

Subject:	Together an Active Future Project	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	4 th March 2020
Report of:	Chief Executive	Portfolio Holder:	Communities and Customers
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1	Agree to receive funding from Blackburn with Darwen Council for the Together an Active Future Project subject to the funding agreement to be provided in the coming weeks.
1.2	Approve the recommended funding approach outlined in 3.4.
1.3	All future minor amendments to the funding arrangements outlined in the report to be delegated to the Chief Executive/Directors in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 Outline the Together an Active Future scheme led by Rossendale Leisure Trust under the strategic direction of the Primary Care Networks (PCN) for Rossendale East and Rossendale West. As funding will initially pass from the accountable body Blackburn with Darwen Council (BwD) to Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) the funding process that will be needed to allow RLT the flexibility and agility to lead the project needs to be determined. Options and recommendations about how this could work are outlined below.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Project Overview

Physical inactivity is a growing problem in Rossendale and is a key risk factor for a range of health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity. Dealing with all these preventable conditions puts excessive strain on our health and social care system.

In 2017, Pennine Lancashire was selected as a Sport England Local Delivery Pilot to help tackle the physical inactivity trends apparent across the 6 Pennine Lancashire authorities. It provides an opportunity to work collaboratively on innovative approaches and drive whole system change through what has been titled 'Together an Active Future' (TaAF).

TaAF aims to tackle physical inactivity and poor mental wellbeing and is based on a Life-course Transition Model which recognises that key life events including educational transitions, adverse childhood experiences, bereavement and loss, relationships changes, ill-health, employment change and retirement, can all impact on individuals' capacity to be physically active and on mental wellbeing.

The programme focuses on those people who currently do little or no physical activity and have poor mental wellbeing to try to understand the barriers and motivations which drive their current ways of being.

Sport England has committed £3 million for the Pennine Lancashire Pathfinder (test and learn) phase with the potential to draw down a further £7 million Accelerator funding, based

on clear demonstration of need. The awarding of funds (Pathfinder and Accelerator) will run up to March 31st 2021. However, they recognise that spending of the budget will go beyond this date, but cannot exceed March 2025.

The core focus of Pathfinder investment (£2.25 million) is into communities and will be supported by whole system enablers, including a core team and academic evaluation; crucial to developing robust business cases to access Accelerator funding. The remaining 500k will be allocated for Pennine wide coordination and activity whilst councils will oversee local commissioning and delivery, in partnership with their key stakeholders.

Of the £2.25 million Pathfinder funding, Rossendale will be allocated c. £300,000.

3.2 **Progress to Date**

The essence of the project to be insight based, and then that communities will be actively engaged in co-designing interventions and initiatives.

In the last twelve months, Rossendale has worked closely with communities to understand the issues and potential workstreams which could improve physical activity levels in Rossendale.

A survey was conducted with over 1300 responses and RLT led over 20 community engagement events to understand the ideas and concerns of local people.

Building on the insight gained, the TaAF steering group developed two main themes. A third workstream is shared across Pennine Lancashire and will provide transitional support to the Up&Active programme. The PCN and Sport England have approved the themes listed below and the proposed approach in Rossendale.

Reaching People

- To educate and coach people from third party organisations, small businesses, clubs, groups and individuals in Rossendale on effective ways to raise awareness of their activities.
- Develop collaborative approaches and work with groups of people and organisations to share information about opportunities to be active.
- Develop methodology and a campaign to engage those people in the community who are currently active and encourage them to reach out to, motivate and support inactive friends/family/colleagues to be more active.

Outdoor Space

- To break down barriers for people wanting to become more active but have not made the first step.
- Work collaboratively with partners to provide opportunities for everybody to gain knowledge of and experience, who, what and where physical activity is provided.
- Using outdoor spaces in creative ways to give new opportunities for individuals, families, care professionals and many more to become active. Including working through local people to explore how we can make local walks and cycle ways more accessible and engaging for different audiences through infrastructure improvements (benches, family activities on the route, and tech-based challenges), mapping of local walks from high traffic community spaces.

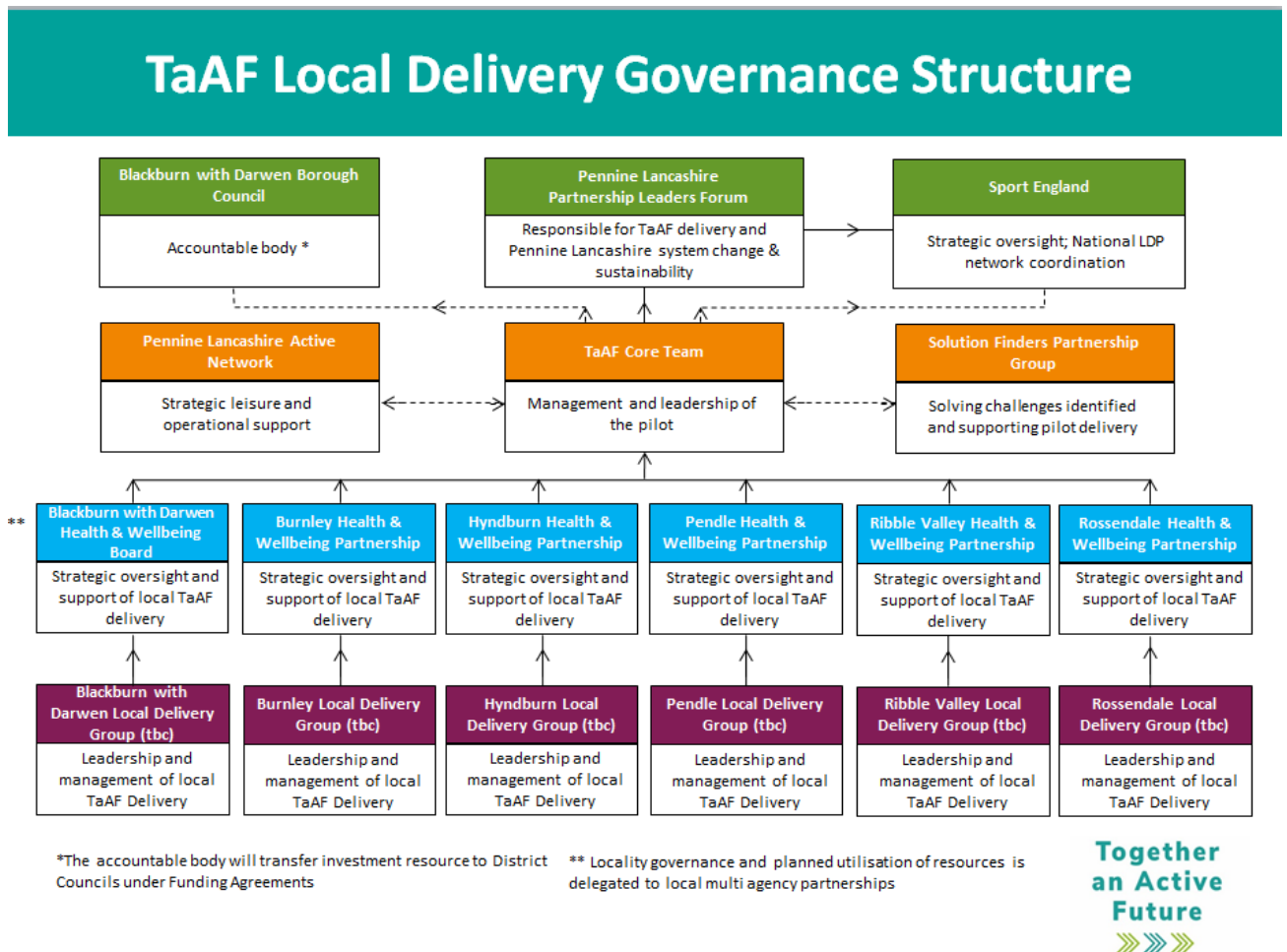
East Lancashire Active Lifestyle Service

- Working with a standalone existing scheme and embedding it into a clinical system to benefit the end user.

- Test and learn to take a scheme that has been relying on funding and making sustainable future connecting clinicians to physical activity and health and wellbeing services.

3.3 Governance and Delivery Approach

Sport England, through the accountable body, BwD has structured the project to be led through the Strategic Health and Wellbeing Partnership in each locality. In Rossendale, this strategic partnership has recently aligned itself with the Rossendale PCNs and is referred to as the “Rossendale PCN (Community)”. The PCN in Rossendale has agreed to form a sub group including RLT/RBC/CCG/CVS to oversee the project and fund a RLT Director to be strategic lead on a part time basis.



The agreed structure that has been approved by Sport England is that the funding will transfer to RBC, which can then decide how it wishes to manage the finances under the strategic direction of the PCN.

As the RLT are the agreed strategic lead on this project, and to enable the project to move swiftly, innovatively and in the “test and learn” spirit of the project, it is anticipated that funding will pass directly to RLT who will oversee the project, collaborate with a wide range of community partners (large and small), and assess and evaluate the project.

3.4 Recommended Funding Approach

It is recommended that funding be received by RBC from BwD under an agreed back to back funding agreement from Sport England. In previous Sport England funding agreements, there have been concerns regarding the potential claw back of funding. However, officers have been assured that in this funding agreement, due to the nature of

the project, there will be no claw back clauses.

RLT will also be requested to enter into a back to back agreement with RBC to ensure compliance with the grant funding agreement requirements and to agree appropriate draw down and monitoring provisions.

RLT will draw down funding from RBC on a quarterly basis to lead and deliver the project.

RLT will be granted permission to utilise funding through other local partners and organisation's to ensure those best placed to deliver particular workstreams are utilised. RLT will be responsible for partnership funding agreements with third parties, monitoring and evaluating workstreams and overall project management.

The sub group of the PCN with membership from RLT, CVS, RBC Communities and the CCG will provide support and close oversight of the project. The sub group will meet regularly, and all expenditure proposals will be brought to the sub group for approval prior to allocation of the funding.

3.5 Other Options

The other option regarding the funding would be for RBC to hold all funds, and act as banker, distributing funds to partner organisations directly. This is a less desirable option as it adds a layer of administration which could slow down the project and reduce the flexibility and adaptiveness needed to "test and learn", and have initiatives designed and delivered by communities.

4. RISK

4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

There is a risk that RLT could become unable to continue leading the project. In order to manage this risk, it is proposed that funds are drawn down quarterly. In the event of RLT becoming unable to continue, RBC would work directly with the PCN to complete the project through the Communities team.

All financial risks will be managed through the funding agreement with BwD and in turn RLT.

The project is focused on delivery in 2020/21 and 2021/22 but can continue into future years should the timetable not progress as quickly as anticipated. In the event that the project does not expend all the resources; the remaining funds would be returned to Sport England.

There are no other specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. FINANCE

5.1 The report considers all financial implications. This scheme will have no negative impact no RBC's financial position or the MTFs.

6. LEGAL

6.1 Full due diligence will take place around the grant funding and back to back agreements once the same are available to mitigate any risks around clawback and further potential risk to the Council or the project.

7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This will support National and Local policy in relation to health and in particular physical activity which is one of the three priorities of the Rossendale Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

Full consultation has been undertaken through the Council’s Community Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Partnership and wider public events and will continue.

Internal consultation has been undertaken with Management Team and Portfolio Holder.

The project is to open to all but with a particular emphasis on people who currently do less than 30 minutes per week physical activity and those with mental health ill health. Any equality implications related to the project will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 It is recommended that RBC support the project by receipting funding (subject to satisfactory funding agreement), and allow RLT to draw down funds on a quarterly basis.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Together an Active Future Pathfinder Submission	https://togetherahealthierfuture.org.uk/together-active-future