

Likely costs



Where to find comparative examples of running costs

The running costs of pools can vary considerably. A meticulous construction of an annual budget based on the way the swimming pool is intended to be operated by the defined organisation is the only way to determine if it will operate with a profit or loss. A good way of comparing information is to try the Charity Commission web site. This site contains summary accounts for all pools that are operated by organisations that enjoy trust or social enterprise status.

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>

A more advanced search under 'swimming'

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/SearchMatchList.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=0&SubsidiaryNumber=0>

produces a list of pools and swimming projects and it is possible to look at summaries of income and expenditure. Whilst part of the expenditure will not focus entirely on pool operations, it should provide a valuable reference.

It is also possible to search on the web to obtain various examples of running costs for pools. These can normally be found under local authority leisure studies in which they have arrived at likely costs during feasibility studies. There are several good examples on the web as many are included in local authority minutes or sub-committee minutes.

We will quote two examples of trust pools- Crewkerne Pool, which was opened in 1997 with the aid of a National Lottery Grant of £1.18 million, financial support from the district council, fund raising from the local community and Sportsmatch bringing the total to £1.6 million, is a fine example of the community and local authorities working hand in hand to generate a trust model. It teaches over 840 people a week and over 1,200 school pupils also use the pool weekly. The pool has never run at an annual deficit because the community get behind the pool and they volunteer on a regular basis. The Trust really scores because it has approximately 50 volunteers contributing between 1 and 5 hours per week to the cause.

Find out more at

<http://aquacentre.co.uk/home.php>



One of the most enterprising small pools that can advise on costs for trusts is Jesmond Pool in Newcastle. Jesmond is one of Britain's longest standing trusts and has considerable experience. It runs a consultancy service to help other trusts. The contact details are jesmondpool@btconnect.com or Tel. 0191 281 2482.