

Full Statement

On December 11th, the Trustee Boards of The Black Prince Trust (BPT) and Fight For Change Foundation Ltd (FFC), voted to finalise the merger of the operations of the two registered Charities by 31 December 2019. This has followed a comprehensive due diligence process which has assessed all the opportunities and risks and provided the basis for the Trustees of BPT and FFC to reach a unanimous conclusion that a merger of the respective operations is an excellent opportunity in the best interests of both Charities.

Rationale for the merger

We believe that there is a compelling case for this merger between BPT and FFC. Together, we believe we can achieve significantly greater social impact through providing a more comprehensive range of activities and engaging increased numbers of people in all of our programmes.

BPT and FFC already work very closely together and our aim is to build on the strength of our existing working relationship and utilise the aggregate of the assets of each organisation to create a more powerful and effective solution to some of society's biggest challenges.

- We believe that this is a natural combination and strategic merger between two like-minded and co-located organisations who share a passionate belief in the power of sport and physical activity to act as the catalyst for development and positive social change
- BPT has a unique physical Community Hub in the heart of Lambeth. It currently operates a partnership model whereby a range of partners deliver their social activities on-site but currently has limited capacity to deliver its own programmes
- FFC has a strong history of delivering high quality sports for development activities and interventions
- The combination of the BPT Community Hub (and its community infrastructure), BPT's strategic partnerships and FFC's track record of community delivery, provides a great opportunity to achieve synergy both operationally and in terms of social impact goals
- BPT and FFC are already working closely together on many fronts and have a strong track record over several years to evidence this, including in the last 12-18 months being awarded significant funding working together

Key benefits of the merger:

Increased social impact and ability to deliver it more efficiently

1. Pooling resources, making us stronger and more resilient in tough economic times
2. Reducing costs across: overheads; finance; delivery; monitoring and evaluation; research
3. Presenting a stronger case for winning funding due to wider reach / larger operation
4. Increased efficiencies in governance and reporting and bringing together the best of the expertise available to us in one Board of Trustees

The intended operational structure is via a 'linked charity' model whereby both charities retain their legal identity but have one shared Board of Trustees and combined reporting. As such, the Fight For Change operating name will continue and indeed FFC will become the 'delivery arm' of the wider BPT, and BPT will remain as the custodian and operator of the BPT Community Hub and will continue the existing and proven partnership model that has been successfully in place since 2015. BPT will continue to work with all existing partners in the same way as previously, to help drive the wider BPT social impact strategy, and FFC will continue its great work around boxing, and be the means for expanding into specific new areas of social delivery. FFC will therefore essentially fill any 'gaps' where BPT currently lacks a partner delivering against a specific social impact strand, so there is no element of overlap / duplication between BPT and any of its partners.

Any questions about the merger should be addressed to Kirk Harrison, BPT CEO at kirk@blackprincetrust.org.uk