

To register a question for Public Question Time please email your question to democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk before 9am Friday 16th December.

Meeting of: The Council

Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 6.30pm or at the conclusion of Question Time and Public Engagement whichever is the later.

Venue: Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup. OL13 0BB



The meeting can also be observed on Zoom (please allow time for set up if accessing for the first time): <https://zoom.us/j/95728023249?pwd=T1c5M3ZjVzNrdFVGdzRuUnRoTXdYUT09>

Meeting ID: 957 2802 3249

Passcode: 479216

Please note that a waiting room will be in place for the Zoom meeting and public will be admitted to the meeting shortly before 6.30pm.

The meeting will also be live streamed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams>

Supported by: Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422
Email: democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	
A2.	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of 16 th November 2022.	
A3.	Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
A4.	Declarations of Interest <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i> Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.	Clare Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
B.	Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service To receive any communications from the Mayor, the Leader, or the Head of the Paid Service that they may wish to lay before the Council.	The Mayor, Councillor Cheetham, The Leader, Councillor A.Barnes and Neil Shaw, Chief Executive 01706 252447 neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection on the Council's website <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rossendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

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Large Print



Tape



CD



Braille

C.	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES	
C1.	Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Panel Appointment of the Chief Executive of the Council	Councillor A.Barnes/Clare Law, Head of People and Policy 01706 252457 clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C2.	Recommendation of the Appointments and Appeals Panel Appointment of Director of Economic Development	Councillor A.Barnes/Clare Law, Head of People and Policy 01706 252457 clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D.	ORDINARY BUSINESS	
D1.	Lancashire 2050 Framework To consider the Lancashire 2050 Framework report	Councillor A.Barnes/ Neil Shaw, Chief Executive 01706 252447 neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D2.	Our Place, Our Facilities, Our Plan – our vision for leisure facilities in Rossendale (Leisure Facilities) To consider the Leisure Facilities report	Councillor Ashworth/ Adam Allen, Director of Communities 01706 252428 adamallen@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D3.	UK Shared Prosperity Fund To consider the UK Shared Prosperity Fund report	Councillor A.Barnes/ Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development 01706 252443 mandylewis@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E.	NOTICE OF MOTION	
E1.	To consider a notice of motion submitted by Councillors S Smith and Hughes To consider a notice of motion as set out in item E1 regarding World AIDS Day.	Councillor S Smith Councillor Hughes
F.	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS To consider passing the appropriate resolution under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item since it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under Part 1 Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.	
F1.	Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) Update To consider the RLT update	Councillor Ashworth/ Adam Allen, Director of Communities 01706 252428 adamallen@rossendalebc.gov.uk



Neil Shaw
Chief Executive

Date Published: 12th December 2022

COUNCILLOR ANNE CHEETHAM, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 16th November 2022

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Cheetham (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Coogan, James Eaton, Janet Eaton, Foxcroft, Hodgkiss, Hughes, Johnson, Kenyon, Lythgoe, McInnes, McMahon, MacNae, Marriott, Neal, Oakes Pendlebury, Powell, Procter, Rigby, Rooke, Serridge, M. Smith, S. Smith Snowden, Steen, Thompson, Walmsley, Whitehead and Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Shaw, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Karen Spencer, Chief Finance Officer
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press
8 public

The Mayor presented three certificates of appreciation on behalf of the Council as follows:

- Civic Pride in recognition of their achievements in the Royal Horticultural Society's 2022 Britain in Bloom Awards.
- Bacup Pride in recognition of their achievements in the Royal Horticultural Society's 2022 Britain in Bloom Awards.
- Brent Peters in recognition of his work within the sport of football, especially in achieving 25 years at Bacup Borough Football Club.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Brennan, MacNae and Morris.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

4. Declarations of Interest

In relation to minutes 7 and 8 the following declarations were made:

- Councillors McInnes and McMahon declared an interest as volunteers of Positive Start.
- Councillor Johnson declared an interest as a volunteer of Raft.
- Councillor Procter declared an interest as a trustee at Citizens Advice.

5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council provided the following updates:

Active Lancashire had won an award for its successful delivery of two East Lancashire employment programmes, one of which was Rossendale Works. Rossendale Works was a partnership between Active Lancashire, Rossendale Council and the Department for Work and Pensions that provided tailored employment support. She noted that it was great to see Rossendale Works receiving the recognition it deserved in not only helping people in the borough into work, but also in engaging local businesses to continue to employ locally.

The Whitaker Museum was congratulated on becoming a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO). This very prestigious status was only awarded to those cultural venues which the Arts Council consider to be of national significance, both in the work that they produce and also the quality of the facility itself. It would secure significant ongoing annual funding from the Arts Council for future development and would strengthen the partnership with the Arts Council for future projects. She noted that it was a testament to the hard work of all the staff at the museum and in the Council that there was a beautifully refurbished museum here in Rossendale that was nationally recognised.

The fifteen local authorities in Lancashire have been working together in 2022 to develop a long-term plan for Lancashire, called Lancashire 2050. It was an excellent opportunity for all the councils in Lancashire to work together to agree a set of priorities and projects which would really benefit residents. For the first time it would set out for residents and the Government what we would like to achieve together. On 28 February, the Council would consider the strategic framework for Lancashire 2050. The Leaders of each of the fifteen councils had led the development of the framework which had enabled Rossendale to influence and shape the framework. Details of Lancashire 2050 would also be announced on Lancashire Day – 27 November – at a launch event at the House of Commons.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

6. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

The Council considered the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

Resolved:

That Full Council approve the Rossendale Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 as set out in the report.

Reason for Decision

Councils are required to set a Council Tax Support scheme annually, before the 11th March on the charge year, in this case 2023/24. No conclusive case for significant amendment to the scheme has been identified at this time.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Household Support Fund – Third Round

The Council considered the Household Support Fund – Third Round report.

Resolved:

Council approve:

1. The suggested allocations and process for the Household Support Fund.
2. That all future minor amendments to the criteria and budget be delegated to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

It is considered that given the constraints around identifying those most in need, the scheme outlined in the report provides the best balance of distributing funding rapidly to those in

priority groups, whilst also ensuring that additional support is available for those most in need and in contact with food banks and the Citizens Advice.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. 'Ease the Squeeze' support package

The Council considered the 'Ease the Squeeze' support package.

Resolved:

That Council consider and approve the package of support proposed to address the current cost of living pressures for Rossendale residents.

Reason for Decision

The package of measures is aimed to help some of Rossendale's most vulnerable residents. It supports the wider strategic aim of the council to have 'healthy and proud communities'. Agreement to these measures is likely to reduce the exposure of vulnerable residents to health risks if they reduce their residential heating.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update

The Council considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy update.

Resolved:

Members noted and considered the contents of the report.

Reason for Decision

The Council must identify and deliver further efficiencies/savings and generate additional income in order to achieve balanced budgets over the short to medium term in order to ensure long-term sustainability for the Council.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Public Meeting Schedule

The Council considered the Public Meeting Schedule for 2023/24.

Resolved:

That Council agree the Public Meeting Schedule containing dates of public meetings for 2023/2024 as detailed at Appendix A.

Reason for Decision

To agree a committee schedule in order to ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 7.04pm and concluded at 8.05pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date

Subject:	Lancashire 2050 Framework	Status:	For publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	20 December 2022
Report of:	Chief Executive	Lead member:	Leader of the Council
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
Contact Officer:	Neil Shaw		
Email:	neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Full Council:

- 1.1. Endorse the outline Lancashire 2050 strategic framework (Appendix 1) as the strategic framework that will guide further development of shared detailed priorities and actions.
- 1.2. Agree that the Leader of the Council continues to work with Lancashire Leaders in line with the principles already agreed by Full Council on 31 January 2022 including that the Leader will make representations to that forum any matters arising from Full Council's consideration of this report.
- 1.3. Note that any additional proposals will require further approval by Full Council at the appropriate time.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The fifteen local authorities in Lancashire have been working together in 2022 to develop a long-term plan for Lancashire: Lancashire 2050.
- This report is considering the strategic framework for Lancashire 2050, behind which a more detailed delivery plan is being developed over the coming months.
- This report represents the council's continuing commitment to ensure that there continue to be opportunities to contribute to and influence Lancashire 2050.
- The Leaders of each of the fifteen councils have led the development of the strategic framework which has enabled Rossendale to have influence to shape the framework.
- The delivery plan will come back to council for consideration and approval later in 2023.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The attached report is being considered by the Full Council of each of the fifteen local authorities in Lancashire, that is, the County Council, two unitary authorities and each of the twelve district councils.
- 3.2. This report presents the progress made since the report considered by Lancashire's 15

councils in January and February 2022. It sets out the general principles and high-level priorities of a long-term strategic framework for Lancashire, known as “Lancashire 2050”. This report also represents the continuing commitment to ensure that there continue to be opportunities for all the partner authorities to contribute to and influence those plans, including identifying specific schemes and activities.

3.3. Full Council is asked to consider the report and approve the recommendations set out above.

4. MAIN REPORT

4.1. With a robust evidence base and utilising the strong local knowledge of elected representatives, Leaders have been considering collective priorities and developing a shared vision and ambition for the future of Lancashire, looking ahead to 2050 to recover, grow and decarbonise the economy, improving the place and the life opportunities of its people. The plans to achieve this will not only realise opportunities for Lancashire and UK plc but in doing so, will help address many structural inequalities and support levelling up across the county.

4.2. Working collaboratively Lancashire Leaders agree the time is right for Lancashire to move forward together with a collective voice to make the case for more powers and investment for the whole of Lancashire. Lancashire 2050 will therefore enable any engagement with central government to be placed within a strategic context.

4.3. Leaders have identified that the work is now at a stage where it is important to secure the engagement and support of all members. This report is therefore being presented to all fifteen local authorities for their endorsement.

4.4. This report covers:

(i) **Lancashire 2050**, which sets out the headline themes to be included in a long-term strategic framework and ambition for Lancashire.

(ii) **Oversight, performance management and monitoring**, which sets out information about the proposed approach to overseeing the long-term plan.

4.5. By setting out shared priorities and ambitions, Lancashire 2050 will help Lancashire authorities prepare for and respond to opportunities that will help them achieve their shared ambitions and goals.

5. DEVELOPING A LANCASHIRE 2050 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

5.1. The original conception of this strategic framework was to develop Lancashire 2050 alongside plans to enter devolution negotiations with government. However, the policy context has changed substantially over the intervening months. The publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022 set out a proposed devolution framework, to be enacted through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. Following the recent change in government, we await clarity on the ongoing policy direction and timeframes.

5.2. By continuing to press ahead with the development of Lancashire 2050 in this context, Lancashire is collectively taking action to insulate against ongoing policy uncertainty and to take best advantage of emerging opportunities such as investment zones. While councils will continue to decide which of these emerging opportunities will best suit their own priorities on a case by case basis, the Lancashire 2050 framework provides an additional tool, that not only helps inform this judgement, but also boosts the credibility of Lancashire’s collective engagement with government.

- 5.3. Significant work has taken place across Lancashire to gather evidence that will shape an overarching vision, ambition, and strategic framework for the whole of Lancashire. This work has helped inform the scale of ambition and the development of robust key priorities, together with the delivery and oversight principles described in this report.
- 5.4. Over the past several months all Lancashire Leaders across our fifteen councils, have been further considering and refining our approach, with a singular vision to make Lancashire “*a place where every single person can live their best life.*”
- 5.5. Once adopted, Lancashire's overarching strategic plan will be forward looking and take a long-term view, setting the vision and ambition over a 20-30 year period. To do this, we are clear it requires our collective efforts and must be shaped by our residents, communities and partners. Lancashire 2050 is our strategic framework that sets out our shared vision, ambition and strategic priority areas to ensure:
- Lancashire competes better for its share of national resources and investment
 - Lancashire’s public, private and voluntary sectors collaborate better to maximise the best use of our resources
 - Lancashire has a strong and clear voice and can respond innovatively to new opportunities and challenges
 - Lancashire has rich, meaningful and strategic dialogue with central government about the future of our county.
- 5.6. Our strategic framework for achieving the vision is organised around eight priority areas. While focussed, this framework allows flexibility to adapt to changing local and global trends, policy mandates and place needs. Our priorities have been created in such a way that they are accessible and easy to understand. The priorities are presented visually in a way that allows them to stand alone.
- 5.7. The priorities aim to give clarity and structure for staff to understand how their roles and responsibilities contribute to key priorities and ambitions, and provide a focus for teams to develop service plans and work programmes that support them. They also enable key partners, stakeholders, business and industry associates to be clear about the collective ambitions, which will aid the alignment of aims and facilitate collaborative work to deliver high quality, best value services that meet the needs of Lancashire's residents.
- 5.8. Developing the strategic framework and priorities this way also ensures more integrated policy development to tackle cross cutting opportunities such as skills, health and the environment.

6. OVERSIGHT, PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

- 6.1. In January and February 2022, councils agreed governance structures for delivering the strategic plan priorities, designed with two aims in mind:
- (i) to create the best arrangements to deliver the priorities within the strategic plan
 - (ii) to ensure decisions are made democratically and with all partners having an equal voice.
- 6.2. Additionally, councils endorsed a set of core principles to guide the progression of Lancashire 2050, which have been put in practice through the Lancashire Leaders Forum. It is proposed that the future strategic and delivery oversight of Lancashire 2050 continues to be taken forward through this group.

6.3. In addition, to ensure maximum transparency and participation of partners, it's proposed that twice yearly, the Lancashire Leaders Forum meets with wider partners from across the county to:

- Agree and update shared strategic priorities
- Consider an annual shared "State of Lancashire" evidence base developed and presented by an independent Data Observatory
- Review delivery performance against Lancashire 2050 aims and priorities
- Agree collaborative actions / contributions required to achieve shared priorities.

6.4. Thematic priority areas will be overseen by Portfolio Leads (nominations to be agreed on an annual basis), supported by nominated Chief Executive leads for each thematic priority. Where Lancashire-wide arrangements already exist (such as for example on Transport and Skills), these forums will develop and take forward Lancashire 2050 thematic priorities and actions. Where necessary, additional thematic sub-group arrangements will be established to support action planning and delivery. The group will continue to be chaired by Lancashire County Council, with any decisions made on a consensual basis.

7. **RISK**

The strategic risk for the council would be to miss the opportunity to continue to influence the shape and content of Lancashire 2050. The delivery plan is likely to contain specific projects which will benefit Rossendale over the medium to longer-term. By approving the strategic framework the council continues to have a 'seat at the table' to influence and shape Lancashire 2050.

8. **FINANCE**

None in this report. As progress is made in developing priority theme action plans, consideration will need to be given by Leaders and councils on how best to resource any cross-Lancashire activities that go beyond existing business as usual. With support from finance officers, local authorities may need to consider a fair way for each partner authority to contribute, either on a pooled contributions basis, and/or by individual proposals emerging from each thematic priority area. However, any such proposals will be subject to future decisions and are not within scope of the recommendations in this report.

9. **LEGAL**

The report has no specific legal implications.

10. **POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The report has no specific policy or equalities implications.

11. **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The report is being considered by the Full Council of each of the fifteen local authorities in Lancashire. The report is seeking Council approval of the strategic framework for the Lancashire 2050 plan, to enable development of the more detailed actions which will deliver the outcomes in the framework. Approval of this report will represent the continuing commitment of Rossendale Council to ensure that there continue to be opportunities to contribute to and influence Lancashire 2050, including identifying specific schemes and activities.

Background Paper

Our New Deal for
Lancashire, Full Council,
31 January 2022

<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1294/council>

LANCASHIRE

2050

A strategic framework for Lancashire

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Lancashire 2050 is about bringing people together with a shared vision, shared ambition, shared goals and shared priorities.



Lancaster Castle

It's about the future of our county and its people. Initiated by Lancashire's 15 councils, but involving everyone with a stake in our county's success, it sets out the areas where we can work together to help our county thrive.

It is both bold and strategic, creating a framework so that:

- Lancashire competes better for its share of national resources and investment.
- Lancashire's public, private and voluntary sectors collaborate better to maximise the best use of our resources.
- Lancashire has a strong and clear voice that responds innovatively to new opportunities and challenges.
- Lancashire has rich, meaningful and strategic dialogue with central government about the future of our county.



Tarleton

"A thriving Lancashire remains one of the pre-requisites to a successful economy in the North of England"

This is Lancashire

We're proud of Lancashire. It's a place of amazing beauty, talented people, diverse communities and world-leading businesses. We're proud of our history, but always looking to the future. We're proud of what we have to offer for living, learning, investing and succeeding.

With a population of 1.5m people, our 54,000 businesses generate 637,000 jobs across a range of important and future-facing sectors from manufacturing and tourism to cyber, digital and low carbon.

This thriving £34bn economy is home to globally leading firms and the 4th largest aerospace cluster in the world.

We're proud of where we've come from, where we are, and where we're heading.

We're proud to say: we are Lancashire.



Lytham Festival

Our vision

Lancashire: a place where every single person can live their best life





The Midland Hotel, Morecambe

Our ambition

Our ambition is for Lancashire to be seen across the world as the best place to make a home, raise a family, develop a career, do business and grow old.

A place made up of communities everyone is proud of, that celebrates our sense of place, heritage and natural environment.

A place where we always look to the future.

Our plan

Our plan for achieving our vision is organised around eight priority areas.

We have created a framework for action that will help us focus on the things that are most important, as well as respond to changing local and global trends, policy mandates and place needs.

It will mean Lancashire can speak with one voice when championing our needs in government.



Wallace and Gromit statue, Preston

St Annes Beach Huts

Our priorities will help Lancashire:



Economic prosperity

Succeed as a globally-recognised, competitive and sustainable economy, distinguished by its quality of life, connectivity and access to opportunities.



Early years and education

Support all our children so they are ready to learn, achieve, and can access opportunity.



Transport and infrastructure

Become better-connected and accessible, with infrastructure that links opportunities to need, and travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable and low carbon.



Employment and skills

Support people to develop skills throughout their lives and attract business to the county because of our high skilled workforce.



Environment and climate

Meet our low carbon ambitions, promote clean energy and enhance our rich natural environment.



Health and wellbeing

Improve health, life chances and independence, so residents can live healthy lives and access quality care when they need it.



Housing

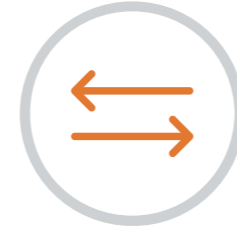
Deliver decent and affordable housing for every community. High quality housing will benefit existing residents, as well as attract and retain the people required to drive the economy over the long term.



Communities and place

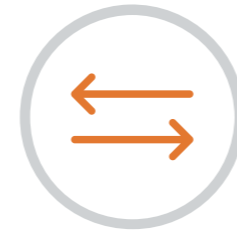
Build pride, belonging, and resilience in all our diverse communities and ensure people have a voice and stake in Lancashire's future.

Partners commit to:



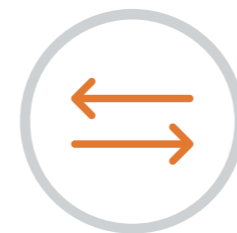
Working collaboratively

We will work collaboratively on our collective priorities, sharing ideas, assets, skills and knowledge.



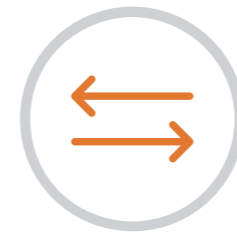
Cross cutting key themes

We will ensure our commitments to diversity and inclusion, reducing inequalities, children and families, climate, and improving quality of life are addressed in each of our priority themes.



Listening to residents

We will be active listeners in building our plans for Lancashire. Everyone will be able to contribute in shaping our shared future.



Being open and transparent

We will ensure decisions are made democratically and transparently, so residents can easily understand progress against our priorities.



The Atom, Wycoller Country Park



We will be a globally-recognised, competitive and sustainable economy distinguished by its quality of life, connectivity and access to opportunities.

Theme priorities

- ▶ To realise the growth potential in our existing and emerging key sectors, particularly low carbon and renewables, and to attract increased investment.
- ▶ To ensure Lancashire has an outward-looking and connected economy that works for all.
- ▶ To build a pipeline of strategic development sites and infrastructure opportunities.
- ▶ To maximise the economic benefits of Lancashire’s tourism offer and promote a diverse place with urban, coastal and rural economies.
- ▶ To encourage business as good employers.

What this will mean for our residents

- ▶ A thriving economy will enable Lancashire residents to access more and better jobs, drive employment growth, and increase wealth and independence.
- ▶ In turn, this will help improve the wider determinants of health, encourage social mobility and drive the get-up-and-go aspirations amongst our young people, giving each generation more control over their own futures.





We will be better-connected and accessible, with infrastructure that links opportunities to need, and travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable and low carbon.

Theme priorities

- ▶ To connect the economic clusters and sectors of Lancashire and tackle isolation.
- ▶ To take a place-focused approach to transport and infrastructure, which ensures that provision is designed to allow places to flourish.
- ▶ To reduce the need to travel by providing fast reliable access to digital technology.
- ▶ To reduce carbon emissions in support of a net zero county.

What this will mean for our residents

- ▶ Residents and communities will be better connected to opportunities and experiences, including employment, leisure and services.
- ▶ There will be less reliance on carbon-based modes of transport, with significant reductions in carbon and other vehicle emissions.
- ▶ Infrastructure and employment sites will support a low-carbon and a modern and forward-looking economy.



We will meet our low carbon ambitions, promote clean energy, and enhance our natural environment.

Theme priorities

- ▶ To substantially reduce carbon emissions and energy demand, with our approach to housing and transport helping secure that transition.
- ▶ To increase energy generation from low carbon sources, including renewables.
- ▶ To improve the resilience of infrastructure, assets and services to climate change.
- ▶ To significantly grow the low carbon and environment sectors of Lancashire's economy.
- ▶ To retain our rich biodiversity and natural environment.

What this will mean for our residents

- ▶ We will have enhanced our natural environment, which will be enjoyed by more Lancashire residents.
- ▶ We will be a net zero county protecting our environment for future generations.
- ▶ Lancashire will be recognised as a place where low carbon businesses can invest and thrive, and people can live a low carbon lifestyle.



Singing Ringing Tree, Burnley



Haslingden

We will deliver decent and affordable housing for every community. High quality housing will benefit existing residents, as well as attract and retain the people required to drive the economy over the long term.

Theme priorities

- ▶ To improve and increase the availability of good quality housing – both on new sites and through existing stock.
- ▶ To link housing regeneration to economic and transport plans.
- ▶ To secure urban renewal by demolishing and replacing housing stock in some areas.
- ▶ To improve the attractiveness of the built environment of our communities.

What this will mean for our residents

- ▶ We will have higher quality homes and neighbourhoods across the county, that are more energy efficient, and better connected to opportunities through our transport infrastructure.
- ▶ We will help tackle concentrated deprivation and provide the housing choices to attract and retain workers in the economy. These actions will help relieve pressures on housing in more attractive locations.



We will support all our children so they are ready to learn, achieve, and can access opportunity.

Theme priorities

- ▶ To improve attainment for all children across the region, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- ▶ To ensure vulnerable families get the help they need for their children to progress and achieve.
- ▶ To support vulnerable young people and families by removing barriers to learning and helping them access opportunity.
- ▶ To improve multi-agency working to make sure all our children have the best possible start in life.

What this will mean for our residents

- ▶ All our children and young people will be able to thrive in education throughout their childhood and develop the life skills they need to be happy and productive adults.
- ▶ Families will have access to appropriate support to ensure children are healthy, happy and developing well from birth.





Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre North West, Samesbury



Northlight, Brierfield

We will support people to develop their skills throughout their lives and attract business to the county because of our highly skilled workforce.

Theme priorities

- ▶ To help young people make informed choices about their pathway into employment.
- ▶ To retain a higher percentage of local graduates and place them into graduate level jobs.
- ▶ To build a strong pipeline of skilled people at all levels entering the labour market to meet the needs of Lancashire businesses.
- ▶ To increase the proportion of adults in Lancashire achieving a Level 4 qualification or higher and improve access to tailored adult skills provision.
- ▶ To increase the employment rate to at least equal to any other region of the UK outside London and improve economic activity rates.

What this will mean for our residents

- ▶ People will have the opportunity to access good jobs and progress in their chosen career, without being held back by their skills or background.
- ▶ Lancashire will have amongst the highest skilled workforce in the country, ready to take advantage of a strong and growing regional economy.
- ▶ We will have a skills base that will support inward investment opportunities and create more good jobs.



We will improve health, life chances and independence, so residents can live healthy lives and access quality care when they need it.

Theme priorities

- ▶ To give our children the best start in life and support better choices.
- ▶ To improve quality of life and reduce health inequalities.
- ▶ To provide better opportunities to stay healthier for longer.
- ▶ To make sure public bodies properly join up their services to focus on Lancashire people's needs.

What this will mean for our residents

- ▶ Everyone in Lancashire can look forward to living longer, healthier lives, regardless of their backgrounds or where they live.
- ▶ Residents will be able to make an active contribution to our communities and our economy.
- ▶ Lancashire residents will be confident they can access more person / family centred services, enabling them to lead healthier and independent lives.





Accrington Soapbox Challenge



We will build pride, belonging and resilience in all our diverse communities and ensure everyone has a voice and stake in their future.

Theme priorities

- ▶ To foster a sense of pride and belonging in all our communities.
- ▶ To better join up public services so they deliver what people and places need.
- ▶ To work with residents, businesses and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector, to build the vision for our communities.
- ▶ To foster safer and more resilient neighbourhoods.
- ▶ To work together across the public, private and voluntary sectors to help tackle the long-term causes and short-term impacts of poverty.

What this will mean for our residents

- ▶ Residents will feel pride in their place and will see the contribution their community makes to achieving the whole county's aspirations.
- ▶ Lancashire will be a place where public services, businesses, residents and community groups all work together to improve their communities.
- ▶ Our communities will thrive, and their distinctiveness and diversity celebrated.

How we will make it happen – our shared commitment to residents

As Local Authorities, this strategic framework represents our shared vision, priorities and intent. It will be endorsed through all our councils individually and will align with our own organisational plans.

But for this plan to work, every business, resident, community and public service has to have a stake in its success. That is why we commit to bringing together key partners to consider our plans, and we welcome the formal endorsement of this approach from many of them.

We will continue to work closely with a wide range of partners and engage closely with everyone as we develop the detail of our action plans.

With these priorities, we will make better decisions locally, we will make a more powerful case for extra tools, powers and resources to central government, and we will deliver on our shared ambitions.

- Businesses
- Councils
- Education
- Government
- Lancashire MPs
- Media
- Partners
- Residents
- Voluntary sector
- Workforce

Lancashire 2050



Blackpool Tower and Central Pier

“Together we are stronger
and Lancashire will be a
place where every single person
can live their best life”



Blackpool Council



LANCASHIRE 2050

Lancashire2050.co.uk



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Subject:	Our Place, Our Facilities, Our Plan – our vision for leisure facilities in Rossendale (Leisure Facilities)	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	20 December 2022
Report of:	Director of Communities	Lead Member:	Communities, Health and Wellbeing
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
Contact Officer:	Adam Allen	Telephone:	01706 252492
Email:	adamallen@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Council agree the vision for leisure facilities in Rossendale, including initial proposals for the council’s leisure assets.
- 1.2 That further work is undertaken to finalise designs and secure potential funding partner(s).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Rossendale’s leisure centres were built in 1972 and 1974 and are in need of significant refurbishment.
- Over the past two years, extensive consultation has taken place to establish a long-term vision for our leisure and wellbeing facilities.
- A vision for a comprehensive leisure and wellbeing offer has been developed and a summary is attached to this report.
- The vision has been design to align with Sport England’s “Uniting the Movement” vision to strengthen our ability to lever in external funding to improve the facilities.
- Delivering aspects of the vision are underway, however a national increase in construction costs and the council’s financial constraints make a large-scale capital investment in facilities not possible at this time. This position will be kept under review and proposals will be moved forward accordingly.
- Funding will need to come from a range of external partner(s) and further engagement is taking place with potential funders. Agreeing a clear vision is an essential step in securing a funding partner.
- A further update will be provided to Council when a potential partner funding is secured, the council generates significant capital receipts which can be invested in new facilities and the council’s revenue budget position is sufficiently strong to sustain long-term large-scale borrowing.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Rossendale has an ageing stock of leisure facilities and this is affecting their achievable income and their long-term financial sustainability, as well as providing an attractive offer to users. Leisure providers are being disproportionately affected by increased fuel costs and inflationary rises. A significant deficit is projected for the Rossendale Leisure Trust (the Trust) for the current financial year.
- 3.2 During late 2020 and early 2021 a decision was taken by Council to support the consolidation of the leisure portfolio bringing Ski Rossendale, Whitworth Leisure Centre, and the Ashcroft into the Trust. In addition, the Trust merged with the Whitaker Museum which remained as an independent “not for profit” entity but legally transferred to be a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust.
- 3.3 Ski Rossendale and Whitworth Leisure Centre were considered to be financially unsustainable at the time and the transfer provided a business plan for longer-term financial sustainability. Ski Rossendale now runs at a surplus. However, Whitworth Leisure Centre is running at a deficit estimated to be over £200k per annum.
- 3.4 In May 2022, the Trust took direct control of Pioneer Gym. This facility runs at a small deficit however it is likely to make a surplus in future years.
- 3.5 A number of studies have been completed that relate to health and leisure provision in the Valley, these include the Indoor Sports Facilities Study, the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Local Plan which was adopted in December 2021. These have all informed the development of the new vision for leisure facilities.
- 3.6 In parallel to these studies, Rossendale Connected has brought together community groups and health partners. This work has resulted in a health plan for Rossendale: “Our Place, Our Wellbeing, Our Plan”. A key priority of this plan is to establish a future vision for our leisure facilities. The long-term vision has been a product of extensive engagement with the community and partners. This community and partner feedback has been amalgamated with all available technical data regarding the usage and condition of our facilities, catchment areas, national standards and estimated costings to produce an evidence based vision for our facilities.
- 3.7 Community engagement included:
- The completion of 675 surveys
 - 12 interactive workshops
 - A community health Activity Audit
 - Stakeholder engagement with over 25 organisations
 - On-going workshops and engagement with Rossendale Connected
- 3.8 In close association with Sport England, the consultants Knight Kavanagh and Paige (KKP) were commissioned in late 2021 to undertake a feasibility study to bring these elements of work together to help the council develop a long-term vision for our facilities. The vision recognises the strong desire from our residents to maximise our wonderful outdoor assets and to maximise the contribution of our many community groups and venues to offer activities that

contribute to health and wellbeing. This includes existing work to improve our tennis courts and 3G football pitches along with establishing walking and cycling routes across the valley.

3.9 In summary, technical assessments suggest that:

- Rossendale is short of swimming provision and ideally requires an additional 6 lanes
- Additional sports hall provision is required, either by opening up school facilities or additional build
- Grass football pitches are of poor quality and there is a need for additional artificial pitches
- Tennis provision is mixed with good quality provision at private clubs but poor quality public courts
- Gym provision is strong but additional capacity at Marl Pits would meet demand
- Changing facilities for outdoor sports at Marl Pits are not fit for purpose

3.10 In summary, community engagement concluded that:

- A strong desire for locally accessible offer that meets the needs of the immediate local community (travelling can be difficult for some and each town has a strong local identity)
- Smaller local facilities rather than larger
- Strong desire to consider both indoor and outdoor activities
- Desire for more general health/wellbeing space in the community
- Need for swimming/fitness in the East and West in addition to Marl Pits

4. A COMMUNITY VISION FOR LEISURE AND WELLBEING IN ROSSENDALE

4.1 The vision document is attached to this report for consideration by Council. It sets out an ambitious all-encompassing long-term strategy for Rossendale that maximises our community and outdoor assets. This vision contains three interlinked and complimentary elements. This includes:

- improvements to our leisure centres by creating new and refurbished local activity centres
- an improved community offer that enhances existing community spaces for activity and
- an outdoor offer that encourages activity across the valley including in our parks.

4.2 Local Activity Centres

The long-term vision is to have three enhanced local activity hubs. Marl Pits will be developed into a Sports Village with a refurbished pool and changing area, a doubling in the size of the gym and a redeveloped pavilion to better support the outdoor sport taking place on the site. The refurbished running track is now in use and officers are working with the rugby and football clubs to provide enhanced leases for the facilities to unlock more investment.

Adrenaline Centre at Haslingden aims to see the addition of an 18m pool that satisfies unmet demand for swimming lessons and casual swimming. Marl Pits will remain the key pool for competitive swimming. There is also the desire to seek to upgrade/refurbish Adrenaline Centre to provide a 25 year life for the sports hall and other areas. As part of our upgrading of artificial pitches, Adrenaline will benefit from a fully refurbished nine-a-side AstroTurf pitch and the grass pitches will receive improved maintenance following a staff training programme in partnership with the Football Association.

The vision includes a new facility in the East of the borough that proposes a new 18m pool and associated gym facility with a multi-purpose space suitable for sports, group exercise, and

community groups. This addresses the poor state of the current Whitworth Pool which is beyond useful and economic repair and requires replacement. A site for the new facility will be subject to further local consultation. All local activity centres will consider provision for minor medical interventions and therapies.

4.3 Our Outdoor Offer

All our activity centres along with Ski Rossendale will act as outdoor gateways to encourage and facilitate users to adventure outdoors for activities. We build on an already strong offer in the natural environment, particularly around walking, cycling and outdoor play. Simple additions such as picnic areas, leaflets and route maps will make it easy for residents to walk and cycle across the valley.

The outdoor offer includes our parks by building on the Love Parks programme which has been so successful in attracting investment into Stubblee and Edgeside parks. Masterplans have been produced for Whitaker and Victoria parks and these will help us to bid for new facilities such as the skateboard park and pump tracks at Stubblee and Edgeside. This will also be supported by Shared Prosperity funding, which has been recently secured.

The council continues to provide remodelled play facilities and new equipment for our younger residents, with three schemes at the bidding stage and more to follow.

Officers have successfully attracted funding through the Lawn Tennis Association to refurbish our tennis courts at Stubblee and Whitaker.

Through the Shared Prosperity Fund and by working with the Football Association and Football Foundation officers have commenced a scheme for two new full size AstroTurf pitches at Haslingden High and Valley Academy with an additional smaller pitch at the Adrenaline Centre.

4.4 Our Community Offer

Rossendale has stronger involvement from the community than many other areas. There was a very strong theme throughout the consultation that the council should make more of our community assets and further support our brilliant community groups and activities. The community offer seeks to identify key community venues which can be upgraded with audio visual equipment in order for local groups to provide a wider range of health and wellbeing activities out in the community.

The community offer builds on the Trusts' partnerships with local schools. New publicly available AstroTurf pitches and access to some school sports halls will address two key findings of the study.

5 **NEXT STEPS**

5.1 Following commencement of this study, the financial pressures on the Council and the Trust have increased significantly. Inflationary pressures have increased construction costs by an estimated 20 percent and worsening national government finances suggest that council funding may be further squeezed. Borrowing costs for the council have risen and could rise further. In addition to this the running costs of leisure facilities have increased significantly due to the rise in energy costs and minimum wage. These factors have changed the environment for leisure substantially during 2022. Given the scale of the anticipated improvement/redevelopment works the implementation of this will be phased. The timing of the phases will be largely determined by the availability of capital and the council's ability to sustain borrowing.

- 5.2 The vision outlined has many interlinked and complementary elements. A small number of these are complete or in the pipeline. For example, the running track and our improvements to parks and play areas. Many have funding identified such as football pitch and tennis court improvements. It is also hoped that through our strong relationships with health partners external funding can be identified to upgrade community venues.
- 5.3 The highest level of capital investment required is for the refurbishment/redevelopment of our leisure centres. Further work is required to finalise accurate costs for this work and to pursue possible funding streams. The vision, if approved by Council, will give us the basis on which to further engage potential funding partners and assess up to date costs.
- 5.4 By engaging Sport England throughout the process and aligning our vision with Sport England's new strategy, they have indicated that they would like to support the vision financially. The level of funding being offered is under discussion currently at national level. Other potential funding partners are also being pursued. For example, British Cycling have expressed interest previously in supporting a cycle hub in the east of the borough linking to Lee Quarry.
- 5.5 An exercise to evaluate potential capital receipts that could be allocated to the project will also be undertaken. A further update will be provided to Council when a potential partner funding is secured, the council generates significant capital receipts which can be invested in new facilities and the council's revenue budget position is sufficiently strong to sustain long-term large-scale borrowing. Only when these conditions are met will the council be able to deliver the first phase of the larger-scale improvement works to facilities.
- 5.6 Further design work to provide accurate costings is included within the cost of the initial commission for the feasibility. If Council agrees the vision, further design work will take place on the facilities outlined in this report.

6. RISK

- 6.1 The council own an ageing stock of leisure facilities that are still popular and operational but require significant refurbishment and investment. There is a risk in not refurbishing our facilities in the long-term as they will become increasingly expensive to operate and a failure to improve the offer may affect usage.
- 6.2 The council is not in a position to directly fund or use borrowing for the entirety of the proposals and therefore it will be necessary to seek partner funding and also source capital receipts that will contribute to funding the proposals. Seeking to press ahead in borrowing to fund the scheme in the short term would expose the council to an unsustainable financial risk.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1. There are no financial implications for the council arising directly from this report. However, the cost of implementing the full vision will have significant financial implications. The current financial situation for all leisure providers and the council is especially difficult. The council is expecting a deficit of approximately £1.5m this current year and the Trust are likely to have a deficit of approximately £700k. The cost increases being experienced are largely outside of the Trust's and the council's control.
- 7.2. The council has always sought to fund the vision through a combination of its own capital, borrowing and external funding. Establishing a funding package to improve the facilities is extremely challenging in the current financial climate. The council is working with funding bodies such as Sport England who are extremely supportive of the proposed vision as it aligns

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with their national strategy “Uniting the Movement”. This should strengthen the council’s ability to lever in external funding. The council has provisional agreement for funding contributions to new tennis courts and new 3G football pitches. The council will however have to identify capital receipts. The strength of the council’s revenue budget position to sustain long-term large-scale borrowing is a critical part of the large-scale funding to deliver the vision.

7.3. The current economic climate and the council’s resultant financial position is inhibiting its ability to deliver the full vision at this time. However, when significant external funding become available and capital receipts are achieved, the situation will be re-evaluated. As individual projects within the vision are developed and funding secured, they will be reported to Council or Cabinet for approval as set out in the Constitution.

8. LEGAL

8.1 This report sets out the council’s proposed vision in relation to leisure and wellbeing in the borough which at this point has no arising legal implications. As work progresses there will be a need to bring further reports back to Council for consideration. For those funding streams identified and already in train, officers will continue to address Council or Cabinet as necessary and enter into all necessary legal agreements and grant funding arrangements as required by the Constitution.

9. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Elements of this extensive programme will require equality impact assessments to be completed at a time when more detail is available. Developing a future vision for our leisure facilities is a key action within the councils Corporate Plan.

10. REASON FOR DECISION

10.1 This report sets out an ambitious vision for our future leisure and wellbeing offer. Part of the programme has funding identified. However, by agreeing a vision it will be possible to better secure potential funding partners.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Our Place Our Facilities Our Plan	Attached

Our Place Our Facilities Our Plan

A Community Vision for Leisure & Wellbeing Facilities in Rossendale



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Rossendale's Leisure facilities are amongst the Boroughs most appreciated local buildings. Residents young and old visit venues for a wide range of activities from swimming to adventure climbing, group exercise classes, sports, fitness, skiing and specialist health support. Most of our local leisure and wellbeing assets were built in the early 1970s and whilst they are much-loved by local people, they are ageing and in need of refurbishment and renewal. We recognise that we could not have a more challenging financial backdrop but we have identified funding for some elements. The larger investments in facilities however will require further work by the Council and partners to identify possible funding and to make it happen.

This vision has been developed with our partners Rossendale Leisure Trust, Local Health Stakeholders, and Sports Bodies. It has been produced in collaboration with our community through the Rossendale Connected network. This vision establishes a local place based community offer that uniquely fits the needs of Rossendale - one that maximises our strengths such as our great outdoors, our engaged community groups and our community venues. This is all underpinned by our ambition to improve our leisure centres as a central focus of the vision. This vision provides the basis on which we can talk to partners and explore routes to bring the vision to reality.

Why are local leisure centres important?

Rossendale's leisure centres are well used with over 750,000 visits per year. Leisure facilities like Adrenaline in Haslingden, Marl Pits and Whitworth Leisure Centre are anchor points in our communities and play a vital role in keeping 75% of our adult population active and healthy.

However, research from Sport England shows that around a quarter of adults in the borough do less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week, and we know that low activity levels can contribute to poor health and an increased chance of becoming unwell with serious illness.

Having the right leisure centres in the right place can help all local people to have the opportunity, confidence and motivation to be active. Complimenting these centres with a wrap around community and outdoor offer will "Unite the movement" and help to transform the health and wellbeing of people in Rossendale.

Facilities that contribute to health and wellbeing are also a priority with Rossendale's collaborative plan for health and wellbeing – "Our Place, Our Wellbeing, Our Plan". The timeline below shows how the plan was developed and why the facilities are so important to our overall plan for increasing wellbeing within communities. Our approach in Rossendale is all about working together, understanding the views and needs of local people and designing solutions together.

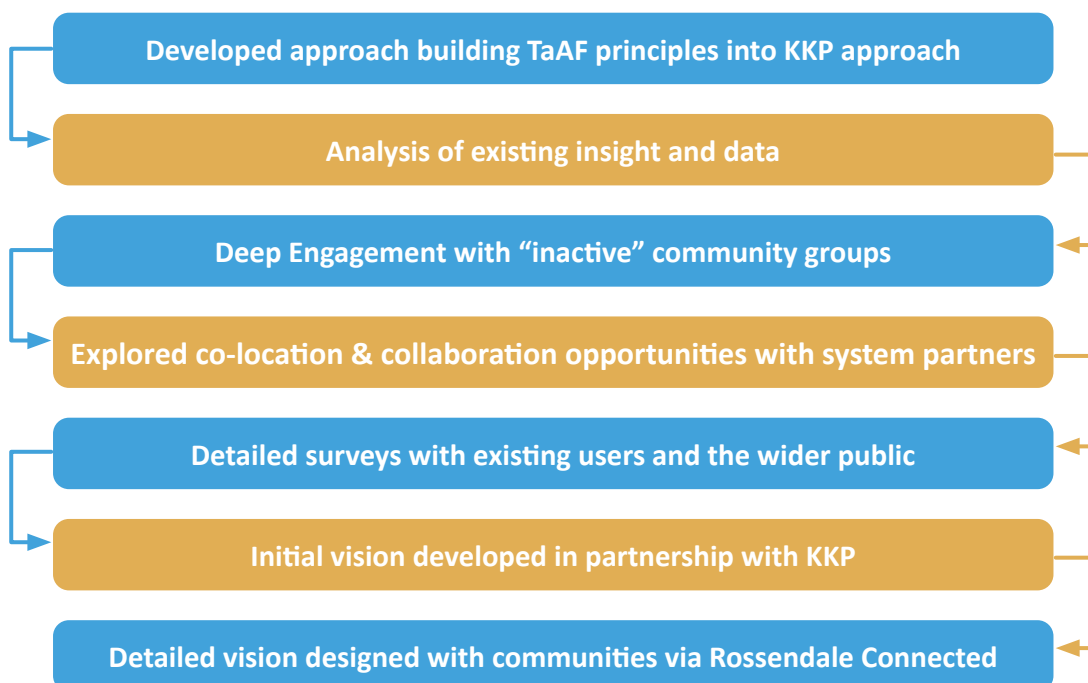


What have we learned?

What do we know about how people use leisure centres in Rossendale?

The recent Leisure Facility Review (conducted by the consultants KKP) advises that not only are leisure facilities in need of refurbishment, they also need expansion to meet demand. Adrenaline and Marl Pits in particular are operating at capacity, and far above national averages and recommended comfort factors. For example, in 2022, Marl Pits pool operated at over 90% capacity compared to the optimum 80% capacity for swimmer experience. At that time 700 children per week had swimming lessons, but there were over 500 on the waiting list.

Building on the work of KKP, we felt we needed to really understand what local people felt about local leisure facilities, and the changes that could be made to make it easier for more people to be active. The process we follow looked like this:



We talked to local groups in spaces and places that allowed them to comfortably and honestly share their thoughts on leisure facilities in Rossendale. We did activities together where we explored what a good health and physical activity hub might look like, and the features that would make them most accessible. We also surveyed local people and received over 650 responses.

What have we learned from our community:

- Local facilities within easy access of local communities is important, including provision in the East and West of the borough.
- Travel in the Borough is a barrier for some.
- Family friendly local community type facilities are seen as less intimidating and more likely to be used by those that most need them.
- Swimming is a preferred activity for lots of residents of all ages and backgrounds.
- Facilities that support access to outdoor spaces would help link people to our natural assets.
- People are looking for spaces and places where families can be active together.

Our emerging vision: Local Activity Hubs

Our ambition is to provide a high quality Activity Hub in the West, Central and East areas of the borough. Each of these Activity Hubs will include a fitness offer, a swimming offer, and an exercise and sport offer, as well as being a gateway to the outdoors. So what does this look like in practice:



West

A refurbishment of Adrenaline to ensure its fit for the next generation including a new swimming pool and changing provision. We'll also provide improved cycling and walking infrastructure including outdoor picnic areas. We will work with health partners to see if new rooms can be added to allow health consultations from local clinicians such as nurses and GPs. The family offer of adventure climbing, laser tag and more will be retained and improved.

We will also work with Haslingden high school to open some facilities to the community and improve current provision, including a new full size floodlight 3G football pitch.

Central

The Marl Pits complex will be developed into Rossendale's Sports Village. The new running track would be complemented with a redeveloped pavilion. The Leisure Centre will be refurbished, and the gym and fitness facilities will be extended to provide more group exercise space, and a sauna and steam room will be added to create a more holistic wellbeing experience. We will work with health partners to see if new rooms can be added to allow health consultations from local clinicians such as nurses and GPs.

We will also work with high schools in the area to open facilities to the community and improve current provision, including a refurbishment of the full size floodlit 3G football pitch at VLA.



East

A new community facility to serve the East of the Borough. The new centre will include swimming pool, fitness space and community activity room that can be used for some sports, group exercise and community activities. We will work with British Cycling to explore a possible trail head centre which will link to the Scout Moor and Cowm mountain biking spaces.

We will work closely with Whitworth high school and seek to provide quality sports and activity space to local people.

Our Community Venues

Rossendale already has brilliant community centres and venues across the borough. These venues are trusted local spaces where local people feel comfortable, supported and welcome. Our discussions with local people suggest they are much more likely to take part in activities in known local venues. Rossendale Connected has grown to be a network of community groups that are changing Rossendale for the better. There are already a brilliant range of activities happening in these venues and our vision is to build on those strong foundations and provide additional support and equipment to enhance the physical activity offer.

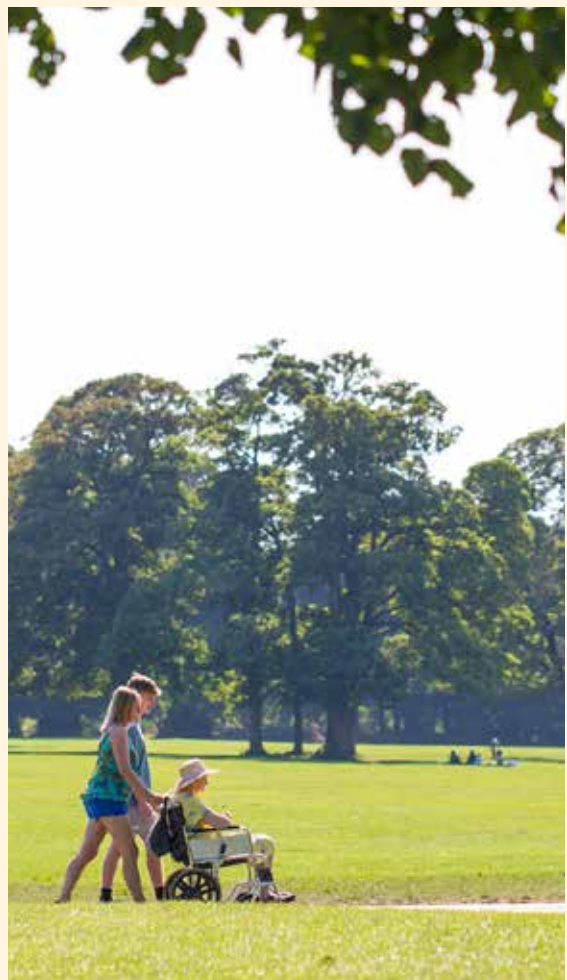
Virtual Group Exercise:

Many of our community venues have rooms and halls that would be brilliant for accessible group exercise classes. However, for small venues, instructor costs can be prohibitive. We want to provide each community venue with a large screen with pre-loaded group exercise classes. These classes will be recordings of local people from local sport and leisure venues so that as confidence grows, participants might decide to go and try a live class at a local physical activity hub.



Gateway to the Outdoors:

Working collaboratively with our venues we will invest to make venues a local gateway to the outdoors. We hope to make cafés visitor friendly for those with muddy shoes. Walking maps and cycles racks available for those who wish to travel, and where possible open up and improve existing outdoor spaces like fields and playgrounds to make the most of outdoor spaces.



Our emerging vision: Our Great Outdoors

Something for everyone!

Rossendale is blessed with fantastic open spaces. When asked over fifty percent of residents said they want us to consider outdoors and not just indoors. Our ambition for facilities in the Valley is to provide something for everyone, across the geography of the borough. This means play facilities in our parks for all ages, gateways to the outdoors and improved playing pitches and tennis courts in our parks. Ski Rossendale goes from strength to strength and we will soon be adding the longest tubing track in the UK.

Our Great Outdoors

We will continue to work to improve outdoor spaces and actively attract people to the outdoors.



Parks

Our ambition is to build on our “Love Parks” programme which has brought Green Flag status to Stubblelee Park and developed long term masterplans for Whitaker, Victoria and Edgeside. This has attracted external funding for a new skate park and pump tracks as well as the renewal of many play areas for our younger residents. Three more major refurbishments are planned for next year. We are working with the Lawn Tennis Association to refurbish our tennis courts at Stubblelee and Whitaker Park to provide activity for all ages.



Walking & Cycling

By working with our partners at the County Council, Together an Active Future and within our cycling forums we want to further develop our maps, signage, accessible routes, upgrades to paths and greenway infrastructure so that everyone in the borough has easy access to walk and cycle in safe and enjoyable spaces. We will enhance our leisure centres to be outdoor gateways which will connect people with the outdoors and make exploring the borough on foot or on bike much easier.



Playing Pitches and Green Spaces

We will work to ensure that we have high quality playing pitches across the borough through a flagship partnership with the FA so that young people, families, clubs and groups can get back to grass, connect with nature and enjoy team sports and activities together.

We have allocated investment through the Shared Prosperity Fund so we can partner with the Football Foundation and Lancashire FA to bring high quality 3G pitches to the West and East of the borough.

Linking it all together

Leisure centres are significant community assets that can make a real difference to the lives of residents. We do need a long term vision to maximise the benefit that people get from our centres, but in Rossendale we are going much further.

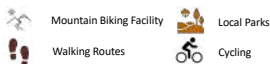
By working with all our stakeholders and by listening to our communities, we have developed a vision that goes far beyond the renewal of leisure centres and is now a genuine community leisure vision for everyone living in Rossendale.

This vision makes the most of our natural assets, our fantastic community groups and community centres and then glues it all together through high quality local activity hubs.



Our Natural Assets (Free)

- Walking routes and maps
- Walking groups
- Cycling for travel and leisure
- Parks
- Open Spaces



Our Community Centre Offer:

- Working with existing community centres
- Invest in virtual group exercise equipment with local instructors
- Connect to walking and cycling routes "Gateway to Outdoors"



Local Activity Hubs

- Activity Hubs with gym, swimming and sports for each part of the borough
- Sustainable approaches
- "Gateways to the outdoors"
- Within walking distance of most residents



Next Steps

What we have developed in partnership is a long term vision that meets the needs of partners and the community. Elements of the vision such as football pitch and tennis court improvements do have identified funding streams. We continue to work with health partners to develop and fund the community offer.

Investment in our leisure centres will require a high level of capital investment and we continue to have very positive discussions with Sport England regarding shared investment in delivering the vision.

Funding an ambitious vision such as this could not be more challenging at the present time and we do not have the necessary funding available as a council. But by developing an innovative vision based on what the community wants and by working in partnership over the coming years we have the best possible chance of success.



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Subject:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Status:	For Publication	
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	20 December 2022	
Report of:	Director of Economic Development	Lead member:	Leader of the Council	
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
Contact Officer:	Mandy Lewis	Telephone:	01706 252568	
Email:	mandylewis@rossendalebc.gov.uk			

- 1. RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 1.1. Council authorise acceptance of £2,663,864 from the Government’s Shared Prosperity Fund as detailed in 6.1 below, being the allocation for Rossendale.**
 - 1.2. Council agrees to provide a capital contribute of £200k towards the improvement of the Haslingden market project.**
 - 1.3. To delegate authority to the council’s Section 151 Officer working jointly with the Finance lead member to agree the detail of any small amendment or reprofiling to the project funding or grant acceptance.**
 - 1.4. To delegate authority to the council’s Director of Economic Development to manage the implementation of the Investment Plan in conjunction with the lead member for Regeneration.**

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a key Government policy to promote economic growth and prosperity in communities as is part of the levelling up agenda.
- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was not a fund where a competitive bid was required. Rossendale was allocated £2.6m which the council has to unlock by submitting an Investment Plan.
- The Investment Plan was developed in discussion with the Rossendale Levelling up Board (which includes the Leader, Leader of the Opposition, MPs and community and business representatives).
- The Investment Plan was required to meet the conventions of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which were Communities and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills.
- The projects include capital and/or revenue investment spread over period until Spring 2025.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the Government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF) which the UK continues to participate in until 2023. The ESIF programme was essential for local regeneration, employment and skills.
- 3.2 Across the UK councils were all allocated a sum of money and required to submit an investment plan to be given access to the money. The three investment priorities which had to be addressed in the investment plan were communities and place, local businesses and people and skills.

4. THE INVESTMENT PLAN

Rossendale's strategic context

- 4.1 The council's Corporate Plan identifies a thriving economy and a high quality environment as priorities. This is supported by the council's Economic Development Strategy. This has five priority areas, including town centres as well as skills and employability. The council has adopted a Bacup and Haslingden 2040 Vision and Masterplan that set out our 20-year priorities for those town centres. All of these documents were used to identify priority projects which could be supported by the SPF.
- 4.2 The Rossendale Levelling Up Board has been meeting since October 2021 to lead and develop the funding bid submitted for the second round of the Levelling up Bid. This board along with an engagement with established community groups has helped shape the content of the investment plan.

Investment Plan projects

4.3 2022/23

- Capital improvements at Whitaker and Victoria parks and support for local groups
- New Town Centre Manager roles to enhance the town centres up to 2025
- A new Business Advisor to provide one-to-one support to local businesses, up to 2025
- Support for the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce Low Carbon Programme
- Micro grants for local Pride groups

2023/24

- Improvement works to be carried out to Haslingden market
- Fully funding Rossendale Works until 2025
- Micro grants for local Pride groups

2024/25

- Completing improvement to Haslingden market
- Feasibility study carried out in Waterfoot (with additional funding to support improvement work arising from the study)
- Upgrade of 3G football pitches at Valley Academy, Haslingden High School and Adrenaline Centre
- Micro grants for local Pride groups

- 4.4 More detail on each of the individual projects is appended to this report. It was originally anticipated that the 2022/23 funding would have been available for six months of the financial year. Due to the delay in releasing the funding the council will undertake some practical

reprofiling of the spend to make best value of the funds. This will not result in a reduction in the funding.

5. RISK

- 5.1 The principal risk of the project is that the council is required to sign a memorandum of understanding which sets out that the council will fund any project overspend. This will require the council to ensure there is robust monitoring of project spend. The council will achieve this using its Programme Board to monitor progress.
- 5.2 The other primary risk is that not all the projects can be delivered within the timescales. As there is only three months for the council to spend the allocation for 22/23 reprofiling of the spend will take place to make best value of the funds.

6. FINANCE

- 6.1 The council will receive £2,663,864 from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund with the capital and revenue elements being allocated as set out in the table below:-

UK Shared Prosperity Funding	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£	£	£	£
Capital	45,000	85,000	866,000	996,000
Revenue	275,857	556,715	815,292	1,647,864
Capacity*	20,000			20,000
Total	340,857	641,715	1,681,292	2,663,864

*Capacity funding is to cover the costs of developing the bid submission

Please note the annual funding profile was dictated by the Government with minimum levels of capital expenditure being set.

- 6.2 Each capital project will be subject to individual approval in line with the Council's financial procedure rules.
- 6.3 The Programme Board will monitor the expenditure for each of the individual SPF projects.
- 6.4 This report requests that Council agree to provide a £200k capital contribution towards the improvement of Haslingden market. £300k has been earmarked from the SPF towards this redevelopment, the Council contribution will enabling a total capital budget for this specific project of up to £500k. Officers will give consideration as to the optimum funding arrangements at the time of individual approval, which may include: use of capital receipts, internal borrowing and any other requirements for PWLB borrowing.

7. LEGAL

- 7.1 The core legal implications are captured by the Memorandum of Understanding the council is required to sign to accept the funding from the Government.
- 7.2 Each project will have its own legal requirements. Depending on the size and scale of the project and final proposals, further reports to Council or Cabinet or CMT may be required. Any resultant procurements will be carried out in accordance with the Constitution and public contract regulations.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The project will support the council's Corporate Plan objectives. Consultation has taken place with the LUF Board, lead member and MP. Any equality implications related to the proposed projects will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

The UKSPF Investment Plan, if successful, will deliver a range of revenue and capital projects which will help support improvement in our town centres, improve quality of leisure facilities and support local businesses. This will support our economic development and community aspirations. This report seeks approval for acceptance of the SPF funding.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Briefing on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus, Local Government Association	https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/briefing-uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus

SHARED PROSPERITY FUND PROJECTS

1. Haslingden market development

Strategic objective: to significantly improve Haslingden town centre.

Total cost: up to £500k. £300k from SPF and £200k to be funded by Rossendale Council

The funding will be used to focus on expanding the offer and could also provide for spill out seating or pop up stalls, encouraging entrepreneurship and promotional space for existing businesses. This will incorporate some of the Heritage Fund community projects such as cookery classes/demonstrations and craft sessions. It is envisaged the work would build on and support the NLHF funded redevelopment of Upper Deardengate.

The project would be developed based on further dialogue with the existing traders and the Haslingden 2040 Board. A concept design for the redeveloped market will be produced for further discussion with the Board.

2. Waterfoot Action Plan

Strategic objective: to reinvigorate the local business environment in Waterfoot.

Total cost: £300k

The funding will be used to explore options for the future usage of the shopping arcade in Waterfoot. Locally, the arcade is known as 'Trickett's Arcade'. The interior of the arcade has been empty and vacant for over 70 years and there are a number of vacant units on the exterior of the arcade. Currently the exterior of the building is in declining condition and needs work. This would address a long-term problem at the core of economic activity in Waterfoot.

Feasibility work will be undertaken which will result in a clear action plan and prepare for future external funding opportunities. Up to £100k will be used to fund the feasibility study and up to £200k of funding will be used to support local practical improvement works to be determined as a result of the action plan. Typically this is likely to include improving shop fronts and support local events to draw in business activity.

3. Rossendale Works

Strategic objective: to work with schools, colleges and businesses to match future business opportunities with the right skill provision

Total cost: £345k (over 2 years)

Rossendale Works is a highly successful skills programme, previously funded by ESIF. Over the last three years this has placed over 140+ people into paid work. The programme is currently funded up to December 2023 and run in partnership with Rossendale Council, DWP and Active Lancashire (who are the commissioned provider).

The funding will be used to extend the duration of the existing programme, building on its strong achievements to date. The programme will aim to place more unemployed people into paid work over the next three years, building on a strong track record of success.

4. Rossendale Business Advisor

Strategic objective: to support local businesses in post Covid business recovery.

Total cost: £173k (over 3 years)

The proposal builds on a successful grant funded role (now ended) which supported businesses during the Covid pandemic. The role will provide dedicated support to both start up entrepreneurs and established SMEs. The role will design and deliver up to workshops for businesses, working in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The Advisor will engage with up to business one-to-one offering business guidance seminars, guidance, grant funding opportunities and relocation enquiries.

In the past this successful role engaged with over 200 businesses in an 18 month period, delivered seminars related to mindset training, 60 second pitch, HR support, helped two major businesses to relocate within the borough and was highly valued by local businesses. We will be looking to replicate this success in the new role by providing a tailored approach to the needs of local businesses.

5. Chamber low carbon programme

Strategic objective: to support businesses drive down their carbon emissions.

Total cost: £70k

With the backing of the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, the low carbon programme builds on a track record of success. The ESDF funded programme's funding expires in 2023 and this funding will help the programme to continue in Rossendale. The programme enables local businesses to access one-to-one advice and support on driving down their carbon emissions. This includes a carbon audit at no cost to the business which identifies practical measures businesses can take to reduce their energy consumption. This is particularly pressing during the current surge in energy prices and growing numbers of businesses are seeking ways to reduce both their energy costs and carbon consumption.

The programme provides businesses with advice and dovetails with the council's Carbon Reduction Fund offer. This provides a specific focus on an agreed council priority – carbon reduction – with practical technical advice for businesses.

6. Victoria and Whitaker Parks Improvement

Strategic objective: to bring brightness and imagination to our parks and open spaces.

Total cost: £610k. £140k is being used from the SPF and the balance to be funded through matched funding via external funders such as the Lancashire Environment Fund, Viridor and Biffa).

In 2022 we have undertaken master planning exercises for both Whitaker Park in Rawtenstall and Victoria Park in Haslingden. We will use the SPF funding to deliver tangible improvement to these two destination parks. This will include:

Whitaker Park

- Refurbishment of play facilities to provide facilities for a wider age range. Matched funding will be used to trigger a wider redevelopment of the play area, path improvement, drainage works and resetting gulleys.
- We will work in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association to redevelop two old existing tennis courts, to see them relaid with a new playing surface and surrounding works to bring this facility back into usage.

Victoria Park

- Refurbishment of the existing skate park to make this a facility fit for the twenty-first century. Again, matched funding will be used to develop the new facility making it attractive for a wider age range of young people.

- Funding will be used to improve the gated entrance to the park to make it more visually appealing.

7. Town Improvement Teams

Strategic objective: to support each of our town centres to have their own unique offer and improve them as a destination for shoppers and visitors.

Total cost: up to £778k revenue (up until Spring 2025)

To enhance our town centres we will create Town Managers, supported by a team of Town Centre Caretakers. The Town Manager will be the key point of contact for local businesses and groups. They will facilitate events, be an ambassador for the town, support the existing Civic Pride groups and make a more effective link between the groups and the council's Operations Team.

The Town Centre Caretakers will provide a dedicated fly-tip removal team for each town centre speeding up both fly-tip collection and litter bin emptying. They will provide greater street cleansing, litter bin emptying and litter pick resource to ensure the town centres are kept clean and tidy.

8. 3G Football Pitch upgrades

Strategic objective: to provide better access to and take up of improved leisure facilities as a key part of the council's long-term vision for improving leisure facilities.

Total cost: up to £250k from SPF (supplemented by contributions from s106 monies, Haslingden High School and the Football Foundation).

The funding will be used to replace two existing 3G outdoor artificial football pitches, and provide one new pitch at three venues: Valley Academy (in Bacup), Haslingden High School and the Adrenaline Centre (at Haslingden). The two existing pitches at Valley Academy and the Adrenaline Centre are beyond their useful life. Local football groups are having to use out of borough pitches to meet their need.

9. Micro grants for 'Pride' groups

Strategic objective: to expand the help to local voluntary groups across Rossendale to improve our open public spaces.

Total cost: £150k revenue (over three years)

Rossendale has a large number of 'Civic Pride' groups. The funding will be used to provide plants, equipment and practical support to all of these 'Pride' groups. This will help them bring brightness, colour and imagination to a huge number of open spaces and support their army of litter-pickers.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-	
<p>Rossendale BC notes that World AIDS Day on the 1st December is an opportunity to show support and solidarity for people living with HIV. Furthermore, we remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS and we honour them by breaking down the stigma of living with HIV. We fully support World AIDS Day and supports the objectives of the national HIV Action Plan, which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring effective co-ordination of prevention, treatment and care 2. Reducing levels of undiagnosed HIV and transmission in the UK 3. Effective monitoring of HIV resources and improved accountability. We commit that moving forwards we will fly the “red ribbon” flag on 1st December each year on World AIDS Day and during the week after we will promote the sale of Red Ribbons at public points controlled by Council <p>Rossendale BC further notes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thanks to advances in clinical treatment, people living with HIV can live long, healthy, fulfilling lives. 2. People living with HIV have their rights protected under the Equality Act 2010. 3. RBC recognises a number of voluntary organisations including the National AIDS Trust, Renaissance UK, George House Trust and Terence Higgins Trust and commends them for their work in helping people living with HIV and their families. 	
Date of Council Meeting:-	20 th December 2022
Notice submitted from	
Councillor Scott Smith	Date: 7 th December 2022
Councillor Steve Hughes	Date: 12 th December 2022
Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Karen Spencer	
Comments: No additional comments	Date: 12 th December 2022
Notice received and validated by the Monitoring Officer: Clare Birtwistle	
Comments: No additional comments	Date: 12 th December 2022
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Neil Shaw	Date: 8 th December 2022