

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker:	Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)
Date of Decision:	16 th April 2024
Subject:	Award of grant funding to Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK
Report Author:	Virbai Kara, Senior Communities Officer
Ward (s):	None

Reason for the decision:	The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award grant funding to the voluntary, community and faith sector, namely Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK, during the financial year 1 st April 2024 to 31 st March 2025.
Summary:	The proposal seeks to approve grant funding to Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK from the Council's community cohesion funds.
<i>What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):</i>	There are no alternative options to be considered at this stage.
<i>Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.</i>	None.
<i>Recommendation(s):</i>	It is recommended that the proposed allocations are awarded in 2024/25.
Implications:	
<i>What are the financial implications?</i>	<u>Revenue Implications</u> This expenditure represents Revenue Expenditure, the proposed amounts to pay Oldham Interfaith forum (£36,000) and Stop

Hate UK (£4,400) are already built into the Stronger Communities base budget for 2024/25, and thus fully funded.

(Matthew Kearns - Finance Manager)

Capital Implications

There are no capital implications as a result of this proposal.

*What are the **legal** implications?*

There are no immediate legal issues arising from the report, but in due course, should there be a proposal to reduce or withdraw funding, then any such decision should be informed by appropriate consultation and/or equality impact assessment. The grant funding is already built into the Stronger Communities base budget for 2024/25 (Alex Bougatef-Legal Services)

*What are the **procurement** implications?*

The report concerns the commissioning of grants. There are no matters relating to the procurement of services. The grants issued should be backed up with robust grant agreements and managed accordingly to ensure payments match agreed outcomes. (Emily Molden (MCIPS))

*What are the **Human Resources** implications?*

There are no HR implications associated with this proposal.
(Adele Savage, Head of HR)

***Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment** attached or not required because (please give reason)*

There are no adverse equality and diversity implications arising from the proposals contained within this report. However, an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the event that funding to the groups is to be reduced or withdrawn at any future point.

*What are the **property** implications*

None.

Risks:

The report provides details of the opportunities provided by the funding to OIFF and Stop Hate UK who support the Council to deliver community cohesion and Appendix 2 details the benefits these bring. The report does not provide any other options for delivery of the support and the service should ensure that this is the most appropriate use of resources and continue to monitor the services from these

organisations given the Council current financial position. (Vicki Gallacher, Head of Insurance and Information Governance)

Co-operative agenda

The grant awards support the Council's Co-operative Agenda by providing funding which contributes towards the core running costs of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations and ensures that they are able to provide services that help communities address disadvantage, equality of opportunity and improve life chances for residents. Furthermore, core funding helps organisations attract further investment into the borough, as well as providing volunteering opportunities to residents. (James Mulvaney, Policy Manager)

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No.

Report Author Sign-off:	
Neil Consterdine, Assistant Director for Youth, Leisure and Communities	
Date: 12.03.2024	

Please list and attach any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
Appendix 1	Background to the decision

In consultation with Deputy Chief Executive, Emma Barton

Signed:



Date: 16.04.2024

APPENDIX 1: BACKGROUND TO THE DECISION

1. Background:

- 1.1 Funding has been allocated for several years as a contribution towards overheads and running costs to organisations which support the Council to deliver community cohesion related activity namely Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK.

2. Current Position:

2.1 Oldham Interfaith Forum

Oldham Council awards £36,000 per annum to Oldham Interfaith Forum (OIFF). OIFF supports the Council in building good relations in Oldham with a particular focus on improving understanding between people from different faith backgrounds (particularly young people through work in schools) and supporting dialogue within and between faith communities about issues of concern.

OIFF employs two members of staff who assist the Council in managing community tensions and preventing conflict and providing mechanisms to work constructively with faith leaders through the OIFF and Oldham Mosques Council. They offer support to the Council in engaging with faith communities and ensuring that Council services are sensitive to the needs of faith communities.

2.2 Stop Hate UK Helpline

Oldham Council awards £4,400 per annum to Stop Hate UK to provide a 3rd party helpline for victims/ witnesses to report hate crimes and incidents.

The 24 hour 'Stop Hate Line' provides an additional means for reporting incidents of hate crime and takes forward Recommendation 16 of The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report: 'That all possible steps be taken by police services at local level, in consultation with local government and other agencies and local communities, to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes. This should include:

- The ability to report at locations other than police stations
- The ability to report 24 hours a day.'

The Stop Hate Line covers the five monitored strands of hate crime which are:

- Race
- Faith
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The recommendation is to award funding at the same level in 2024/25 (i.e. £36,000 to Oldham Interfaith Forum and £4,400 to Stop Hate UK).