investment down but also the energy/running costs of the facility down too.

Optimising and prioritising an effective learn to swim programme is essential as this drives the majority of revenue for any swimming facility, ensuring that learn to swim has peak operating times is key.

Optimum timetable

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<tr><th></th><th>MONDAY</th><th>TUESDAY</th><th>WEDNESDAY</th><th>THURSDAY</th><th>FRIDAY</th><th>SATURDAY</th><th>SUNDAY</th></tr>
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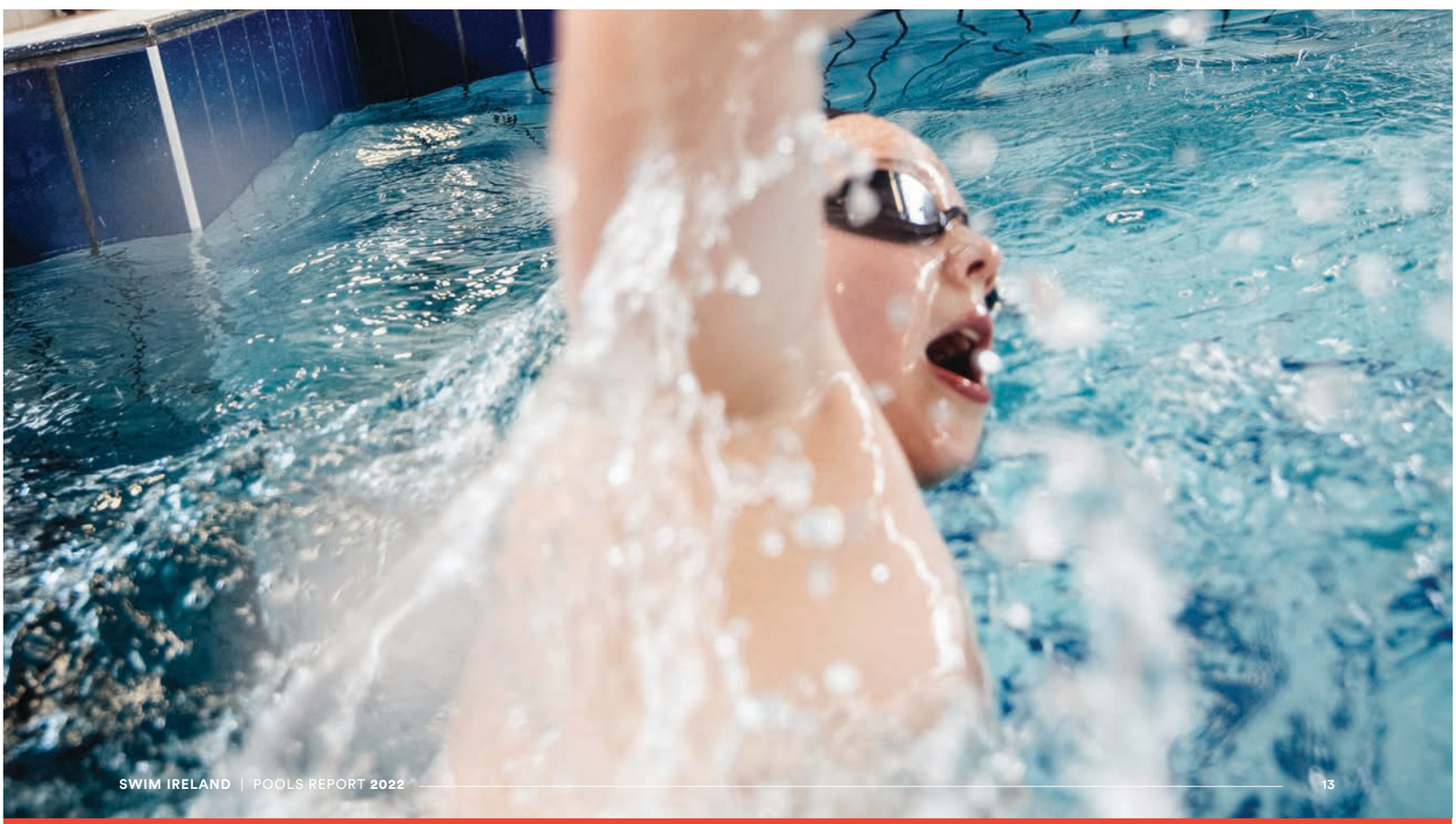

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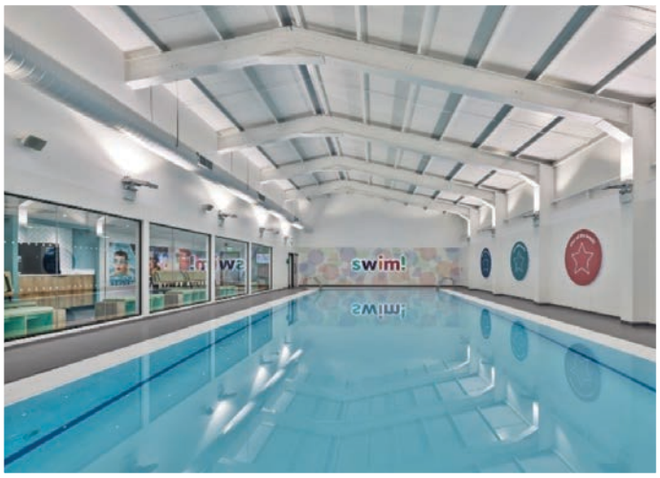
5. Learn to Swim - Private Owner Operator Model



Overview

There are a multitude of operating models for swimming pools in Ireland. One that is gaining in popularity in the UK is the private owner operator model, whereby a local authority enters into an arrangement with a private operator to build and operate a Learn to Swim facility which is run on a commercial basis by the operator. JD swim! are an example of such a model and are given here as an example and not as a recommendation.

Across the UK, JD swim! are on route to roll out over 200 swimming facilities, bringing learn to swim to the high street.

Currently operating 9 learn to swim facilities across the UK the JD swim! facility concept is a simple one. It takes on a 7,000 ft² existing building, preferably located at a retail park mapped by data and fits out the facility, utilising aboveground swimming pool technology to provide an owned and operated low capex/low opex learn to swim solution.

With 8 operating facilities, JD swim! currently have over 11,000 children a week swimming in their centres, this is successfully supported by having purpose-built facilities that focuses on the child and the whole learn to swim experience.

Design

JD swim! focus on learn to swim and the experience of every child and parent that visit, the design of facility starts from the car park, through reception and changing rooms, all the way to pool. Thought is also given to the parent and siblings that come to view the swimming lessons, by providing a best in class viewing gallery which accommodates soft play area, phone charging points and comfortable benches and seating.

The continued use of above ground swimming pool technology allows for the pool to deployed in existing buildings, which will be in high traffic locations, ensuring that the learn to swim programme has the best opportunity to meet the right number of heads in the programme, this provides a return on investment in the shortest possible timeframe.

There would be an opportunity to within this model to work with communities and local authorities to accommodate school swimming throughout the daytime in off peak hours, Monday to Friday.

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CONCLUSION

The National Sports Policy (2018-2027) highlights the importance of swimming through the development of a National Swimming Strategy. Facility provision is core to the delivery of the Strategy, a fact recognised by Swim Ireland in our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan which includes a National Infrastructure Pillar. The focus of this Report was on community swimming, setting out the case for using innovative, modern methods of construction and more effective costed options for building. Swim Ireland has taken a two-pronged approach to addressing the issue of pool provision. In addition to looking at modern methods of construction we are looking at the communities that the facilities serve. Alternatives exist regarding community swimming pools through the utilisation of modern methods of construction and leveraging above ground swimming pool technology, at a fraction of the traditional cost of facility construction and operations. The Swimming Infrastructure Planning Model referenced in the Report can be used as an effective decision making and planning tool to determine a best fit solution for provision of swimming pools at local and regional level. The Pop-Up Pool is a perfect starter solution for pool options and one that will help local authorities to establish demand or to satisfy demand in underpopulated areas. It is the first option in being more innovative in building and renovating pools and ultimately delivering more for less in swimming provision. Other cost-effective options include the Swim Box 10 and the Swim Box 25, both built within an existing warehouse or community space, and 20m & 25m Community Pools, both modularly constructed. We have also set out a private operator build and operate model for learn to swim. This Report shows that clever design, minimising footprint and maximising usage using innovative technologies, not only keeps capital investment down but also the running costs of the facility providing for a return on investment. Swim Ireland have presented these models to highlight how innovation can drive the future of swimming infrastructure and provision going forward. It is possible to do things differently.

Next Steps

It is expected that a National Swimming Strategy will be finalised by early 2023 and whilst the detail is not yet known, there is little doubt that delivering the State's first ever strategy for swimming will require a significant focus on investment in infrastructure. It is anticipated that the Swim Ireland Swimming Facilities Planning Model, currently under development, will be widely used as a tool to support data driven decision making on the locations and types of pools. Swim Ireland have presented these models to highlight how innovation can drive the future of swimming infrastructure and provision going forward.

Queries on any aspect of this Report should be directed to:

Swim Ireland Director of Operations Mary McMorrow
Email: marymc@swimireland.ie
Mobile: 086-8362901

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