

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	20 February 2023
Title of Report	Proposal for Blaby District Council to run Physical Activity & Community Health & Wellbeing Services for Oadby & Wigston This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
Lead Member	Cllr. Nigel Grundy - Neighbourhood Services & Assets
Report Author	Business, Partnerships and Health Improvement Group Manager
Corporate Priority	Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek approval for Blaby District Council (BDC) to undertake work on behalf of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council in relation to Physical Activity and Community Health & Wellbeing from the 1 April 2023.

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 To approve the proposal for Blaby District Council to undertake work on behalf of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council for Physical Activity and Community Health & Wellbeing.
- 2.2 That delegated authority be given to the Business, Partnerships & Health Improvement Group Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Assets to progress the implementation of the proposal and make any minor amendments.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To support collaboration and develop resilience with respect to the Physical Activity and Community Health and Wellbeing Service and to align with our Commercial Strategy.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

Due to vacancies at Oadby & Wigston Borough Council (OWBC) an approach was made to Blaby officers to enquire if we would be interested in undertaking Sport & Physical Activity work and Community Health and Wellbeing work on their behalf.

Each year all local authorities across Leicestershire are required to submit a Strategic Commissioning Plan to Active Together to access Public Health funding to run activities to support residents in taking up sports and physical activity including exercise referral and falls prevention classes.

This year these commissioning plans need to be submitted by the 17 February 2023. Blaby District Council (BDC) has successfully bid and secured this funding for the past ten years. If the plan is agreed, then the external funding will be in place from the 1 April 2023 to the 31 March 2024.

If OWBC were successful in securing the external funding, they would not have the staff to be able to deliver the activities detailed in their plan.

If the proposal for BDC to undertake this work on behalf of OWBC is agreed, then any external funding secured by OWBC will come to BDC to manage and deliver the activities listed in their plan on their behalf.

4.2 Proposal(s)

The Health, Leisure & Tourism Manager working closely with the Business, Partnerships & Health Improvement Group Manager and the Group Manager for Finance, Revenue and Benefits developed a proposal that was presented to OWBC.

The detailed list of the work that BDC will be undertaking on behalf of OWBC can be found at Appendix 1, all BDC officers are fully competent in these areas and currently undertake the same role.

The proposal is based on the current staff structure, with the introduction of three new posts to be wholly funded from external funding secured by OWBC.

- Health & Wellbeing Officer 3 days a week covering O & W work
- Children & Young People's Officer working across both local authorities.
- Public Health Apprentice

The first two posts will be fixed term appointments for the period of twelve months from 1 April 2023 to the 31 March 2024. The apprentice is funded for three years by Public Health.

Alongside the above posts BDC will submit a bid on behalf of OWBC to secure funding for a mental health coordinator role which BDC has already successfully bid for.

Like previous partnerships that BDC lead on having officers that undertake the same role for more than one local authority means that we can be flexible to ensure that staff operate in those areas where the demand is greater.

Our residents will have access to programmes and classes across both Blaby District and Oadby and Wigston meaning they can attend a venue that better suits their personal circumstances.

Blaby will be able to achieve some economies of scale by commissioning external providers to run classes across both districts. Alongside this the development of the two Community Health & Wellbeing plans will also provide the opportunity to tackle jointly any gaps in provision or where we have the same health inequalities.

An agreement will be drawn up to cover this arrangement based on Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 which enables local authorities to share staff to provide a specific service or specialism. Any Section 113 agreement entered will contain appropriate break clauses and notice periods should either party decide to bring the arrangement to an end.

Alongside the above arrangement the Health, Leisure & Tourism Manager has been looking at how BDC can enhance our current physical activity and Community Health and Wellbeing offer which includes: -

- The development of a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Strategy & Plan (LCWIP)
- Review of the Playing Pitch Strategy
- Undertaking a Built Facilities Strategy
- Access further DEFRA funding (the current BDC Active Travel Officer post is funded through this).

All of the above will focus on improving the health and wellbeing of Blaby District residents. Over the last six months BDC have been working closely with partners to develop a Community Health and Wellbeing Plan, members have previously attended a workshop to input into the development of this. The Blaby District plan will be in place from the 1 April 2023.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

All relevant officers in both local authorities have been involved in developing this proposal. Alongside this we have met with Active Together who are responsible for allocated the public health funding to support sport and physical activities. OWBC will be required to take this through their own governance structure. Consultation has been undertaken with both authority's Finance, Legal and HR teams.

4.4 Significant Issues

There are no significant issues, a 113 agreement will be developed to cover the arrangements covered by this proposal. This agreement will cover a 12-month period with an opportunity to extend for a further two years. The agreement will also include appropriate break clauses and notice periods.

Key pieces of work	Timescale
To submit Blaby's Sport & Physical Activity Commissioning Plan to secure external grant funding	17 February 2023
To gain agreement from Cabinet Executive at BDC	20 February 2023
To gain agreement from OWBC	23 February 2023
Legal agreement signed by BDC and OWBC	End March 2023
To commence delivery of the proposal	1 April 2023

It is recognised that initially this will cause additional work for officers, but we have the right structure in place to be able to do this and one of the officers joining the team from the 1st of April previously worked for OWBC so is able to bring that local knowledge with them.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 The costs included in the proposal to OWBC include costs for HR, Finance, Legal, IT, administrative support and line management. This initiative has been developed to both increase resilience in service delivery but also achieve full cost recovery in line with the Council's Commercial Strategy. The total cost to OWBC for Blaby to provide both services is £97,520.

	2023/24
External Funding	£53,000
Sport & Physical Activity	£29,000*
Community Health & Wellbeing	£68,520*
Total	£150,520

* These are the costs attributed to OWBC.

- 5.2 As mentioned at 4.2 there will also be an opportunity for BDC to secure external funding for a Mental Health Coordinator role for OWBC.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1 The key risks and the mitigating actions to reduce the risk are detailed below.

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
External funding is not secured for either BDC or OWBC Sports & Physical Activity work.	Both councils have proven experience of writing the commissioning plans and securing funding. BDC has been successful in this for the last ten years. Senior managers from the two local authorities have met with the funder to inform them of this proposal.
Operating this service for OWBC comes at a financial cost to BDC.	All costs associated with operating this service including, IT, Legal, Finance and HR costs have been included in the proposal that was presented to OWBC.
Delivering the service across the two local authorities reduces the level of service offered to Blaby District residents.	The proposal includes two additional officers. The two team leaders will work across both local authority areas. Having one set of officers working across the two locality areas will offer a greater choice of venues for our residents to attend falls programmes/ exercise referral classes.
Key delivery staff leave the Health, Leisure & Tourism Team.	This team has a proven track record of retaining experienced staff. By covering a wider geographical area this will allow those staff that want to develop or progress within their career to do so. Both Team leaders within this team are on permanent contracts, undertaking this additional work provides them an opportunity to develop.
Reduction in Sport & Physical Activity Funding for 2024/2025	Leicestershire County Council and Active Together have already informed BDC that there is likely to be a reduction in external funding from 24/25. Several posts in this area are fixed term appointments so we would not extend these contracts. However, we would explore other funding opportunities to continue to be able to offer a sport & physical activity programme.

7. Other options considered

The only other option that can be considered would be for OWBC to recruit staff to undertake this work directly. This would not generate any financial income for BDC.

8. Environmental impact

- 8.1 BDC and OWBC have since the covid 19 pandemic offered agile working for staff. This includes a combination of office and home working and this will continue for the foreseeable future. This reduces our carbon footprint in terms of travel.
- 8.2 All officers will be based at BDC and where it is nearer for them to travel to a venue from home than come into the office they will be encouraged to do so.

9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

- 10.1 Appendix 1- Lists the services that will be provided to OWBC by BDC officers.

11. Background paper(s)

- 11.1 There are no background papers.

12. Report author's contact details

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