

AGENDA 11, Enc x)

Ashington Junior parkrun – Support and Start-Up Funding *(originally placed by Cllr Caroline Ball)*

Proposed by: Cllr Caroline Ball

Meeting date: 22nd June 2026

Proposal

To consider a contribution from the Youth Funding budget towards the establishment of a junior parkrun in Ashington.

Junior parkrun is a free, weekly, volunteer-led 2km run for children aged 4–14, providing regular, accessible physical activity with no cost barrier to families. The total start-up cost is £4,800 — parkrun UK's standard one-off national fee, which covers equipment, signage, IT systems, insurance, training, a defibrillator, and ongoing central support, with no recurring charge thereafter. The Council has already committed £500, leaving £4,300 still to be secured.

The organising group is prepared to undertake its own fundraising and has strong support from the local running community. However, parkrun HQ will not fully sign off the start-up until the funding is secured in full — so the sooner the funding is in place, the better. Once funding is secured, the launch date can be confirmed, with a preferred start over the summer.

For information, the proposal is also being discussed by the Youth Advisory Committee at its meeting on 15th June 2026, and a verbal update will be given. The decision rests with the FGS Committee as the body holding the spending power for the Youth Funding budget.

This is a strong fit for the Youth Funding budget: a one-off investment with no ongoing commitment, supporting a free, weekly activity that — like established junior parkruns across the country — should still be running for many years to come. It represents a lasting investment in the health and young people of the town.

The Committee is asked to:

- a) note that the proposal is being discussed by the Youth Advisory Committee on 15th June 2026, with a verbal update to be given at the meeting; and
- b) approve the remaining start-up funding of £4,300 from the Youth Funding budget, so that funding can be secured at the earliest opportunity and the launch date confirmed, with a preferred summer start.