

**Meeting of:** The Cabinet

**Date** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

**Time:** 6.30pm

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



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

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

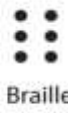
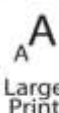
**Supported by:** Glenda Ashton, Committee and Member Services officer Tel: 01706 252423

Email: [democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk)

| ITEM | Lead Member/Contact Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                              |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A.   | BUSINESS MATTERS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                              |
| A1.  | Apologies for Absence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Clare Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer 01706 252438<br><a href="mailto:clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk">clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>            |
| A2.  | Minutes of the last meeting<br>To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                              |
| A3.  | Urgent Items of Business<br>To note any items which the chair has agreed to add to the agenda on the grounds of urgency.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                              |
| A4.  | Declarations of Interest<br><i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i><br>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. |                                                                                                                                                              |
| B.   | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                              |
| B1.  | Public Question Time<br>Members of the public can register their question by contacting the Committee Officer. Groups with similar questions are advised to appoint and register a spokesperson.<br>This is an opportunity to ask a question about                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Glenda Ashton, Committee and Member Services Officer, 01706 252423<br><a href="mailto:glendaashton@rossendalebc.gov.uk">glendaashton@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a> |

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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| ITEM       | Lead Member/Contact Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | an agenda matter which the council may be able to assist with. A time limit applies for each question and you are only able to address the meeting once. Please begin by giving your name and state whether you are speaking as an individual member of the public or as a representative of a group (question time normally lasts up to 30 minutes). | Questions can be submitted in advance of the meeting to <a href="mailto:democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk">democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a> in line with the Cabinet speaking procedure |
| <b>C.</b>  | <b>CHAIR'S UPDATE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>C1.</b> | Update from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Councillor A Barnes                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>D.</b>  | <b>KEY DECISIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>D1.</b> | Net Zero Terrace Streets: From Demonstrator to Scale – Innovate UK Grant Funding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Councillor Lythgoe/ David Smurthwaite<br>Director of Economic Development<br><a href="mailto:davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk">davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>          |
| <b>D2.</b> | Together an Active Future Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Councillor McInnes/David Smurthwaite<br>Director of Economic Development<br><a href="mailto:davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk">davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>           |



**Rob Huntington**  
**Chief Executive**

**Date Published:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**MINUTES OF: THE CABINET**

**Date of Meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Present: Councillor Walmsley (Chair)  
Councillors Harris, Lythgoe and McInnes**

**David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development  
Chris Warren, Director of Resources, s151 Officer  
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal, Monitoring Officer  
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy  
Andy Taylor, Head of Environmental Services  
Megan Eastwood, Head of Housing and Regeneration  
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Financial Services  
Natalie Atkinson, Programme Manager – Sport and Physical Activity**

**Also present 3 members of the public**

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Councillor A Barnes.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**Resolved:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

**3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No written questions had been received.

**6. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

An update was provided from the 8<sup>th</sup> September Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting.

**7. PILOT SCHEME – ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT**

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the 12-month pilot of a third-party company to provide on street environmental crime enforcement, and to delegate authority to procure and appoint a contractor should the pilot be successful.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- The team were thanked for their work on the pilot.
- Officers would direct to hotspots and monitor other issues so we can best address the issues of environmental crime.

**Resolved:**

1. Cabinet approved the 12-month pilot of a third-party company to provide on street environmental crime enforcement.
2. Cabinet authorised the Head of Operations in consultation with the Lead Members to procure and appoint a contractor in the event that the pilot was successful and it was determined that this was the most appropriate way to deliver the service.

**Reason for Decision:**

Approving the trial of a third-party service provider would enable the council to significantly enhance its capacity to tackle environmental crime through a cost-neutral pilot scheme and would improve the cleanliness and safety of its public spaces whilst maintaining financial and operational oversight.

**Alternative Options Considered:**

None.

**8. ROSSENDALE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

The Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Health outlined the report which asked Cabinet to formally adopt the stage E update as the evidence base, and delegate authority to make minor amendments as necessary.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- Officers were thanked for their hard work on this piece of work.
- It was important for people to support these facilities.

**Resolved:**

1. Cabinet formally adopted the Stage E Update, of the Rossendale Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy as the borough-wide evidence base for the planning, protection, enhancement, and provision of outdoor sports pitches and associated facilities.
2. Cabinet delegated to the Director of Economic Development the ability to make minor amendments as necessary in consultation with the lead member for Communities, Housing and Health.

**Reason for Decision:**

Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy as well as the underlying assessment report would ensure that the document could be used in the assessment of contributions arising from planning applications, as well as guide the priority of work to be undertaken (including maintenance), and identify where funding applications should be focused to enable the council to attract inward investment from organisations such as the Football Foundation.

**Alternative Options Considered:**

None.

**9. BACUP MARKET REVISED DESIGNS**

The Lead Member for Economic Development outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the RIBA stage 3 revised designs and delegate authority to procure and appoint construction contractors and make minor amendments to the designs.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- All those who have contributed to the revised designs were thanked.

- The consultation process was underway. Drop-in sessions were planned and details were available on the website. This would help inform the plans ready for submission of planning.
- Consultation would be for circa 3 weeks then further consultation would take place as part of the planning process.
- Public comments were welcomed.
- The accessible parking within the scheme was welcomed.

#### **Resolved:**

1. Cabinet approved the RIBA stage 3 design of the revised Temple Court, Bacup Market in order with the planning application.
2. Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development, Head of Legal Services in consultation with the lead member for Economic Development to procure and appoint the most advantageous construction contracts to deliver Temple Court Market.
3. Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development in conjunction with the Lead Member for Economic Development to make any minor amendments to the design.

#### **Reason for Decision:**

The Bacup Market Scheme would support the revitalisation of Bacup Town Centre, enhancing experiences for residents and visitors while increasing footfall and supporting local businesses. The works would preserve the town's market heritage, and complement wider regeneration efforts in the town centre, contributing to Bacup's long-term economic sustainability.

#### **Alternative Options Considered:**

None.

### **10. WASTE TRANSFER STATION**

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the appointment of Caulmert to conduct RIBA stage 4 in respect of the ongoing design for the proposed new waste transfer station, and delegate authority to carry out any legal agreements and minor amends as necessary.

The Chair provided clarification and context around the future of waste disposal, the options available and the potential impact on the council.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- This was an improvement to waste disposal in the borough.
- It would benefit council staff who were currently working in difficult conditions.
- The project was the financially responsible option.
- A change was needed for the processing of waste inside.
- Officers were thanked for the FAQs and the regular updates to the same.
- Officers were thanked for all their work on this project.

#### **Resolved:**

1. Cabinet approved the appointment of Caulmert to conduct RIBA Stage 4 at a cost of £211,585 plus 5% framework charge plus the cost of any individual surveys and permits required from third parties in respect of the ongoing design for the proposed new waste transfer station (WTS).
2. Cabinet delegated to the Head of Environmental Services in conjunction with the

Monitoring Officer, Director of Resources, Lead Members for Resources and Environment and Corporate Services to carry out any legal agreements and minor amendments as necessary.

**Reason for Decision:**

To engage Caulmert to conduct RIBA Stage 4 as soon as possible at a cost of £211,585 plus 5% framework charge plus the cost of any individual surveys and permits required from third parties to minimise delay to the build program.

**Alternative Options Considered:**

None.

**11. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 1 2025/26**

The Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services outlined the report which asked Cabinet to note and consider the council's performance during Quarter 1.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- Officers were thanked for all their work and to those who brought the report together.
- The update demonstrated the council's improvement journey. Residents could find this information on the website.
- It was clear that the amount of work the council conducted with others brought positive benefits to residents.

**Resolved:**

1. Cabinet noted and considered the council's performance during Quarter 1 2025/26 as detailed in the report and Appendix 1.

**Reason for Decision:**

Monitoring the council's performance would enable Cabinet to identify and consider any service actions, projects, performance measures or corporate risks requiring further action.

**Alternative Options Considered:**

None.

**12. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 1 2025/26**

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report which asked Cabinet to note the content of the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring report.

Cabinet was invited to comment on the report:

- Officers were thanked for their work and input to the report.

**Resolved:**

1. Cabinet noted the content of the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring report.

**Reason for Decision:**

To note the Quarter 1 monitoring report.

**Alternative Options Considered:**

None.

**The meeting concluded at 7.25pm**

\_\_\_\_\_ CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

|                                        |                                                                                        |                                            |                                          |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>                        | Net Zero Terrace Streets:<br>From Demonstrator to Scale –<br>Innovate UK Grant Funding | <b>Status:</b>                             | For Publication                          |
| <b>Report to:</b>                      | Cabinet                                                                                | <b>Date:</b>                               | 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025            |
| <b>Report of:</b>                      | Net Zero Street Officer                                                                | <b>Lead Member:</b>                        | Environment and Corporate<br>Services    |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | General Exception <input type="checkbox"/> | Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>     | Required:                                                                              | No                                         | Attached: No                             |
| <b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b> | Required:                                                                              | No                                         | Attached: No                             |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>                | Natalie Whitham                                                                        | <b>Telephone:</b>                          | 01706 252486                             |
| <b>Email:</b>                          | nataliewhitham@rossendalebc.gov.uk                                                     |                                            |                                          |

## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Approves Rossendale Borough Council becoming the Lead Partner in the delivery of the *Net Zero Terrace Streets: From Demonstrator to Scale* project.
- 1.2 Approves the acceptance of £149,867 in grant funding from Innovate UK to deliver the project.
- 1.3 Delegates authority to the Director of Economic Development, the Director of Resources and the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services, to make any necessary amendments to the Grant Offer Letter and accept it on behalf of the Council.
- 1.4 Delegates authority to the Director of Economic Development, the Director of Resources and the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services, to enter into legal agreements with delivery partners to establish the terms of participation and related matters between Rossendale Borough Council and project partners.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. Cabinet is asked to approve and accept £149,867 in grant funding awarded to Rossendale Borough Council by Innovate UK under the “Net Zero Living: Scale and Embed” closed competition. This funding will allow the Council to build directly on the current Net Zero Terrace Streets (NZTS) demonstrator project, which developed the NZTS methodology and tested its feasibility through the installation of retrofit measures and ground source heat pumps in three Rossendale homes. This work has positioned the Borough nationally as a leader in addressing the decarbonisation of terraced housing.
- 2.2. The new project, *Net Zero Terrace Streets: From Demonstrator to Scale*, will apply the NZTS methodology at a larger scale by testing the viability of up to 200-home clusters in Rossendale, Rochdale and Bridgend. Detailed surveys will be carried out on a sample of homes to establish local archetypes and create costed retrofit pathways. This will allow governance, finance and planning tools to be validated at cluster level, strengthening the case for future public and private investment.
- 2.3. Rossendale Borough Council will act as lead partner and accountable body, with delivery supported by Rossendale Valley Energy, Challock Energy, Looped Energy Communities CIC, Buro Happold and Abundance Investment. Each partner will be responsible for its own allocation of funding, with Innovate UK paying partners directly.
- 2.4. The total project value is £187,953, of which £149,867 is funded by Innovate UK and £38,086 is partner match funding. Rossendale’s allocation is £51,000, fully funded by Innovate UK,



covering project management, oversight and subcontracted technical services. No additional Council contribution is required.

- 2.5. Risks include financial oversight, delivery slippage, and community participation. These will be managed through a live risk register and partnership governance arrangements, with each partner accountable for its own costs.
- 2.6. The project will deliver clear local benefits, including preparation for a potential 200-home cluster retrofit in Rossendale, integration with the Council's Climate Change Strategy, development of local housing archetypes, and strengthening Rossendale Valley Energy as a local partner.
- 2.7. It will also deliver national benefits by demonstrating the replicability of the NZTS methodology across multiple areas, reinforcing Rossendale's role as a pioneer in net zero innovation, and leaving a strong legacy for the Borough as Local Government Reorganisation takes place.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1. In September 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and adopted its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy seeks not only to achieve net zero operational emissions from the Council's estate by 2030, but also to reduce emissions across the Borough, recognising the role of households, transport, industry, and other sectors. It focuses on four key themes:

- Efficient energy consumption
- Transport
- Waste and biodiversity
- Working together in partnership

3.2. Domestic emissions are a major part of the Borough's challenge. In 2020, domestic buildings accounted for around 33% of total borough-wide emissions. Rossendale has approximately 14,000 terraced homes, representing just over 40% of the Borough's housing stock. These homes are among the hardest to decarbonise due to their age, density, lack of outside space and the prevalence of fuel poverty.

3.3. In February 2024, Council approved Rossendale becoming Lead Partner in the Net Zero Terrace Streets (NZTS) demonstrator project, supported by £2.5m Innovate UK funding. This project has delivered:

- Installation of retrofit measures and a shared ground source heating system across three homes in Rossendale (two in Rawtenstall and one in Bacup). This tested technical feasibility and also ran the outcomes through the NZTS techno-economic model to calculate how much a householder would need to pay each month, and over how many years, under a no upfront cost approach.
- The development of the NZTS "product": a governance framework, enabling tools, and a step-by-step methodology which sets out what a local partner would need to do to deliver NZTS in their own communities.
- The appointment of two dedicated officers within the Council to lead coordination, finance and delivery of the project on behalf of Rossendale.

3.4. The demonstrator project has shown that the NZTS model is both replicable and scalable, offering a street-by-street approach to retrofit that is fair, affordable and attractive to communities. It has positioned Rossendale as a national leader in addressing the challenge of

terraced housing, which is critical given that these properties make up such a significant share of the UK's most difficult-to-decarbonise stock.

- 3.5. Building on the success of the demonstrator project, Innovate UK sought to allocate underspend from the Net Zero Living programme by launching a closed competition – “Net Zero Living: Scale and Embed”. This was open only to existing demonstrator projects and aimed to extend proven approaches, embed them in practice, and prepare them for wider replication.
- 3.6. The NZTS consortium was invited to apply, reflecting the recognition of the demonstrator project's success to date. Working in partnership with Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE), Challock Energy and Looped Energy Communities CIC, the Council has now secured £149,867.
- 3.7. The new project, *Net Zero Terrace Streets: From Demonstrator to Scale*, will run from November 2025 to March 2026. It will test the viability of 200-home clusters across Rossendale, Rochdale and Bridgend, embedding governance, finance and planning tools at this larger scale. By demonstrating cluster-scale viability, the project will make the NZTS product more attractive to both public and private investment and strengthen Rossendale's role as a national leader in net zero innovation.

#### 4. DETAILS

- 4.1. The *Net Zero Terrace Streets: From Demonstrator to Scale* project will build directly on the current NZTS demonstrator project by testing the application of the methodology at a 200-home cluster scale across three areas: Rossendale, Rochdale and Bridgend. Around four homes in each cluster will be surveyed and modelled in detail to create archetypes and costed retrofit pathways, which can then be applied across the wider clusters.
- 4.2. Rossendale Borough Council will act as the lead partner and accountable body, providing project management, financial oversight and integration with Council policies and strategies.
- 4.3. Delivery partners are:
  - **Rossendale Valley Energy (RVE):** Acting as the Local Development Vehicle in Rossendale. RVE will lead local community engagement and governance testing, and will subcontract Abundance Investment to provide financial modelling support.
  - **Challock Energy:** Acting as the Local Development Vehicle for Bridgend, testing governance and delivery structures in a different local context.
  - **Looped Energy Communities CIC:** Providing expertise on governance frameworks, finance structures and digital integration.
  - **Buro Happold (subcontractor):** Responsible for surveys and archotyping, managing the Building Energy Model (BEM) to Techno-Economic Model (TEM) pipeline, assuring technical design quality, and work with Abundance Investment to integrate technical outputs into the financial model.
  - **Abundance Investment (subcontractor to RVE):** Supporting the financial modelling of clusters, working in collaboration with Buro Happold to align the techno-economic modelling with household finance models.

- 4.4. The partners will also develop the Fairer Warmth platform as a digital foundation for the programme, helping to manage data, assure quality, and support residents through the retrofit process.
- 4.5. By the end of the project, the NZTS methodology will have been tested and validated at cluster scale, providing Rossendale with the governance tools, technical evidence and finance pathways needed to prepare for large-scale retrofit across the Borough, while strengthening the case for public and private investment.

## 5. RISK

5.1. In accepting this grant, the Council will act as the lead organisation for the project. While the total award is £149,867 across all delivery partners, each partner is responsible for managing and reporting their own allocation. Rossendale Borough Council's role is to provide project management, oversight and assurance to Innovate UK as the accountable body.

5.2. The following risks are relevant to the Council in accepting the award:

- **Financial oversight:** Although Innovate UK pays partners directly, the Council must ensure all claims are eligible and compliant. The consortium agreement will make clear that each partner is accountable for its own allocation and must comply with Innovate UK Funding Conditions.
- **Cashflow and administration:** The Council will need to cash flow its own spend until reimbursed quarterly by Innovate UK. This has been carefully profiled and will be managed through existing Council financial processes.
- **Delivery risk:** Slippage in technical assessments, data collection or governance development could affect project milestones. Regular stand-up meetings and Steering Committee oversight will keep delivery on track, with specialist tasks subcontracted to experienced organisations such as Buro Happold and Abundance.
- **Community and reputational risk:** Low resident engagement in Rossendale could affect delivery and weaken outcomes. RVE will act as the Local Development Vehicle, using established local trust and relationships to support participation.
- **External risk:** Policy changes, energy market volatility or shifts in investor appetite could alter the testing environment. Models will be stress-tested against different scenarios and aligned with national programmes such as ECO and the Warm Homes Plan.

5.3. These risks will be managed through a live risk register, reviewed monthly by the Steering Committee chaired by RBC, with clear ownership and agreed actions.

## 6. FINANCE

6.1. The total value of the project is £187,953, of which £149,867 will be provided by Innovate UK. The remaining £38,086 will be contributed by partners as in-kind match funding.

6.2. Allocations are as follows:

- **Rossendale Borough Council (lead):** £51,000 (100% funded by Innovate UK). This covers project management, oversight and subcontracted technical services.
- **Challoch Energy (partner):** £27,686, of which £19,380 will be funded by Innovate UK and £8,306 will be provided by Challoch as match funding.

- **Looped Energy Communities CIC (partner):** £99,267, of which £69,487 will be funded by Innovate UK and £29,780 will be provided by Looped as match funding.
- **Rossendale Valley Energy Ltd (partner):** £10,000, fully funded by Innovate UK.

- 6.3. Innovate UK pays funding directly to each organisation for their share of costs. Each partner is responsible for managing its own allocation, with Rossendale Borough Council providing oversight as the accountable body.
- 6.4. There is no additional financial contribution required from Rossendale Borough Council beyond existing staff resource already approved for the current NZTS demonstrator project.
- 6.5. The project represents strong value for money for Rossendale, bringing in £51,000 of direct funding to the Council and leveraging nearly £150,000 of external investment and partner resource into the Borough at no additional cost to the authority.
- 6.6. Officers will submit appropriate claims for funding off the back of expenditure, this will lead to an immaterial impact on cash flow which will be managed in the normal course of business.
- 6.7. There are no wider revenue budget considerations not already noted in the report.

## **7. LEGAL**

- 7.1. Cabinet approval is required to accept external grant funding between £100,000.01 and £250,000.
- 7.2. The Council will enter into a Grant Offer Letter with Innovate UK. This will set out the terms and conditions of funding and place responsibility on the Council as the accountable body.
- 7.3. A further legal agreement, drafted on Innovate UK's standard terms, will also be signed by all delivery partners. This agreement sets out roles, responsibilities and the management of funding, with each partner accountable for its own allocation.

## **8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. The project supports delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, particularly the themes of efficient energy consumption and working together in partnership. It will also contribute to borough-wide emissions reduction by addressing the challenges of terraced housing and developing approaches that are fair and affordable for residents.
- 8.2. No equality or biodiversity implications have been identified. The project is expected to have a positive impact on households in or at risk of fuel poverty by testing finance models that require no upfront cost from residents.

## **9. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 9.1. Accepting this funding will:
  - Secure nearly £150,000 of external investment at no cost to the Council.
  - Deliver direct benefits for Rossendale, including preparing for a potential up to 200-home cluster retrofit, developing local housing archetypes, and integrating outputs into the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Warm Homes planning.

- Strengthen the Council's relationship with Rossendale Valley Energy as a trusted local delivery partner and provide governance, finance and digital tools that can be applied across the Borough in future.
- Maintain Rossendale's national profile as a leader in addressing the challenge of terraced housing through the Net Zero Terrace Streets programme.
- Ensure that the Borough retains influence and leaves a strong legacy in the field of net zero and housing decarbonisation, as Local Government Reorganisation takes place.

| Background Papers                                                             |                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Document                                                                      | Place of Inspection                                                      |
| Council Report: Net Zero Terrace Streets demonstrator project (February 2024) | <a href="#">28th February 2024: Council   Rossendale Borough Council</a> |

|                                       |                                                                                      |                          |                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>                       | Together an Active Future Project                                                    | <b>Status:</b>           | For Publication                                                          |
| <b>Report to:</b>                     | Cabinet                                                                              | <b>Date:</b>             | 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025                                            |
| <b>Report of:</b>                     | Director of Economic Development                                                     | <b>Portfolio Holder:</b> | Communities, Housing, Health and Wellbeing                               |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>General Exception</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>    | Required:                                                                            | No                       | Attached: No                                                             |
| <b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b> | Required:                                                                            | No                       | Attached: No                                                             |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>               | Natalie Atkinson                                                                     | <b>Telephone:</b>        | 07483 192232                                                             |
| <b>Email:</b>                         | natalieatkinson@rossendalebc.gov.uk                                                  |                          |                                                                          |

## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet agrees to accept funding from Blackburn with Darwen Council for the Deepening phase of the Together an Active Future (TaAF) programme, subject to the grant funding agreement.
- 1.2 Approve the continuation of the current delivery model delivered via Rossendale Leisure Trust.
- 1.3 Delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Lead members for Resources and Communities Housing and Health to agree future amendments to the Deepening phase scope and resource allocation.
- 1.4 Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to sign all necessary grant funding and legal agreements.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- To outline the next phase of the TaAF programme (2026–2028) known as “Deepening” and seek approval for the funding and delivery approach for Rossendale.
- To confirm the Council’s participation in the Deepening phase and approve the acceptance of the £112,500 place-based resource allocated to the Council.

## 3. BACKGROUND

### 3.1 TaAF Overview and Transition to Deepening

TaAF is a Sport England-funded whole-system initiative that has sought to increase physical activity and health wellbeing across Pennine Lancashire. Following the Pathfinder and Accelerator phases (2017–2025), the programme enters a new Deepening phase which will cover the period from January 2026 to March 2028. The Deepening phase is designed to sustain and build on the impact of earlier investment through a focus on effective workstreams, strengthening systems leadership, enhancing collaboration, and embedding sustainable practices into Rossendale.

### 3.2 Deepening Phase Investment and Structure

- Each of the six Pennine Lancashire localities will receive £112,500 to deliver a place-based Deepening programme.
- Three priority themes for deeper investment have been identified:
  - Active Environments
  - Education Settings (Schools and Islamic Faith)
  - Primary Care
- These are supported by enabling functions including:
  - Programme teams
  - Systems leadership development and capacity building

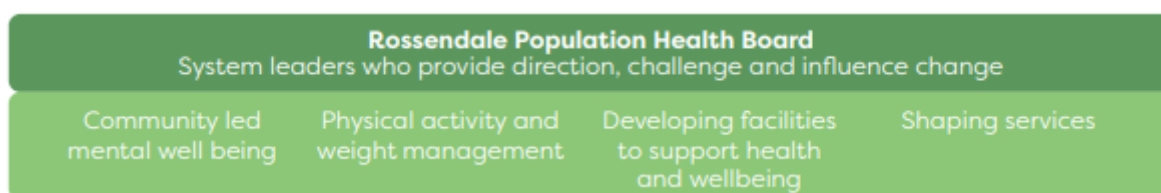
- Evaluation and continuous learning

These functions are intrinsically linked with our Sports and Physical Activity Strategy and Health Plan.

### 3.3 Rossendale's role

Rossendale will continue to be an active contributor to the Deepening phase. The population health board of system stakeholders will remain central to governance, with strategic oversight by the TaAF partnership and operational delivery by Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT), pending updated funding agreements.

### 3.4 The board, which is a collective of leaders within sport, health, community, and physical activity will ensure the objectives and priorities of the Deepening phase are delivered.



### 3.5 The presentation included in the background paper highlights progress to date the main highlights of which are:

- Walk Rossendale – over 50 walk leaders trained in Rossendale, 14 weekly walks, 4 weekly park walks
- Rossendale Health and Wellbeing plan 2022 developed in collaboration with Rossendale Connected
- Rossendale ParkRun launched in 2024
- Rossendale has secured £1 million capital investment from the Football Foundation for its first 3G football pitch
- Balance bike sessions launched summer 2024 for children and young people

Spend proposal: £112k over two years

Year 1 and year 2

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Strategic oversight (CEO RLT)   | £2,000  |
| Strategic lead (RLT)            | £25,000 |
| Strengthening Networks (Events) | £5,000  |
| Developing Leadership           | £5,000  |
| Supporting Deepening Delivery   | £10,000 |
| Sustaining Peer Learning        | £5,000  |
| Total                           | £50,000 |
| January to March 2026 spend     | £6,000  |
| Total                           | £56,000 |

## 4. GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY APPROACH

### 4.1 The Council will act as the initial recipient of the £112,500 funding from Blackburn with Darwen Council (the accountable body for TaAF), and enter into a back-to-back agreement with RLT to draw down and manage funds in line with the agreement with Blackburn with Darwen Council.

- 4.2 The population health board with representatives from RBC, RLT, Primary Care Networks, and Councils for Voluntary Services will provide oversight and co-design priorities that connect Rossendale's local assets with the Deepening phase's strategic aims.

## **5. RISK**

- 5.1 All the issues raised and the recommendations in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- There is a risk that RLT could become unable to continue leading the project. In order to manage this risk, it is proposed that funds are drawn down in accordance with the funding agreement and passported to the trust. In the event of RLT becoming unable to continue, RBC would work directly with the network to complete the project through the Communities team.
- All financial risks will be managed through the funding agreement with Blackburn with Darwen and in turn RLT.
- There are no other specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report

## **6. FINANCE**

- 6.1 The total place-based allocation for Rossendale is £112,500 to cover the period January 2026 to March 2028. There is no negative impact to the Council's MTFS. Funds will be drawn down quarterly by RLT in line with a delivery and monitoring agreement.

## **7. LEGAL**

- 7.1 Legal and financial due diligence will be conducted upon receipt of the updated Letter of Variation and funding agreement from Blackburn with Darwen Council.
- 7.2 All legal agreements will be updated and amended to reflect this continuation of service.

## **8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The programme aligns with local and national policy aims for public health, wellbeing, and physical activity. It will maintain a focus on reducing inequalities and supporting inactive residents and those with poor mental wellbeing.

## **9. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 9.1 The Deepening phase of TaAF presents an opportunity to consolidate the successes of earlier phases while embedding place-based systems change. The report recommends proceeding with the proposed funding model and delivery arrangement.

### **Background Papers**

#### **Document**

#### **Place of Inspection**

Together an Active Future Deepening  
Together an Active Future success to date pres.

<https://togetherahealthierfuture.org.uk/together-active-future>