

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities and Leisure (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing))	Council	Wednesday, 27 March 2024

Bikeability Contract Approval

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Yes
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the outcome of tender submission between Lancashire County Council and South Ribble Borough Council to deliver Bikeability from 1st April 2024.
2. To provide an overview of the proposed funding value of £71,132.20, and delivery approach.

Recommendations to Council

3. To accept the funding from Lancashire County Council to deliver Bikeability. To note that this is for a four-year period and to accept the funding for the duration of the contract.
4. Establish the revenue budget to administer the funding which has been allocated to South Ribble.
5. Delegate to Director of Communities and Leisure in consultation with cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing to enter in to contract arrangements, agree, accept and implement the final delivery plan with Lancashire County Council.

Reasons for recommendations

6. The Council is already an experienced provider of Bikeability. To ensure that the Council is able to continue working with local schools and deliver cycling proficiency, we would need to ensure there is the appropriate resourcing in place to support coordination and management of activities.

Other options considered and rejected

7. To not receive the grant funding would mean that LCC would proceed to award the tender to a private sector provider for delivery within South Ribble and there is no guarantee that such a provider will deliver a quality service for residents.
8. To not move forward with the contract and receive the grant funding would leave employees at risk.

Corporate priorities

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Healthy and happy communities
Opportunities for everyone	Green and clean neighbourhood

Background to the report

10. Bikeability is known as “Cycling Proficiency for the 21st Century”. The programme aims to give children and young people the opportunity to understand the National Standard for cycling allowing them to travel safer on the roads. This is a nationally funded programme which is free of charge for schools to opt into.
11. The Council has a ten-year track record of delivering Bikeability. Following a tender process announced by Lancashire County Council, a submission was made to express South Ribble’s interest to continue delivering the programme for the borough.
12. The tender details provided for a four-year term contract, with funding provided at 12-month intervals over the course of the contract.
13. The Council has been successful in its tender and this report sets out the proposed details of delivery and funding.

Service Requirements

14. 80% of children in year groups 5 or 6 to be offered a Bikeability Level 1 & 2 course. The Council already achieves this as we deliver in 42 out of 47 possible schools which is a rate of 89%.
15. Provide support for children with SEND. To support this, Active Health have undertaken a number of training courses to provide inclusive training environments for children. Active Health have a number of partners with whom they are able to share adapted cycles for specific children.
16. Provide support for children who don’t have access to the correct equipment. The Council has a strong bike recycling network meaning that cycles can be loaned to children who don’t have access to a cycle and this is an offer we are able to provide as part of the programme. The Council also has a pool of additional equipment which children are able to access to ensure they can take part.

17. The funding stipulates that you must have an Internal Quality Assessor in place. This has already been resourced within the service, and resilience built in with two qualified assessors.

South Ribble Borough Approach

18. The Council has a strong track record and significant experience in delivering Bikeability at all levels, and in a range of settings. There is a strong school network in which trust has been built with the Council's instructors and we have repeat custom each year.
19. The Council has recently gone through an External Quality Assurance Assessment with the Bikeability Trust and there were minimal recommendations made to improve delivery. The assessor commented on the quality of delivery from instructors and the professional manner in which they operate.
20. The delivery approach will continue as currently operated. The current delivery model involves several instructors going to a school and delivering a combined Level 1 and 2 course.
21. Schools opt into Bikeability delivery when they complete the Active Schools Offer during the month of May. The schools are then timetabled between September to July.
22. Bikeability requires appropriate ratios of instructors to children. For some schools we require up to seven instructors to complete the Level 2 sessions. An example is one school where there are up to 42 children in one class, where the levels required on the ratio of instructor to children are:
 - Level 1: a ratio of one instructor to 12 children,
 - Level 2: a ratio of one instructor to 6 children,
 - Level 3: a ratio of one instructor to 3 children.
23. The proposed delivery approach will positively impact performance on the corporate strategy project "The Number of Wellbeing sessions delivered by the Council". As the sessions delivered as part of the contract will contribute to the number of sessions delivered.
24. The approach allows a vast amount of added or social value. The programme supports flexible employment opportunities for residents aged 16-70. This contract will allow the Council to offer new training opportunities to these staff members. Thus, providing short term, project focused opportunities enabling individuals to build their work experience and skills whilst undertaking education.
25. The Bikeability programme and associated service requirements has provided further social value with the development and implementation of a Cycle Recycle programme, which accepts donations of cycles which would ordinarily go to a recycling centre. These cycles are refurbished and used on short-term loan by Bikeability participants, social prescribing clients, and job seekers through the Job Centre. This culminates in a low-cost cycle shop each year where residents can access a full-serviced cycle at low-cost.

Funding and Resourcing

26. Funding will be provided over a four-year period, paid annually at 12-month intervals.
27. The contract award for 2024/2025 is £71,132.20. Funding is calculated based on numbers of places required to be delivered across the different levels (1-3).

28. Funding from the contract will support delivery through contributing to the costs of the Bikeability Coaches and project support.
29. As an existing delivery partner for Bikeability, resources are in place to continue delivery. The Council has 12 qualified instructors which are able to support delivery of the programme. This represents a significant investment in time and resources by the Council, which reflects value for money against the predicted contract award.

Timescales / Next Steps

30. We will receive the contract to sign from LCC imminently. If approved the appropriate director will sign and the contract returned to LCC.
31. Delivery will commence as per the current timetable on Monday 15th April.

Climate change and air quality

32. The work noted in this report positively impacts on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda.:
 - a. net carbon zero by 2030,
 - b. limiting non sustainable forms of transport,
 - c. limiting or improving air quality.
33. Providing children and young people with the training to use the roads safely on a cycle, gives those individuals the freedom and independence to make more sustainable travel choices for life. Ultimately contributing to creating future adults who travel by cycle more than by car.
34. The training provided gives parents the confidence that their child knows how to use the roads safely, and will encourage their child to journey to school and beyond independently thus taking cars off the road at peak travel times.

Equality and diversity

35. An Impact Assessment will be completed prior to commencing delivery and agreement with LCC on the proposed delivery model. There is a neutral impact on equality and diversity, as all groups are actively involved and encouraged to take part.
36. Active Health works with schools and children in lower socio-economic wards to ensure that children have access to the correct equipment. The team are also able to carry out repairs on cycles free of charge to ensure that they are safe to use, and the families do not have an added expense of a cycle shop service.
37. Schools which are in wards of lower socio-economic standing have the opportunity to work with Active Health to provide targeted extra-curricular provision to give children the opportunity to learn to ride or improve their cycle skills prior to the course.
38. The Bikeability modules which will be delivered (Level 1&2, Learn, Level 3), are aimed towards specific age groups of children, as below. However, the Bikeability contract support paid for programme which provides interventions for year groups across a primary school population.
 - a. Level 1&2 – Year 5 or Year 6

- b. Learn – Reception and EYFS or Year 1
- c. Level 3 – Year 7 or Year 8

39. All children in the specific year groups are offered the opportunity and actively encouraged to take part, whether they have any additional needs or disabilities or not. Active Health are able to work with schools and specific children to provide specialist equipment and additional staff where required. All staff have received Neurodiversity Training and SEND Training provided by the Bikeability Trust.

Risk

- 40. Should there be any decision to not accept the funding, then at least one member of staff would be at risk with potential redundancy.
- 41. Any delay in contract signing will result in a gap in delivery and reduced quality of service for residents.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

42. The report updates on the Bikeability scheme which is financed through external funding. Given the timing of the tender exercise, no previous assumption of income and related income budget has been made in the current budget for 2024/25; approval of the report would allow for the revenue budget to be updated.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

43. There are no concerns with this report from a Monitoring Officer perspective. Any contract arrangements will be checked by Legal Services prior to sign off. The risk associated with this scheme is considered low – it is to some extent a continuation of an existing scheme.

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Matthew Lloyd (Active Health Manager)	matthew.lloyd@southribble.gov.uk	Tel: 01772 625383	8/03/2024