



Penrith Town Council

Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR

Tel: 01768 899 773 Email: office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk

[Name],
Penrith Swimming Club Committee

BY EMAIL: [Email]

Tuesday 25 August 2026

Dear [Name],

At its Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 24 August 2026, Penrith Town Council resolved to support Penrith Swimming Club in seeking to maintain its Learn to Swim programme at Penrith Leisure Centre [Minute PTC26/32].

Penrith Swimming Club is a valued community organisation with a long history of helping local children learn to swim, build confidence and progress into club and competitive swimming. Its Learn to Swim programme is more than a set of lessons; it is a volunteer-led community service that supports children, families and the wider town.

The Council understands that GLL is reviewing the Learn to Swim arrangements with Westmorland and Furness Council, Swim England and Penrith Swimming Club, including whether Penrith and Eden communities would be best served by a single beginner Learn to Swim offer from GLL, or by separate offers from GLL and Penrith Swimming Club.

Penrith Town Council believes local families should continue to have choice. This reflects Westmorland and Furness Council's Annual Plan 2026-27 commitment that *"No matter where you are born or where you live, there is equal opportunity for everyone to live an active, happy, healthy life, and to feel empowered and confident to choose the best ways*

in which this is achieved for each individual and for every community.”

For many children, Penrith Swimming Club provides that trusted community route into swimming, confidence in the water and progression into club and competitive swimming.

Penrith Town Council supports a positive and sustainable outcome which allows the Club's Learn to Swim programme to continue alongside GLL's offer, with a written formal agreement if required. The Council considers these offers to be distinctive rather than directly competing. GLL's provision and Penrith Swimming Club's volunteer-led programme meet different needs within our community.

The attendance of more than 60 people at Penrith Town Council's Extra Ordinary Meeting of Full Council on Monday 24 August 2026 speaks for itself and demonstrates the strength of local feeling about the value of retaining choice for families. Swim England guidance recognises that any change affecting a swimming club's ability to deliver Learn to Swim should be carefully evaluated, with practical solutions considered to avoid jeopardising club sustainability. The Council therefore hopes an outcome can be reached which protects community choice, supports local volunteers and keeps this important programme in Penrith.

Yours sincerely

Penrith Town Council