



Football and Multi-Sport Facilities Fund Programme

Active Partnerships National Team – ‘Creating Momentum’

US ON A PAGE

2023-2027

VISION

To make active lifestyles the norm for everyone.

MISSION

To make it easier for everyone to enjoy an active life.

We will help create the right conditions in local places to remove inequalities, and build relationships to connect networks and advance change.

AMBITIONS

- Be an **OUTSTANDING** performing organisation.
- Have a **HIGHLY CONNECTED NETWORK** of strong performing Active Partnerships.
- **EVIDENCING CHANGE** through a robust, meaningful and embedded measurement, evaluation and learning framework.
- Be **VALUED AS LEADERS, CREATING MOMENTUM** across places for 'Uniting the Movement' to flourish.

ROLE

- To Connect
- To Strengthen
- To Enable

PRINCIPLES

- People and culture-first
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at our core
- Being a collective
- Innovation-driven
- Learning by design
- Being a sustainable and ethical workplace

VALUES

- Passion for our purpose
- A collaborative spirit
- Trust brings connectivity

Football and Multi-sport Commitment

STRATEGIC GRASS PITCH PROJECTS

Multi-sport Pitch Advisory Service (PAS) and Pitch Power 2.0 app

MULTI-SPORT POLICY

At least 40% of investment benefitting other sports across:
3G AGP's; Grass pitches;
Changing facilities

PLAYZONES

Programme to deliver community small sided facilities in priority places

NON-FOOTBALL GRASS PITCHES

Strategic revenue investment to improve grass pitches for cricket, rugby league & rugby union.

HOCKEY LOAN VEHICLE

Loan model to support resurfacing of hockey pitches through England Hockey

EXTENDED WORKFORCE CAPACITY

Additional capacity to support multi-sport approach in APNT and across the AP network

NGB CAPACITY

Capacity into Basketball, Netball and Rugby League to support the approach in NGB networks

MULTI-SPORT FLEXI FUND

Flexible revenue and capital funding in response to community needs

Community engagement central to delivery and maximising local impact.

AGPs are integral to this landscape. Multi-stakeholder approach to reduce environmental impact

Future of Cricket investment (£35M) being integrated into SE investment

Additional AP & NGB capacity has been key to shaping and delivering the approach.

Work is underway to lever this investment into SE's Place priorities

Key Messages



Multi-sport Activity and Facilities Flexi Fund

The Sport England Multi-sports Activity & Facilities Fund provides revenue and capital funding to deliver multi-sport activity and small-scale capital investment. The purpose of the Fund is to help leverage greater multi-sport activity and align capital investment with Sport England’s Place expansion work to ensure connection to work locally. The Fund is aligned to Sport England’s Place expansion areas, Active Partnership priority places, the Football Foundation’s Playzone areas.

The revenue and capital funding responds to community engagement and stakeholder feedback in order to leverage the benefit of the Foundation’s facility investment to align with place working and address gaps in provision for capital funding through the Football Foundation’s multi-sport approach. The Fund is a single, flexible award budget (c£8m of lottery funding) deployed across the full scope of the Football Foundation and Sport England Multi-sport programme, responding to local community engagement and the needs that emerge. The fund is delivered through the following four workstreams:

Sport England needed support to manage and identify priorities to ensure the funding reaches the places and people that need it the most. This support is being provided by additional dedicated Active Partnerships capacity, working in tandem with the National organisation and the network. The Active Partnerships are critical to successful delivery of the recommended delivery approach and have worked collaboratively to influence the design and investment model for the flexible multi-sport budget, ensuring investment is aligned to local priorities and outcomes.



Revenue Funding	1	PlayZone - activation and capacity building
	2	Other FF funded facilities - activation and capacity building
Capital funding	3	Non-football PlayZones and other single sport facilities – delivery of new and refurbished facilities
	4	Active Environments - Small scale park improvements linked to PlayZone and Parks tennis investment

Multi-sport Activity and Facilities Flexi Fund: *Revenue Funding*

The revenue funding is devolved through Active Partnerships to enable a stronger response to local community engagement.

A **test phase** for the revenue element of the fund was launched in early 2024, working with four local Active Partnerships: Active Kent and Medway, Rise North East, Active Lancashire and Active Devon. These four Active Partnerships were selected as they provide a good spread nationally and in terms of size and demographics. Between the four Active Partnerships a total of 26 local projects have been identified. These encompass a wide range of multi-sport activities, designed through community engagement, and delivered by local organisations.

Project delivery is expected to start from July 2024 onwards, with each individual project lasting between 2 - 12 months. The evaluation of the test phase will be a priority for the Evaluation and Learning Supplier once their contract begins.

Within this test phase, two types of investment models are being trialled. The test phase will inform a Sport England review of onward granting which in turn will inform the year 2 expansion for the revenue fund. Learning from the test phase will inform the process, costing and perceived benefit of each investment model. This may have implications for the appointed evaluation and learning supplier as the full onward granting model will mean that local APs have a greater role in the evaluation/data collection which may require a deeper level of support.



Engaging Communities, Transforming Lives

As part of the test phase implementation process, the Active Partnerships National Organisation (APNO) has incorporated use of an Equalities Review Panel which includes one representative from each of the following four organisations: Activity Alliance, Sport Birmingham, Sport England and Sporting Equals. The purpose of this panel was to:

- Review project proposals from the four participating local Active Partnerships
- Provide feedback on project proposals (to strengthen where required)
- Provide feedback to the APNO to inform any future iteration of the equalities review function.

The next funding cycle is estimated to begin in summer 2024 with a scoping exercise currently taking place, led by the APNO and Regional Network Leads to build a clearer picture of demand as we progress into year 2 (year 1 being the test phase). If this timescale remains the same, Active Partnerships identified for participation in year 2 will begin the onboarding/solicitation process between September and October 2024. Local project development is planned to take place November-December 2024. Local project delivery is expected to begin between January and March 2025. We currently anticipate that we could work with in the region of a further 20+ APs in the subsequent revenue funding rounds, depending on the value of revenue awards granted and is therefore subject to change.

Multi-Sport: Revenue Fund Flow Chart

Local Active Partnership: Works with their Regional Network Lead in readiness for participation in the Multi-sport Activity & Facilities Fund.

Sport England: Solicits local AP for participation in the Multi-sport Activity & Facilities Fund.

Local Active Partnership:

- Provided capacity to enable AP participation.
- Works locally to identify need & eligible sites.
- Works with relevant local organisations/projects.
- Solicits projects.
- Develops project applications.
- Submits project applications via SE Smartsheets.

APNO: Guidance, solicitation, onboarding & troubleshooting support via:

- Programme Manager (Multi-sport)
- Regional Network Leads

Pathway A: Full Onward Granting

Project applications submitted by Local AP to SE via Smartsheets for sign off.

Sport England:

- Consider applications
- Smartsheet data checked by Investment Team (IMT)
- Confirm approval to award (where all criteria is met)

Local Active Partnership:

- Local AP makes Payments to Local Organisations
- Local AP Manages all Post Award Assurance Processes

Community Organisation:

- Receives funds
- Delivers project
- Inputs into project level MEL

Pathway B: Hybrid Granting

Project applications submitted by Local AP to SE via Smartsheets for full internal Peer Review

Sport England:

- Consider applications
- Conduct Full Internal Peer Review
- SE Agree on Projects to Support

Sport England:

- SE Makes Payments Directly to Local Organisations
- SE Manages all Post Award Assurance Processes

Revenue Fund: Test Phase

**ACTIVE
KENT & MEDWAY**
Onward Granting Model
(10% Capacity Granted)

**RISE
NORTH EAST**
Onward Granting Model
(10% Capacity Granted)

**ACTIVE
LANCASHIRE**
Hybrid Granting Model
(10% Capacity Granted)

**ACTIVE
DEVON**
Hybrid Granting Model
(10% Capacity Granted)

Solicitation Process

- Final stages of SE process
- Legal agreements provided
- APs to sign & return imminently

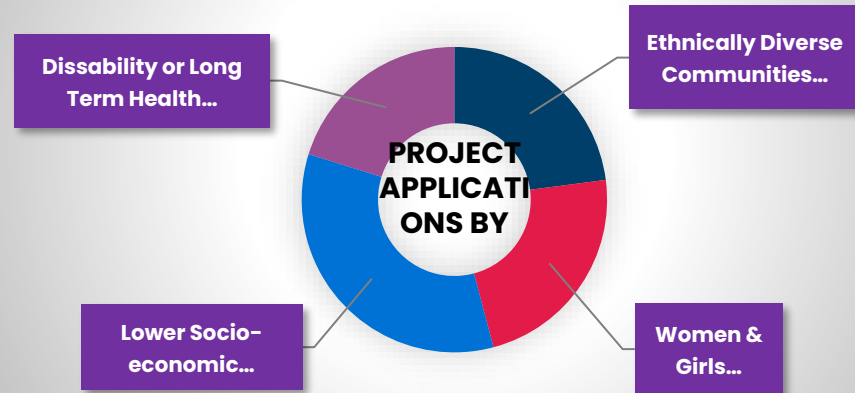
Local Activation Projects

- Draft projects submitted for ERP review
- Full projects to be submitted w/b 20th May
- IMT secured capacity for internal reviews

Project Delivery

- Expected July onwards

26 Project Applications

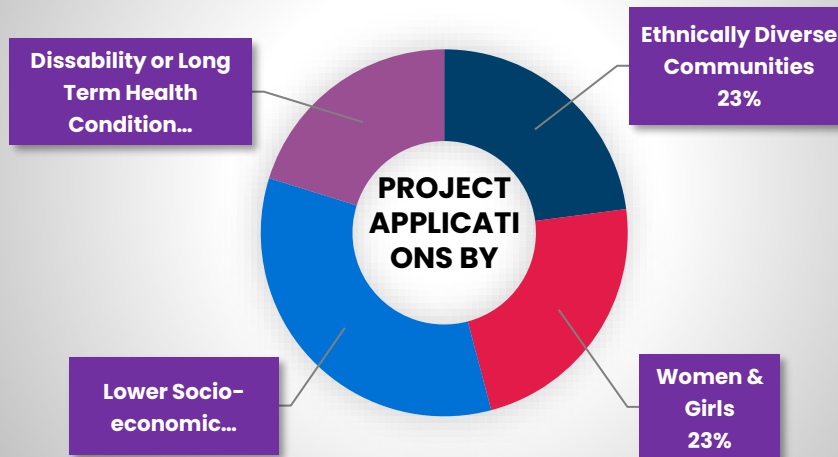


Activation Activities at a Glance

Sport / Physical Activity Types

Football & Walking Football	Handball
Circuit-based Fitness	Yoga & Pilates
Rounders	Dance
Tennis	Cycling
Tag Rugby	Hockey
Cricket	Pétanque
Dodgeball	Table Tennis
Boxing	Workforce/Quals

26 Project Applications



Provisional Year 2 Timeline

MAY – AUGUST 2024: Scoping Demand & Scale

APNO/Regional Leads: Regional & 1:1 Planning Sessions
Local APs Conduct Light Touch Local Engagement
Local APs Express Interest in Year 2: Via Regional Leads
Regional Leads Feed Demand Into Smartsheet

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2024: Solicitation of Local APs

Participating APs Solicited by Sport England (SE)
APs Complete Solicitation Application
Solicitation Applications Peer Reviewed by SE
Applications Approved
Legal Agreements Provided to APs, APs to Sign & Return

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER '24: Project Development

APs Support Project Development Locally
APs Submit Project Applications via Smartsheets
SE Assessment & Approvals

JANUARY TO MARCH '25: Project Delivery

Local Orgs Start Project Delivery at Facilities in this timescale window
Projects Last Up To 12 Months

Multi-sport Activity and Facilities Flexi Fund: Capital Funding - *Non football PlayZones*



The Football Foundation's PlayZone Programme aims to tackle inequalities in physical activity levels and access to facilities by delivering community-led sport sports and activity spaces.

PlayZones are safe, inclusive and accessible outdoor facilities used to play recreational forms of football and a range of other sports. There are several different PlayZone products that work for different combinations of sports.

The initial phase has focussed on 45 areas which were part of the Active Through Football programme. The second phase is a London programme and the third phase includes the Football Foundation's priority areas not included in the first two phases.

In order to receive funding, local partners will need to work together as a consortium to deliver portfolios of PlayZone facilities within their local authority area. These consortiums will need to include a range of local partners who represent their local area including the relevant Active Partnership.

Community Engagement is at the heart of this programme. PlayZone facilities need to be co-designed with local communities so that the location and type of PlayZone facility matches the findings of the engagement.

This funding stays true to the PlayZone community engagement process by providing a funding route for PlayZones which do not accommodate football use and are therefore not eligible for Football Foundation funding.

Moving forwards, it is anticipated that around six non-football PlayZones will be delivered through the Flexi fund, with up to two facilities delivered 2024-25.

Multi-sport Activity and Facilities Flexi Fund: *Active Environments small-scale capital investment*

Sport England are working to develop Active Environment Test & Learn projects alongside the APNO and the Active Environments Lead in the AP National Team. Investment will be made in parks aligned to PlayZone and LTA Parks Tennis facility investment. The fund would deliver park improvements informed by community engagement to create safe and welcoming spaces for women and girls and improve accessibility.

This aim is to would support better use and accessibility to PlayZone and LTA Parks tennis facilities and the wider park environment by women and girls. Funding would focus on small-scale capital improvements (e.g. lighting, signage, paths, seating). The test and learn phase will deliver circa four projects.

The Multi-sport Activity and Facilities Flexi Fund as outlined above is a key priority for this evaluation and learning contract. The priority for the evaluation and learning contract will be the added value of the APNO role and we want to explore with the appointed evaluation and learning supplier, in collaboration with Sport England, the extent to which the wider aspects of the fund can be included in the evaluation and learning activity.

Grass pitch improvement programme

£15.3m of Sport England lottery funding is being targeted to deliver a grass pitch improvement programme for cricket, rugby league and rugby union. This will build on the Football Foundation's multi-sport offer to provide a more compelling and complete offer for these grass-pitch sports. The investment will target key audiences and places to address inequalities in access to good quality pitches.

The rugby league and rugby union elements of the fund are being delivered through the Football Foundation and the ECB are delivering the cricket programme.

The Active Partnerships do not have a direct influence on the fund, however, we want to explore with the appointed Evaluation and Learning provider and in collaboration with Sport England, the extent to which this programme could be incorporated into the scope of this evaluation and learning contract.

Hockey Loan Vehicle

England Hockey's new loan fund to support the development and refurbishment of artificial grass pitch (AGP) facilities across the country is currently in development, with funding of £6 million secured from Sport England as part of their Multi-Sport Commitment. The loan fund will aim to improve the quality and accessibility of sports facilities for hockey and other team sports, benefiting local communities.

When launched, the loan fund will aim to tackle the current shortage of quality sports facilities and promote inclusivity within the sport. By refurbishing pitches and providing support programmes, the fund will help clubs offer a variety of sports and activities, using hockey as a way to bring the community together. Better facilities will encourage healthier lifestyles and provide safe spaces for socialising and physical activity. By investing in AGP facilities, England Hockey hopes to foster social inclusion, reduce anti-social behaviour, and create vibrant community hubs that benefit everyone.

The Active Partnerships do not have a direct influence on the fund and it is out of scope for this evaluation and learning contract.

Extended resource capacity and the role of Active Partnerships

Sport England have identified the Active Partnerships as being important to delivery of the multi-sport work, given the APNO's national coverage and focus on tackling inequalities, building awareness and understanding of the investment, supporting community and stakeholder engagement and connectivity with the most appropriate partners and assets. The APNO also play an important role in championing Sport England's place-based approach – ensuring this work connects and fits with other investments in the system and wider strategies (e.g. Active Environments).

Sport England have funded additional capacity to the Active Partnership network to support this. This included additional roles in the APNO central team to take a lead and manage the investment, regional leads to connect national strategy with local need and support and the administration of a revenue grants fund to support access and involvement in new local facilities.

Since the programme's inception, APNO has worked alongside Sport England in shaping the design, development and governance of a funding process for local Active Partnerships to apply to. APNO has also collaborated with key partners including Football Foundation, LTA Parks Tennis, and England Hockey. Collaborative working has also continued alongside a representative AP working group, the Regional Multi-sport network leads and local Active Partnerships involved in the test phase of the fund.

Core role of all Active Partnerships

Key activity areas	Active Partnerships Network's role
[National level] Multi-sport Activation and Facility Fund Programme Management	Additional resources (3.6 FTE in total) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programme Manager and Project Officer (2.0 FTE) to support the programme and leading on the strategic coordination of the network's connectivity with the football and multi-sport facilities commitment• Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (0.6 FTE) to support monitoring, evaluation and learning on the Fund, evaluation across the commitment and sharing learning across the network• Active Environments (0.5 FTE)• Communications (0.5 FTE) including an approach to support the Football Foundation and Sport England communications
[Regional level] AP Regional Multi-sport Network team	Regional network leads (3.4 FTE exchequer funded) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide support, connectivity, coherence and communication around the multi-sport work• Strengthen and maximise the impact of the targeted investment; ensuring the multi-sport work across Active Partnerships prioritises tackling inequality, working with underrepresented groups and is locally led• Strengthen relationships between local and national strategy and delivery, sharing intelligence learning and experience from APs to inform national programme design and strategy
[Local level] Active Partnership core role	Local Active Partnerships as part of their core role <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecting key groups into opportunities to participate in community engagement• Ensuring connectivity with other local plans or work areas (i.e. place-based work, Active Environments) and key contacts (e.g. Sport England place team)
[Local level] Targeted capacity funding	Additional capacity funding (likely 10%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As part of 'needs led' model to identify and support locality Multi-sport Activation and Facility Fund in priority places

Capacity funding for National Governing Bodies (NGBs)

Scoping of the UTM 'Targeted investment into community football, tennis and multi-sport facilities' commitment has identified the need for capacity funding and wrap-around support for Basketball England, Netball England and the Rugby Football League. This is needed to maximise the opportunity to benefit from the Football Foundation's PlayZone Programme, the multi-sport policy and aligned potential investment from Sport England, such as grass pitch improvements. This capacity and support will be provided through new dedicated officer resource for each partner

This has helped to identify where the funding is needed and support the development of projects. These National Governing Bodies also connect and build relationships with Active Partnerships and ensure contribution to opportunities and priorities within a local area.

Understanding the added value of the NGBs role is a key priority for this evaluation and learning contract.

Ambition:

Sport England

Active Partnership Network

AP's Regional Multi-Sport Network Lead's

Ambition

- *To ensure that targeted investment into Football and multi-sport facilities is having an impact on those communities that need it most.*

Objective

- To provide additional capacity within the AP network to **strengthen and maximise the impact** of the 'Targeted investment into community football, tennis and multi-sports facilities', **prioritising tackling inactivity, working with under-represented groups and innovations in local delivery.**
- To help Sport England to strengthen the relationship between local and national strategy and delivery, and to **connect local resource, intelligence and experience to national programme design**, ensuring **connectivity with other plans and local need.**

Capacity that has been identified from within the network to support this work



6 'Regional Lead' roles (0.4 FTE) hosted within Active Partnerships working as a team across the country to **provide support, connectivity, coherence and communication** across all areas



1 'Strategic Lead' role (0.4 FTE) hosted within an Active Partnership and working particularly closely with the Active Partnerships national team to support and connect the 6 roles, oversee national relationships, **maximise the learning and connect with wider opportunities** (e.g., Active Through Football, OSF, Euros Legacy, CCOs, social prescribing)

Regional Leads

