



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Environment & Communities
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Environment & Communities
DATE:	Thursday, 10 October 2024

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Environment & Communities
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All Wards
KEY DECISION:	Y

SUBJECT: Together an Active Future (TaAF)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Blackburn with Darwen Council is the accountable body for Pennine Lancashire's Together an Active Future (TaAF), one of twelve place partners Sport England has been investing in and working closely with since 2018. The twelve place partners have shared a funding pot of £100M to explore how system change, investing in people and creating capacity to think and do things differently could make it easier for people to be more active and reduce the high prevalence of inactivity and low levels of participation. TaAF has secured circa £13M from 2018 through to December 2025 to be invested across Pennine Lancashire.

TaAF has been working successfully across and within the six Local Authority areas (Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale, Ribble Valley and Hyndburn), both at a locality level as well as exploring universal approaches across the whole geographic footprint. There are currently over 50 different workstreams being delivered by multiple partner organisations to explore what works and what doesn't and to capture and share the learning back to Sport England and with other areas too.

The relationship with Sport England is very positive; TaAF is viewed as a very strong, high performing Place Partner and the learning that is shared from TaAF has informed Sport England's current strategy 'Uniting the Movement' as well as their ongoing commitment to expanding place based working to an additional 80-100 places by the end of 2025-26.

Over the last 6 years Pennine Lancashire partners have invested circa £7.4M of the allocated £13M, creating opportunities for sustainable change to benefit the 500,000 residents living in Pennine Lancashire. The remaining circa £5.56M is profiled for spend across the 6 locality areas and through universal and targeted provision through to December 2025. To continue to support this work, TaAF has successfully secured an additional £497,435 of lottery funding from Sport England to continue to provide essential coordination functions across the Pennine Lancashire programme.

Sport England is committed to this place based approach and to continue to work closely with TaAF. From 2025 to 2028 Sport England has committed a further £35M across the original 12 Place Partners to continue to capitalise on the learning and system maturity to date.

There is an opportunity to put a submission in for next phase funding, called 'Deepening' in early 2025 to provide continuation of TaAF influenced activity across Pennine Lancashire through to 2028.

TaAF, therefore has an opportunity to develop a collaborative submission to continue and Deepen the work from 2025 to 2028. The resource available for this period will be significantly less than the original allocation, indicatively around £4M and Sport England are ambitious in their expectations, leveraging collective power to address priorities in common. It is strongly recommended that as a high performing Place Partner, TaAF co designs a collaborative bid for Pennine Lancashire for submission early in 2025 and should the submission be successful Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, as accountable body, accepts the award on behalf of Pennine partners.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Notes the update on Together an Active Future (TaAF)

Approves the acceptance of the awarded £497,435 grant from Sport England for spend on Together an Active Future's coordination function

Notes the opportunity for further Sport England funding (December 2025 – 2028) and endorses the co-design process and timeline for a full Deepening bid to be co-developed and submitted on behalf of Pennine Lancashire in early 2025.

Approves acceptance and spend of Deepening funding, if successfully awarded by Sport England to TaAF

3. BACKGROUND

In December 2017 it was announced that Pennine Lancashire (Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Rossendale and Pendle) had been successful and was selected as one of twelve Sport England Local Delivery Pilot areas nationally. Local Delivery Pilots shared a £100m funding pot to explore how system change, investing in people and creating capacity to think and do things differently could make it easier for people in our places to be more active. Pennine Lancashire's Together an Active Future (TaAF) secured circa £13M (2018 to 2025), connecting more people and partners to strengthen their work together and create a sustainable and positive approach to physical activity.

In February 2018, Blackburn with Darwen Council Executive Board accepted responsibility as the accountable body on behalf of Pennine Lancashire partners for TaAF; ensuring that there is appropriate and structured financial, procurement and contracting arrangements in place to provide a transparent framework with the necessary assurances to manage and mitigate risk of the complex programme both for the Council, Pennine partners and for Sport England, the external funders.

TaAF has been working successfully across and within the six Local Authority areas, both at a locality level as well as exploring universal approaches across the whole geographic footprint; there are currently over 50 different workstreams being delivered. These include Active Schools and Active Madrasah initiatives focused on creating learning environments where children and young people are encouraged to move more. To date more than 9,000 children and young people have opportunities to be more active thanks to TaAF's resources.

In Blackburn with Darwen the work undertaken by TaAF is led through the Active BwD network of local community groups and organisations and is embedded within the Health & Well Being Board's Eat Well Move More strategy. An example of the benefit that BwD is gaining from the TaAF resource is the excellent We are Undefeatable campaign. Using videos, bus shelter posters, bill boards and social media reach to share the personal stories of local people with long term conditions to encourage others to engage with local organisations and groups to help be more active for improved health & well-being

has been well received.

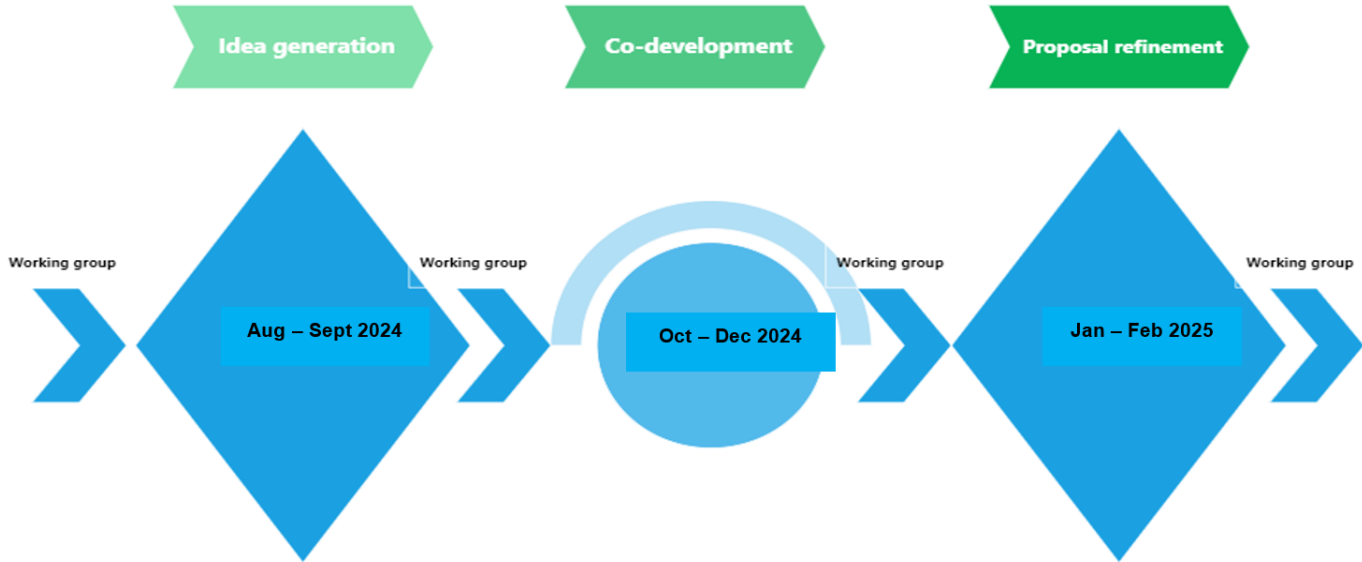
The relationship with Sport England is very positive; TaAF is viewed as a very strong, high performing Place Partner and the learning that is shared from TaAF has informed Sport England's current strategy 'Uniting the Movement' as well as their ongoing commitment to expanding place based working to an additional 80-100 places by the end of 2025-26.

Over the last 6 years Pennine Lancashire partners have invested circa £7.4M of the allocated £13M, learning what works, and what doesn't; creating opportunities for sustainable change to benefit the 500,000 residents living in Pennine Lancashire. The remaining funding allocation from Sport England is profiled to be spent by the end of December 2025.

Sport England is committed to this place based approach and to continue to work closely with TaAF. Through to 2028 Sport England have committed a further £35M across the original 12 Place Partners (Local Delivery Pilots) to continue to capitalise on the learning and system maturity to date; focussing on a more strategic and cohesive approach to address Sport England's four core outcomes

- Increasing levels of activity
- Decreasing levels of inactivity
- Tackling inequalities
- Positive experiences for children & young people

TaAF, therefore has an opportunity to develop a collaborative submission to continue and deepen the work from 2025 to 2028. The resource available for this period will be significantly less than the original allocation and Sport England are ambitious in their expectations, leveraging collective power to address priorities in common. It is strongly recommended that as a high performing Place Partner, TaAF co-designs a collaborative bid for Pennine Lancashire for submission early in 2025. The timeline for this process is shared below



4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

TaAF is a successful, trusted and highly regarded Place Partner for Sport England, with much learning from Pennine Lancashire being shared to influence future national guidance and strategic approaches to tackling inequalities and making it easier for people to be more active.

As accountable body Blackburn with Darwen Council continues to manage the financial arrangements across multiple delivery partners and organisations, providing robust processes to collect the required expenditure information and to collate this into collective, six monthly claims for the whole of Pennine Lancashire to Sport England. As of March 2024 (the last claim period) BwD Council had claimed £7,409,576 of external grant funding from Sport England.

There is circa £5.6M of remaining funding which is profiled and committed for spend by Pennine partners up to December 2025, with the current workstreams designed to have clear exit strategies or ongoing sustainability goals.

TaAF has successfully secured an additional £497,435 of lottery funding from Sport England to continue to provide essential coordination functions across the Pennine programme through to the end of December 2025. Unless Blackburn with Darwen Council, as Accountable Body approves acceptance and spend of this funding it will be withdrawn and the benefit to BwD and other partners will be lost.

Additional funding may be available beyond December 2025. There is an opportunity to put a submission in for next phase funding, called 'Deepening' in early 2025 to provide continuation of TaAF influenced activity across Pennine Lancashire through to 2028. However, this would be at a significantly lower level than the original £13M, indicatively expected to be less than £4M. Sport England are encouraging TaAF to co-develop a Pennine Lancashire Deepening bid. As accountable body, Blackburn with Darwen Council should acknowledge this opportunity, support a submission and approve the acceptance and spend of any future, secured Sport England funding for TaAF and all its Pennine partners.

TaAF will continue to develop the next phase, Deepening bid using the design framework diagram and timelines shown above. Sport England has agreed the following three core principles that will underpin the next phase of TaAF:

- Pennine Lancashire is the 'Place' (i.e. one place not six). Deepening investment and the nature of the future work is to support change at a more strategic level to further system maturity
- Deepening investment will not be continuation funding for existing workstreams. Accelerator workstreams were planned to achieve a clear and agreed set of objectives with emphasis on creating the conditions to ensure sustainability at the end of the period. The spread and variety of TaAF workstream areas, and the resource to support them, cannot be supported by the level of future investment available
- The work will continue to be based on people change and not 'things'....using the model of change that focusses on changing mindsets and changing behaviours to change systems.

To recognise the continued benefit to Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale, Ribble Valley and Hyndburn of collectively being, through TaAF one of Sport England's place partners and the additional resource, profile and respect that brings from this national system partner.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposals and recommendations are in line with and add value to the Corporate Plan, BwD's Place based Partnership priorities and implementation plan, the Eat Well Move More strategy and various other partnership policies, frameworks and strategies.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

TaAF is fully funded by Sport England. The table below shows the external resource secured, current grant claimed and remaining allocation.

TaAF funding from Sport England	
Total Allocation (2018 to Dec 2025)	£13,000,000
Grant Claimed (as of March 2024)	£7,409,576

Remaining committed balance	£5,590,424
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A further £497,435 of lottery funding from Sport England has been awarded to continue to provide essential coordination functions across the Pennine programme through to the end of December 2025.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council, as accountable body has a signed funding agreement with Sport England on behalf of Pennine Partners.

The Council, in turn has legal back-to-back agreements with each of the five District Councils, referring to the grant criteria and implications within the overarching funding agreement.

Any procurement and contracting arrangements meet recognised legislative processes and procurement requirements and as Accountable Body comply with Blackburn with Darwen Council's internal and external accountability frameworks.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

TaAF is fully funded and resourced through the Sport England grant.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

N/A

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Claire Ramwell
DATE:	12 th September 2024
BACKGROUND PAPER:	