

## Notes for statement to Bath & NE Somerset Council

Cabinet

Economic & Community Development Panel

Community Resources

Requirement for public authorities to develop and publish an Equalities Strategy.  
EHRC

In particular: The Public Sector Equality Duty came into force across Great Britain on 5 April 2011. It means that public bodies have to consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It also requires that public bodies:

- have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires authorities to ensure their procurement process promotes equality and achieves wider social benefits and opportunities.

Public Authorities spend £236B annually on buying goods, building works and supply of services. Such amounts require them to comply with best guidance document ....  
**Buying Better Outcomes -Mainstreaming Equalities considerations in procurement.**

The guide states that it is ***“a way for a public authority to deliver its broader strategic objectives, in addition to the core purpose of a contract and value for money”***

Also in relation to equalities provision ***“It is important that they are considered upfront before the procurement process starts”***

The means to do so is through engaging with stakeholders i.e service users, to ensure that no one sector is affected disproportionately.

*Reference the proven need of previous 3 speakers!!*

For some years, Access B&NES have been working with the council, Aquaterra, the Bath Spa Trust and all available authorities to endeavour to deliver a facility suited to the needs of a large sector of the population of Bath and NE Somerset. They have

consulted disabled individuals and groups on behalf of these authorities. They are representing the outcomes of such consultation work today.

An estimate of those disabled people unable to participate in moderate sport and leisure nationally because of access barriers, is growing and currently stands at between 3.7% and 5.7% of all disabled respondents. (ODI Taking Part survey 2005 - 2009) In the same survey adults in the North and South West of England report the highest levels of restriction to participation in Life Areas of leisure and education.

As the levels of higher age range are rising and disabled persons numbers are growing (Life Opportunities Survey 2009 -2011, ODI). Restrictions are also increasing, i.e. over 37% of disabled people met with barriers to participation in sport and leisure. Swimming is a sport or activity most disabled people could benefit from and participate in. (See Fit for Life Strategy supporting evidence)

Bath & NE Somerset Council's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will include indicators as to how they will remove these barriers. Under the themes "Fit for Life" and "Active Lifestyles" the JH&W Strategy will address the problems of transport, leisure facilities and design of the built environment to enable full participation by anyone. Swimming and therapeutic bathing i.e. warm pool, saunas and jacuzzi facilities should be inclusive and available to all. Fit for Life has reference to a Developers Checklist. Is the requirement for the Small Warm Pool part of this?

After all, the summary statement in the Fit for Life strategy (just completing now) is that it is intended to:

***“support and improve the health and wellbeing of the population by ensuring sustainable, high quality sport and physical activity infrastructure and opportunities to enable residents to live active lives, helping to prevent ill health, reduce social isolation and maintain independence for longer”***