

Report to CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

The Local Improvement Fund – October 2023 Fast Grant Project Recommendations

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Arooj Shah, Council Leader

Officer Contact: Shelley Kipling (Assistant Chief Executive)

Report Author: Jonathan Downs (Corporate Policy Lead)

26 October 2023

Reason for Decision

The Local Improvement Fund (LIF) in 2023/24 includes £100,000 allocated as “fast grants” for projects of £500 - £3,500 to improve Oldham’s neighborhoods for the benefit of residents. The LIF Cabinet Sub-Committee are asked to review the applications and agree which applications should receive funding.

Recommendation

Review the applications and agree which should receive LIF funding.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Local Improvement Fund (LIF) was established in 2019 with the aim of supporting Districts to:
- a. Encourage the active participation of residents and local organisations in improving the quality of life in the local area.
 - b. Improve community buildings, equipment and other facilities.
 - c. Engage with residents to prioritise schemes that matter to them.
- 1.2 In 2019/20 the LIF distributed £499,260 to twenty projects across Oldham that reflected the specific and diverse needs of people in our borough, ranging from an outdoor gym in St Mary’s, to making a footbridge safer in Royton, to street scene improvements in Lees.
- 1.3 The LIF was included in the Council’s budget again in 2021/22, with £500,000 made available. In 2021/22 a total of £467,807 was allocated to 18 projects across the borough, with the remaining £32,193 retained as a contingency fund to accommodate project overspend. Councillors were asked to focus on projects that would help Oldham’s residents to recover from the pandemic.
- 1.4 In 2022/23 the LIF was divided into two, with £400,000 distributed as capital grants as in previous years. The remaining £100,000 is to be used for “fast grants” of between £500 and £3,500. A total of £396,395 was allocated to 16 capital projects across the borough, while £94,938 was allocated to 37 fast grant revenue projects.
- 1.5 In 2023/24 the LIF has again been divided into two, with £400,000 distributed as capital grants and £100,000 as “fast grants” of between £500 and £3,500, distributed as revenue to support one of three key priorities:
- Supporting the Don’t Trash Oldham campaign
 - Transforming and improving Oldham’s neighbourhoods
 - Boosting Oldham’s economy by creating jobs, supporting businesses, and attracting investment
- 1.6 The first round of revenue applications closed on Friday 29th September 2023. The LIF received 50 applications, with a total potential funding value of £138,495.
- 1.7 This paper asks the Cabinet Sub-Committee to review the bids and allocate funds accordingly. Please note, there is only £100k of revenue funding available in 2023/24.

2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 Do Nothing – This is not a preferable option as the funding needs to be allocated in this financial year.

2.2 Review the revenue applications and agree which should receive LIF funding.

3 Recommended Option

3.1 Review the revenue applications and agree which should receive LIF funding.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There is a set aside of £100,000, which is a one-off revenue resource to be utilised in 2023/24 for LIF fast grants.

(Nicola Harrop – Finance Manager)

5 Legal Services Comments

5.1 Following the consideration of recommendations from the Local Improvement Fund Advisory Panel, the purpose of the Local Improvement Fund Sub-Committee is to allocate funding from the Local Improvement Fund to projects across the borough which promote and pursue the aims and objectives of the individual District Priorities.

5.2 The Sub-Committee is a constituted meeting of the Council and is subject to the Council's procedure rules, Cabinet procedure rules and the access to information procedure rules, as set out in the Council's Constitution, unless stated otherwise in the terms of reference. (Colin Brittain, Assistant Borough Solicitor).

6 Co-operative Agenda

6.1 As a co-operative council, we are committed to reforming public services and encouraging innovation, leading to better outcomes and delivery. The Local Improvement Fund will ensure that Districts are best able to meet the needs of both elected members and the residents they represent. (Jonathan Downs, Corporate Policy lead).

7 Human Resources Comments

7.1 None

8 Risk Assessments

8.1 None

9 IT Implications

9.1 None

10 Property Implications

10.1 None

11 Procurement Implications

11.1 None

12 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

12.1 None

13 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

13.1 None

14 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

14.1 No

15 Key Decision

15.1 No

16 Key Decision Reference

16.1 N/A

17 Background Papers

17.1 Establishing a Local Improvement Fund for Districts – 24.06.2019

17.2 The Local Improvement Fund 2022/23 – 14.11.2022

17.3 Consideration of LIF Bids 2022/23 – 06.12.2022

18 Appendices

18.1 Appendix 1: Local Improvement Fund Fast Grants Applications

Appendix 1: Local Improvement Fund Fast Grants Applications



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East District

Number	Project	Ward	District	Summary	Amount
1	SCCP's 'Become Your Style' Community Fashion Show	Saddleworth and Lees	East District	Host a fashion show for school children	£2,050
2	Lees RBL	Saddleworth and Lees	East District	Creation Of a community hub for RBL members and volunteers	£500
3	Hey with Zion PTFA	Saddleworth and Lees	East District	Development of a forest school within our Hey with Zion Community for children ages 3-11 year olds to access.	£3,480
4	Springhead AFC Development	Saddleworth and Lees	East District	Purchase of a new storage cabin	£500
5	LSG Litter heroes	Saddleworth and Lees	East District	Supporting local litter picking group to maintain area	£1,110
6	Afghan Park Refurbishment	St James	East District	Planting more trees to create a natural barrier for the balls being used on the MUGA	£2,800
7	Growing Hub in The Friends of Stoneleigh Park	St James	East District	Installation of new growing hub/beds	£1,359.27
8	Sensory garden in Stoneleigh Park	St James	East District	New sensory garden within Stoneleigh Park	£3,500
9	Moorside Cricket and Bowling Club Bowling Green Perimeter Refurbishment	St James	East District	The refurbishment of the perimeter of the bowling green: removal of existing pathway; laying of 144m kerb adjacent to the bowling green	£2,500
10	Community Defibrillators	Waterhead	East District	Provide 3 defibrillators at community locations across the Waterhead Ward.	£3,500
11	Securing Waterhead Community Centre	Waterhead	East District	Provide security and safety to assist the local community in their efforts to combat anti-social conduct in the area around the Waterhead	£3,500

				Community Centre and Parish Church	
12	Oldham fighting obesity	St Marys	Central District	Combatting obesity through martial arts/boxing in local area	£3,429
13	Neighbourhood Revive by Oldham Greenhill	St Marys	Central District	Implement a project focused on improving the community through multisport activities, workshops on health, fitness, and wellbeing, and addressing anti-social behaviour through sports	£3,488
14	Bar Gap Rd growing project and bulb planting	Coldhurst	Central District	Improvement works and growing areas - the growing area will incorporate some no dig beds, raised planters, footpaths, fruit trees and bird feeders.	£3,500
15	Featherstall Flora	Coldhurst	Central District	Maintenance of garden, flower beds and green spaces at the Coldhurst Central Mosque	£3,500
16	Northmoor Library new residents support and engagement	Coldhurst	Central District	Support people to access employment opportunities.	£2,500
17	Millenium Centre Refurbishment	Coldhurst	Central District	Refurbishment of gym equipment	£1,750
18	Holts and Alt Improvement plan	Alexandra	Central District	Support two valuable community assets within the Holts and Alt areas of our ward.	£3,500
19	Don't Trash Hathershaw	Alexandra	Central District	To reduce fly-tipping and improve poor attitudes to recycling.	£3,500
20	Abbey Hills Road continued improvement	Alexandra	Central District	Cutting back of conifers followed by a further alley	£3,500

				clean up	
21	Establishing girls' cricket at Glodwick Cricket Club	Alexandra	Central District	Opportunity for girls and supporting cohesion	£3,495
22	Royton Town AFC	Royton	North District	Support Royton FC to play their home league games	£1,500
23	District Planters for Royton	Royton North	North District	Decorative planters to maintain a sense of civic pride in the historic areas	£1,770
24	Shaw Road End Park	Royton north	North District	install 3 x new 240ltr housing with wheelie bin liner in the park	£1,860.00
25	Heyside Community Alleyways	Royton South	North District	Installation of alleyway gates	£3,400
26	Heyside Public Rights of Way	Royton South	North District	Maintenance of Heyside Area	£3,000
27	Harry Street Unadopted Road	Royton South	North District	Medium-term repairs of Harry Street	£3,500
28	Hopwood Garden Enhancements	Shaw	North District	Additional garden furniture for residents of Hopwood Court	£847.93
29	Planting in an Urban Street	Wernerth	West District	To improve the current brick built planter on Cambridge Street which is currently overgrown with weeds.	£580
30	Coppice and Wernerth Community Garden Project	Wernerth	West District	Maintain unadopted green space and alleyways in Coppice and Wernerth.	£3,475
31	Improving built built planter on Cambridge Street	Wernerth	West District	Maintain local area	£580
32	Fernhurst Allotment Society	Chadderton Central	West District	Improve the environment for residents and Fernhurst Allotment Society	£3,500
33	Springbank Bowling Club – Fully Inclusive	Chadderton Central	West District	Removal and maintenance of trees to make Springbank	£3,240

				Bowling Club more inclusive	
34	Promoting the Development of Chadderton	Chadderton Central	West District	To run public events and activities in Foxdenton Park and other venues across Chadderton, i.e Halloween	£2,000
35	Darker Nights	throughout West district	West District	Fund and distribute crime prevention products throughout the West District alongside providing information and advice about safety during the winter	£3,481
36	Granby Street Wetland Area	Chadderton South	West District	Maintenance of Granby Wetland Area - clear the self-sown willow and other species from the area	£3,500
37	Chadderton Cricket Club	Chadderton South	West District	Organise training sessions and get more young people active	£3,500
38	West youth and KICKS	Hollinwood	South District	Bid to support young people at Honeywell Lane Centre around topical issues	£3,500
39	Avro Football Club	Hollinwood	South District	Improving car parking facilities at the Vestacare Stadium	n/a
40	Coppice Play Area	Medlock	South District	Improve Coppice play area with new equipment on the grass land area behind Coppice School	£3,500
41	Coppice community garden	Medlock	South District	Transform alleyways of Manley Road and Gainsborough Avenue	£3,500
42	Medlock Clean Sweep	Medlock	South District	Clean and repair alleyways in Medlock	£3,500
43	Medlock EduNeighbourhood	Medlock	South District	Targeted educational programmes incl SIA Security	£3,500

				training, digital skills	
44	Kennedy St Alleygate	Medlock	South District	Installation of gates to prevent flytipping	£3,500
45	Festival Celebrations	Medlock	South District	Installation of lights/equipment to celebrate religious holidays	£3,400
46	Medlock Vale Clean Up	Medlock	South District	Clean areas Medlock	£3,350
47	Westminster Gardens	Failsworth East	South District	Repair the existing benches and install an accessible picnic bench	£3,500
48	Lower Memorial Park, Failsworth	Failsworth	South District	Install signs around the park to allow people with little or no communication abilities to communicate using pictures.	£3,450
49	Pocket Park – Between Beech Street and Ash Street.	Failsworth	South District	Creare a pocket park	£3,500
50	Day Drive – Community Garden & Grow Hub Project – In conjunction with FCHO	Failsworth	South District	Creating a space for everyone in the community and surrounding area to come along and get involved with activities such as planting, gardening, growing	£3,500

Total

£138, 495



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