

**KEY DECISION NOT INCLUDED IN THE FORWARD PLAN  
(GENERAL EXCEPTION RULE 15)**

The following information must be provided for the general exception rule to apply

- Clear reasons why it is impractical to defer the decision until it has been included in the next Forward Plan; and
- Confirmation that the Chief Executive has informed the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- 3 clear days have elapsed since that notification was given.

<b>Date</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>
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**Details of Decision to be taken:**

The acceptance and deployment of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) funding to provide meals and activities for disadvantaged children in school holidays.

**Clear Reasons why it is impractical to defer the decision until it has been included in the next Forward Plan:**

The funding has historically been provided from central government on an annual basis without a guarantee of continuity and has been routed via Lancashire County Council (LCC) as the accountable body.

The Council became aware of the continuation of the HAF funding via LCC on 20<sup>th</sup> January. LCC requires that we confirm our approach to delivery and any partners by 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026. This means that the Council needs to secure a delivery partner (in this case Rossendale Leisure Trust) without delay, and passport the funding on receipt.

The Trust has delivered this programme on the Council's behalf and has developed the contacts and know how to deliver effective programmes. However, given the lack of continuity in the funding stream there is not a formally contracted resource employed within the Trust. Therefore, the Council needs to provide the certainty to the Trust to secure resource as soon as possible.

If the Council fails to secure a delivery partner there is a risk that the programme will not be delivered as required and disadvantaged children will miss out on meals and activities.

These circumstances leave insufficient time to forward plan the decision making for this valuable funding stream and to secure a delivery partner to deliver effectively in the early Easter holidays this year.

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Portfolio Holder and Date Consulted:** Resources and Communities, Housing and Health on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Proposed Consultees and Method(s) of Consultation:** Cabinet and Corporate Management Team via Report.

**Documents to be considered by the decision taker:** Report

**Status – For Publication**

**Date the Chief Executive informed the Chair of the Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Where the above cannot be satisfied, the date on which written notice was given to all members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** N/A

#### **NOTES**

Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A details of which are in this part of the General Folder.

1. **A Key Decision means an executive decision which is likely:**
  - a) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
  - b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising of two or more Wards in the Borough.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, the Council would regard any of the following as 'significant':
  - Any decision by the Cabinet in the course of developing proposals to the full Council to amend the policy framework.
  - Any single item of in-budget expenditure or savings in excess of £100,000.
  - Any decision which is likely to have a permanent or long term (more than 5 years) effect on the Council and the Borough.
3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee and Member Services Manager

**Date Notice Published:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026