

**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.

Date	19 June 2026
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Details of Decision to be taken:

To approve the Collaborative Agreement between Lancashire County Council and Rossendale Borough Council for the delivery of targeted smoking cessation interventions in Rossendale from the commencement date until 31 March 2029, and to accept and administer annual funding of £52,000 from Lancashire County Council with a programme to be delivered by Rossendale Leisure Trust.

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

Rossendale Borough Council has recently received the final Collaborative Agreement from Lancashire County Council setting out the arrangements for the delivery of a targeted smoking cessation programme in Rossendale. The agreement is intended to commence immediately following completion and will run until 31 March 2029. The programme is funded through Lancashire County Council's Public Health Grant and provides £52,000 per annum to support delivery of the initiative.

The agreement requires the Borough Council to continue with delivery partner Rossendale Leisure Trust, to engage smokers, provide brief interventions, increase referrals into Smokefree Lancashire and deliver agreed public health outcomes. The agreement also requires the project to commence within one month of the commencement date.

To achieve the objectives of the programme and ensure the timely recruitment and deployment of resources, the Council must enter into the agreement and provide certainty to Rossendale Leisure Trust without delay. Any postponement would reduce the time available to establish delivery arrangements, recruit or allocate staff, and commence engagement activity in line with Lancashire County Council's expectations.

Deferring the decision until it can be included within the normal Forward Plan process would create a significant risk of delay to the implementation of the project, potentially affecting the Council's ability to secure and utilise the available Public Health funding and deliver the intended health improvement outcomes for residents.

The programme supports the Council's priorities around improving health outcomes, reducing health inequalities and increasing access to smoking cessation support for priority groups across the borough.

These circumstances leave insufficient time to forward plan the decision whilst ensuring the project is mobilised and delivered within the required timescales.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Portfolio Holder and Date Consulted: Lead for Housing, Communities, Health and Wellbeing 19.06.26

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: 24th June 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: 24th June 2026