



Swimming pools and sports centres may close

Across the UK, many council bosses have declared they are finding it harder and harder to run and maintain local swimming pools and sports centres.

The Local Government Association, who represent councils in England have said that ministers should commit £400m in next month's Budget to upgrade facilities. It's thought that extra funding is needed as the money is crucial to combat health issues including heart disease and it can help with people being overweight.

Currently, many council-owned sports halls and swimming pools are thought to be coming increasingly run down as budgets become tighter, leaving them unable to afford the cost of updating the

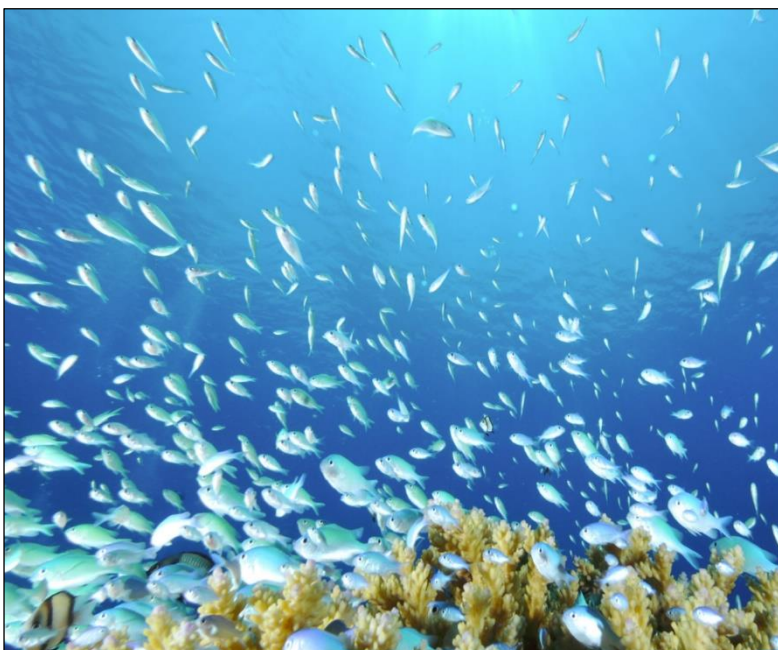
facilities.

Do you use your local swimming pool and leisure facilities? Are they old? Do you think your local council should invest more money to look after them? Let us know! Email or post letters using our details below.



Facilities at a typical leisure centre.

Blue Planet has more viewers than X Factor and Strictly Come Dancing



A school of fish at the bottom of the ocean.

The first episode of the new series of Blue Planet won the TV ratings battle last Sunday evening scoring higher viewer figures than the very popular Strictly Come Dancing and The X Factor.

The documentary series, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, takes an in-depth look at life in our oceans. Taking over 4 years to film, Blue Planet II was watched by an average of 10.3 million live viewers.

The Strictly Come Dancing Results Show, broadcast just before Blue Planet II, attracted an average of 9.6 million viewers. Sunday evening's X Factor was seen by 4.3 million live viewers on average.



England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland request to wear poppies




England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will request permission from international football association, FIFA, to wear poppies during November's international matches. It comes after the law was changed last month, allowing the home

nations to wear a poppy if opposing teams and the competition organiser agree to it.

The football associations of the four nations said in a statement they welcomed the change in the law.

Each nation was fined when players wore poppies during games in November last year. England and Scotland wore the emblem on black armbands during their World Cup qualifier at Wembley, while Wales and Northern Ireland were fined for displaying it in their stadiums.

Changes in the law now bans:

-  Political parties or groups;
-  Groups whose aims or actions would offend people;
-  Any political act or event.

Sports Minister Tracey Crouch said she was pleased that FIFA is finally going to apply common sense and change its position on poppies.

Last year, Theresa May declared that FIFA's stance was "utterly outrageous".



English and Scottish players wore black armbands with poppy symbols during matches last November.

I think...



YOUR COMMENTS

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