

Local Government Reorganisation Prospectus of Services



Active Cumbria

Be part of it!

Context

This document has been prepared to support discussions regarding the hosting of Active Cumbria within Local Government structures in Cumbria beyond 1st April 2023. The report provides a summary of the following: -

- **Recommendation**
- **Background information**
- **Current operating model**
- **Future ways of working**
- **Requirements of a host and non-host authority**



Executive Summary

The following pages set out in detail the requirements of Active Cumbria from a host unitary authority, and also the benefits that Active Cumbria can bring to the host. In short, these can be summarised as follows: -

Requirements of Active Cumbria: -

- **To continue to be hosted and part of the local government system moving forward.**
- **Provision of Accountable Body status and legal responsibility for Active Cumbria.**
- **Provision of employing body and associated terms and conditions for all staff.**
- **Access to relevant policies and procedures of Accountable Body.**
- **Integration and connectivity with senior officers and elected members.**

Benefits for the Accountable Body: -

- **Access to a team of 17 professional officers supporting a wide range of outcomes through increased physical activity.**
- **No on-going budgetary requirements, as externally funded through long term arrangements with Sport England.**
- **Provision of specific support and direction through the functions of the Active Cumbria Advisory Board.**
- **Integration and support across a range of Council service areas, adding value across multiple workstreams.**
- **On-going kudos through regular promotion and media coverage of Active Cumbria programmes and services.**

Recommendation

The Active Cumbria Advisory Board recommended that as from 1st April 2023: -

1. **Active Cumbria continue to be hosted within the Local Government system in Cumbria.**
2. **Agreement is reached so that one unitary authority takes on accountable body status, and provide a range of functions and services, as outlined in this report, on behalf of Active Cumbria.**
3. **Active Cumbria continues to provide services across the county footprint of Cumbria, as outlined in this report.**

Background

Active Cumbria is one of 43 active partnerships which exist across the whole of England, and since its inception in 1999 has been part of Cumbria County Council, more latterly as part of the wider Public Health Team. Throughout the period the County Council has provided Accountable Body status, which has included legal accountability, employing body for the team of staff, relevant insurances and back-office services, and access to all associated policies and procedures.

As the strategic lead agency in Cumbria for physical activity, Active Cumbria aligns its services to support the achievement of both local and national Government Policy, and that of Sport England.

Its purpose is a simple one of 'Improving Lives through Physical Activity' and it works with many partner organisations, networks, and systems across Cumbria to support the achievement of a range of outcomes through increased levels of physical activity in communities.

Although hosted within Cumbria County Council, Active Cumbria is supported by an independent Advisory Board, who provide strategic advice and guidance to Cumbria County Council on matters relating to Active Cumbria. Such matters include strategic direction, financial performance, operating performance, risk management, and promoting all aspects of good governance. The need for an independent Advisory Board is a key requirement for receiving National Lottery investment, as is on-going compliance with the highest levels of the Government's Code for Sports Governance.

Active Cumbria's core function does not require a specific local authority budget. Around 80% of its operating costs, circa £520k per year, comes via the National Lottery, which is distributed through Sport England, with the remaining 20%, circa £100k per year, coming from other sources of local and national investment. This investment provides a professional team of 17 officers, working at a strategic and operational level across all parts of Cumbria. A staffing structure can be viewed [here](#).

Active Cumbria has recently secured continued investment from Sport England as one of its 130 'system partners' covering the 5-year period from April 2022 – March 2027 totalling £2.6m. As part of the funding agreement, Sport England has mandated that Active Cumbria continue to provide services across the whole county footprint of Cumbria.

The Advisory Board have considered Active Cumbria's governance arrangements on two occasions in recent years, most latterly to consider the implications of Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria. For many reasons, which are alluded to later in this document, the Advisory Board strongly recommended that Active Cumbria remain within Local Government structures beyond vesting day, and that as far as possible, maintain alignment with wider public health functions. This view is supported by the Public Health Design Team.



Current Operating Model

Active Cumbria currently operates across all layers of local government in Cumbria, providing support, guidance, and a range of programmes and services which benefit communities right across the county. It also connects with the strategic and locality-based health systems across the county, with the private sector, and voluntary sectors, playing a key role in supporting the thriving voluntary sport and physical activity sector.

Its 5 Year Plan can be viewed [here](#) and is aligned to National Policy for sport and physical activity, also contributes to many local plans and strategies, and is one which is focussed on reducing health inequalities, and increasing levels of physical activity in a targeted, and place based way. This Plan is further supported by a medium term Implementation Plan covering the period April 2022 – March 2025, which can be viewed [here](#) and which sets out a series of short and medium term deliverables aligned to the 5 Year Plan.

A recent addition to the services provided under the management of Active Cumbria has seen it take on the responsibility for Cumbria County Council's Active Travel for Schools Team. This change has seen the transfer of two staff and a small operating budget of £90k come across to Active Cumbria, providing greater connectivity and alignment between physical activity, active travel, and the carbon reduction agenda. An additional function being the management of the contract for the annual programme of Bikeability training in schools. This budget is now part of the wider Public Health budget, and it is anticipated that this service will remain within Active Cumbria post 1st April 2023.

Cumbria County Council has long recognised the added value that Active Cumbria brings to a range of its services. As such, it has integrated Active Cumbria into its Public Health function and does not make any financial charge for the provision of hosting services. Active Cumbria reciprocates this arrangement through the provision of a range of services on a pro-bono basis. Such services are agreed in advance. It is hoped that this arrangement can be continued with the host unitary authority moving forward.

Future Ways of Working

As mentioned previously, Active Cumbria has for many years worked across the boundaries and layers of local government in an effective and professional way. It is proposed that these ways of working will continue as we move into two unitary authorities.

The 5-Year Plan and Implementation Plan set out the approach that will be taken, with a mix of targeted and universal provision across all parts of Cumbria's footprint being required. Strong alignment and connectivity with officers and elected members from both unitary authorities will be needed to ensure that opportunities for joint working are maximised.

There are many opportunities to connect Active Cumbria's expertise and capacity into services within the two new unitary authorities, including maintaining the excellent relationships with public health, but using the opportunity to add value and enhance provision across services such as leisure, culture, open spaces, infrastructure, community services, climate change, poverty, as well as children's and adult services.

Active Cumbria's Advisory Board feel strongly that this can be achieved to the best effect by Active Cumbria integrating within the local government system, by being hosted and part of one unitary as the accountable body, but providing the same level of service, and having the same level of integration and connectivity with the non-hosting unitary.

There are many other benefits Active Cumbria can continue to bring to local government structures within Cumbria, many of which are articulated within our most recent Annual Report, which can be viewed [here](#). Other specific and tangible benefits include: -

- Access to a professional team of 17 officers, with a track record of success, adding value, and connecting physical activity to the achievement of local strategy and policy including: -
 - Cumbria Covid-19 Recovery Strategy
 - Joint Public Health Strategy
 - Health & Wellbeing Strategy
 - Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership
 - Cumbria Poverty Plan
 - Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan
 - Cumbria Early Years Strategy
 - Cumbria Children & Young People's Strategy
 - Cumbria and Locality Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans
 - ICP Population Health Plans
 - As well as the emerging strategic plans of the two new unitary authorities
- Provision of a specific development officer lead point of contact within the Active Cumbria team for each geographic area of Cumbria.
- Additional officer support and capacity to support place-based approaches to tackling health inequalities through increased physical activity in the areas of highest need.
- Other than the costs of providing the hosting and accountable body functions, no on-going operating budget requirement, apart from provision of an annual operating budget of £90k for the Active Travel to Schools function.

- Within the Active Travel function, Active Cumbria would propose to continue to manage the annual Bikeability contract, albeit that would require agreement from both unitary authorities, as the Government grant for this programme would be split to each unitary.
- Delivery of a range of specific preventative programmes and services across the life course, ensuring connection across relevant local government services, further details of which can be found in the Implementation Plan [here](#) including: -
 - Support children in early years to improve levels of physical literacy, ensuring the best start in life.
 - Enable children, young people, and families to develop a positive relationship with movement.
 - Enable opportunities for those of working age to develop positive long-term physical activity habits.
 - Support older adults, particularly those with or at risk of long-term health conditions to be more active.
- On-going kudos to the host and non-host authority through regular promotion and media coverage of high-profile Active Cumbria events and services.



Requirements of a Host and Non-Host Authority

To help set out how this approach might work in practice the following table identifies the services and functionality, as well as some high-level connectivity required by Active Cumbria from the hosting and non-hosting unitary authority.

Services, Functionality, and Connectivity	Hosting Authority	Non-Hosting Authority
Governance		
● Provision of Legal Accountability for Active Cumbria.	X	
● Agreement of any charges (or pro-bono arrangements) for hosting and accountability services.	X	
● Employing body for all staff including membership of LGPS.	X	
● Inclusion of Active Cumbria activities as part of the relevant insurances.	X	
● Novation of existing awards and acceptance of future Sport England and other grant funders award terms and conditions.	X	
● Acceptance of the role of the Advisory Board in provision of advice to the Unitary in relation to Active Cumbria.	X	
● Agree with Sport England the terms of an Agency Agreement in relation to Active Cumbria.	X	
● Assistant Director/Director of Public Health representation as an ex-officio member of the Active Cumbria Advisory Board.	X	X
Finance		
● Ability for Active Cumbria to carry forward all financial reserves year on year.	X	
● Provision of financial services including creditors and debtors, payroll, invoice processing, procurement, financial management, audit, scheme of delegation, specific cost centres.	X	
● Specific reference to Active Cumbria income and expenditure within the notes of the annual Audited Accounts.	X	
● Ability for Active Cumbria to apply for and attract additional grant and other income to further the aims of the service.	X	

Back Office Functions

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ● Access to all back-office functions, equipment and services including but not limited to human resources, legal services, health and safety, organisational development, learning and development, reprographics, pool cars. | X | |
| ● Access to ICT hardware, systems and support, and the ability to continue to access sector specific reporting portals, websites, Apps and systems. | X | |

Policies & Procedures

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ● Adoption and utilisation of all policies and procedures. | X | |
| ● On-going requirement to undertake all mandatory staff training. | X | |

Facilities

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ● Access to office accommodation through the provision of hot desking and meeting rooms. | X | X |
|--|---|---|

Management

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ● Line management supervision and support to Senior Managers at Assistant Director/Director of Public Health level | X | |
|--|---|--|

Integration

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ● Connectivity with senior colleagues and teams across a range of services including but not limited to public health, leisure, culture, open spaces, planning, community services, infrastructure, children's services, adult's services. | X | X |
| ● Membership of and connectivity to appropriate Senior Leadership Team(s). | X | X |
| ● Connectivity with Elected Members. | X | X |
| ● Brand recognition on all Active Cumbria resources through development of an agreed logo lock up. | X | X |



**Published by
Cumbria County Council
March 2022**

Active Cumbria
Cumbria County Council
Cumbria House
107-117 Botchergate
Carlisle CA1 1RD
01228 226885

**feedback@activecumbria.org
www.activecumbria.org**

If you would like to request a copy of
this document in different formats such as large
print, Braille, audio or in a different language
call **01228 226885** or email
feedback@activecumbria.org

Be part of it!

www.activecumbria.org