

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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meeting date: 9 JANUARY 2022  
title: TaAF SCHEME OF DELEGATION  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To ask Committee to consider a scheme of delegation for the delivery of the project and commissioning of services from TaAF funding to facilitate development of the work.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
  - Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.
  - Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
  - Other Considerations – The grant scheme is a popular programme that helps groups in many cases gain external funding that benefits residents.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is part of the Pennine Lancashire Sport England Local Delivery Pilot (locally called Together an Active Future, TaAF). This is one of 12 such pilots in England funded by Sport England the total funding allocation nationally is £100m over 5 years. These pilots range in size from Hornsea, with a population for a few thousand people to Greater Manchester with over 3 million. Sport England commissioned the pilots because data showed that over 37% of the population were inactive (less than the recommended 150 mins a week) and over 25% of people were doing less than 30 mins of activity a week. Previous programmes have been based around short term, target driven programmes and grant funding, and Sport England recognise this isn't the approach needed for a large proportion of the population. It was recognised that a different approach was needed to try and engage with these people and make a lasting impact.
- 2.2 TaAF consists of a 'Core' Team that works directly with Sport England and in turn supports and guides work within each locality. Each locality has developed its own workstreams based on existing demographic information and local insight, the first phase of TaAF is called Pathfinder, and is not focused on delivering programmes, although they can be developed during this phase. The primary aim is on working with and building relationships with our target communities and partners. The work we do is in line with 'design principles' that have been put in place by the core team and apply across Pennine Lancashire.
- 2.3 BwD Council are the accountable body for the TaAF funding, and it covers the following areas Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale, BwD and Hyndburn, in turn, each locality has a sub agreement with BwD to draw down its allocation. RVBC are then the accountable body for TaAF in Ribble Valley. Only monies that have been spent can be drawn down, with evidence of spending. There is budget allocated to RVBC for staffing; 1 full time community engagement officer and 1 PT locality lead 3 days a week. It is

their role to work with the TaAF core team and with Ribble Valley communities, ensuring that design principles are adhered to.

## 2.4 Approach and Purpose

- Understand the true reasons people are inactive – recognise we don't always know the reason and need to involve local people to find out.
- Make it easier for people to be active – work out how we can make what we already have, stronger, better connected, and easier for people to know about and get access.
- Deliver a learning pilot shaped by local people – involve people and learn what needs to change to make a difference. This is an opportunity for something to be shaped by the people it is here to help.
- Ensure there are strong lasting physical activity opportunities – not about short-term fixes or grant funding one off projects. What we do has to make a sustainable difference after the funding stops.
- All this work takes time and hence the Pathfinder phase.
- TaAF is a very different way of working, we have been given the opportunity to take time, involve people and learn what needs to be different to improve how active people are now, in the future, and then how to make that happen.

2.5 To be successful, RV as with the other areas of Pennine Lancashire need to demonstrate to the core team and to Sport England that the design principles are embedded in the work which the Council does under the umbrella of this project. The focus is on test and learn and not delivery.

2.6 The staff working on TaAF need to ensure the work done makes a sustainable difference for Ribble Valley residents and for partners who will still be here when TaAF comes to an end.

2.7 The objective of the pilots is to change thinking and develop new ways of working. Unlike Sport England funding in the past, the pilots are aligned with new S.E. strategy and whereas previously an organisation would apply for funding for scheme, receive the funding and have an exit strategy built in on the basis then when funding finished the scheme might end with it. With the pilots, sustainability is a requirement. Also, because SE are asking to embed new ways of working with partners not previously involved with people being active.

2.8 All the pilots have struggled in getting people to understand that the funding available is not being grant based, nor provided to either support existing programmes of activity or fund something which has no sustainability to it.

2.9 TaAF consist of two parts, the Pathfinder element, which is the first phase aimed at gathering information and insight, working with identified themes or work streams prior to moving onto the Accelerator phase where the work identified in the Pathfinder is developed and expanded.

2.10 For RV, the themes are Mental Well-being, Rural Impact on Physical Activity, Schools and how they can help Physical Activity, Creating Connection Between Partners.

2.11 As with any funding award which the Council is in receipt of, groups believe there is the possibility their project or activity being funded as a result. Unfortunately, in this case believing that they can make applications to the Council for sums to help them, however that is not the way in which TaAF is set up to deliver the project. Sport England have made it quite clear that this is their money not that of the individual pilots to distribute as they see fit in some arbitrary manner. That said the decision making is designed to be locally based so SE are not expecting to be involved in deciding how

the funding is spent directly for the majority of work commissioned, what they do expect is the criteria set out being followed. However, RV as everyone else must, claim the money spent retrospectively and so a cautious approach is necessary to avoid the situation where funding is granted, and SE decide that it does not meet their criteria.

### 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 There is a requirement from Sport England that each area has a mechanism by which funding decisions can be made. So, for example in BwD, they have an overarching multi-agency health partnership which is linked with their health strategy, concerning eating well and moving more. Below that a scheme of delegation has been put in place to allow their TaAF lead officer, to provide funding to groups which have met the appropriate TaAF criteria up to £5k. Above this sum they have a scheme of delegation involving the Chair of the Health Partnership and a Steering Group of that multi-agency group to determine the funding request.
- 3.2 In RV we have the Health and Wellbeing Partnership chaired by Cllr Hindle. This would be a suitable vehicle to provide the governance for the project, although due to covid it has been unable to meet for some time.
- 3.3 Together an Active Future is owned and led by a collaboration of partners and residents in Ribble Valley. This has been made very clear by Sport England that it isn't a project owned by the Council or by one single organisation. With the above in mind, and with the backing of Sport England we have established a Together an Active Ribble Valley Partner Group. The group is made up of key partners who can help shape the work we do and collaborate to ensure any resources or support is used in the right way. The group is relatively new, and we are establishing a team agreement that will outline the agreed way of working, this needs to be aligned with a scheme of delegation allowing funding to be distributed appropriately and in accordance with the principles of TaAF.

### 4 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 In RV it is proposed that the Partnership Group consider the schemes for commissioning that arise from the consultation work in the Pathfinder and Accelerator phases of TaAF, the approval of these decisions would then be delegated to the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Community Services and reported retrospectively as required to the Committee.

### 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Sport England have recently published their strategy for the next 10 years, "Uniting the Movement", a main thrust of this is working at a local level and the outcomes of the Local delivery Pilots will help to develop this approach for their future funding models. This makes the status of the current pilots integral to the way that SE will develop in the future. For Pennine Lancashire this places the partnership in a unique position and therefore the role that TaAF can play both locally in helping our residents to be healthier and more active as well showing how we can work in partnership to deliver these outcomes makes the value of TaAF priceless.

### 6 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications.
  - Resources – The funding which Sport England have made available has been agreed and this Council will enter into an agreement with BwD for the TaAF project.

Any funds which are draw down as part of this agreement are all external to the Council's base budget.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – A legal agreement is a required part of the arrangement between BwD and RVBC for drawing down the funding allocation.
- Political – None arising as direct result of this report.
- Reputation – The award of Local Delivery Pilot status to Pennine Lancashire was and is a significant statement from Sport England, which emphasises the strength of the partnership working which exists in the area. It is unusual for RV to be the recipient of such external funding compared to our neighbours and this will have long term benefits for improving the health of residents.
- Equality & Diversity – This is inherent with the grant criteria.

## 7 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 7.1 Approve the delegation for project commissioning to the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Community Services as outlined.

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### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111