

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal services
Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

Date of Decision: 4 June 2018

Subject: Welcome to Oldham – Big Lottery Fund

Report Author: Bruce Penhale
Assistant Director Communities and Early Intervention

Ward (s): All

Reason for the decision: The report seeks approval to accept grant funding from the Big Lottery Fund, and to deliver the activity outlined in the Welcome to Oldham bid.

Summary: Some areas within Oldham have experienced significant change in recent years. Areas containing large numbers of relatively low cost private rented accommodation have been attractive to agencies such as Serco in the procurement of accommodation for asylum seekers and also migrant groups moving to the area seeking work. These are often areas where other social issues are prevalent. There have been very high levels of transience within some neighbourhoods which has had a significant impact in terms of community cohesion, pressure on schools, overcrowding, crime, anti-social behaviour and general neighbourhood management issues.

The Council has made a successful application to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities fund for a Welcome to Oldham project to support the integration of new residents in Oldham. The Big Lottery have offered funding of £342,915 over 3 years for the project.

This supplements the £602,104 awarded to Oldham from the Controlling Migration Fund to fund activity within Oldham over 2 years

This report seeks approval to accept the funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

Option 1 To accept £342,915 from the Big Lottery Fund and deliver the activity as outlined within the Welcome to Oldham bid. This would provide additional resources within this area and enable the council and partner agencies to undertake activity which will provide additional support in the communities impacted by high levels of migration and transience. As this work and the impact is still a key priority for the Districts and other services it will support the delivery of our objectives and support effective integration of new migrants.

Option 2 Do not accept the funding. Services and districts would still have to meet demand and budget pressure to support communities that are experiencing significant demographic change.

Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.

The Welcome to Oldham proposal has been discussed with colleagues from across the council also Heads of Service, the Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help, Cabinet Member Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods and the Leader of the Council. The purpose of the bid and its aims in responding to the challenges have been discussed with and supported by the above.

Recommendation(s):

Option 1 To accept £342,915 from the Big Lottery Fund and deliver the activity as outlined within the Welcome to Oldham bid.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The Big Lottery Fund has offered an amount of £342,915 in restricted funds, over the three year period 2018/19 to 2020/21 to fund revenue expenditure associated with the Welcome to Oldham Project, as summarised in the table below:

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
£	£	£	£

The allocation of the grant is subject to Big Lottery terms and conditions. The Project Co-ordinator will monitor the project and will ensure that the project is delivered in line with these terms. The funding may be terminated and repaid to the provider in the event of non-compliance. Any overspends will not be met by the funding provider.

There is a three year time frame for reporting and it is not currently envisaged that there will be an ongoing requirement for funding beyond that time scale, were this not to be that case this would be addressed with a further report/proposal to be effective from 2021/22
(Carl Holdaway)

What are the legal implications?

Where fixed term contracts are created those fixed term employees are protected by the Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations. In particular, where a fixed term contract ends after a period of two years that employee is potentially entitled to a redundancy payment and so the costs of such payment should be reflected in the available budget. (Colin Brittain)

What are the procurement implications?

With regards to the Oldham Stronger Together report, the Internal Contract Procedure Rules will apply to any external expenditure requirements.

The following threshold will apply depending on the value of the external contracts:

£0 - £9,999 - 1 written quotation
 £10,000 and £24,999 - Minimum of 3 written quotes via The Chest
 £25,000 – EU Threshold - Minimum of 3 written quotes via The Chest and Contract Finder
 EU Thresholds and above – EU Procurement procedure via The Chest and TED.

Early engagement with Procurement will help the smooth transition of the award of the external contracts. (Steve Boyd)

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

Some of the roles that have been referenced in the report require development in order to establish them albeit on a fixed term basis.

A job description and person specification needs to be drawn up and graded by the Council's pay and reward team as soon as possible. Having discussed this with the service I would anticipate that funds identified would be sufficient.

The establishment of these posts when the grade is known can be progressed together with the all other roles required in the emerging communities team. Recruitment will be undertaken in line with Council policies and procedures.

(Emma Gilmartin, People Services Business Partner)

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

An initial Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has not identified any adverse equality impact.

*What are the **property** implications*

Not applicable

Risks:

The Council will have to comply with the terms of the grant or there is a potential risk of grant clawback. The proposals set out in this report are consistent with the bid so this risk is considered very unlikely. (Mark Stenson)

Co-operative agenda

The aim of the Welcome to Oldham project is to support residents to understand the services available to them and how they can access them in the most appropriate way. It will also support new residents to settle better into life in Oldham so that they can have a productive life in the town.

#Ourbit – We will provide information and support to help new residents moving into Oldham to settle and feel more involved

#Yourbit – To appropriately access the support and engage in the services offered

#Result – Oldham is a town where people feel welcomed and settle into their neighbourhood and community.

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

List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

None

Sign-off:

Paul Entwistle	Signature
Director of Legal Services	<i>P. Entwistle</i>
Date:	

Anne Ryans	Signature
Director of Finance	<i>A. T. Ryans</i>
Date:	<i>1/6/18</i>

Please list and attach any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
1	Project summary

Appendix 1 – Project summary: Welcome to Oldham – Big Lottery Grant

1 Background

- 1.1 The local ward councillors and District Team became aware of community cohesion issues in some neighbourhoods which have experienced rapid demographic change in recent years.
- 1.2 Some small amounts of funding, partnership activity, and regular communication with residents have assisted in providing some additional support to these neighbourhoods.
- 1.3 At the time the National Lottery Reaching Communities programme was accepting and encouraging applications. Discussion with other services took place about the prospects of a funding bid to draw in more resources to support a more strategic approach to the integration of emerging communities.

2 Oldham, Stronger Together

- 2.1 The District Teams and partners have dedicated resources and funding to support these neighbourhoods. The teams have gained a better understanding of the challenges to new arrivals, established communities and services. There is currently a small dedicated team that is working with local communities which have experienced significant population change.
- 2.2 The Council has made a successful application to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities fund for a Welcome to Oldham project to support the integration of new residents in Oldham. This will involve work with both new migrants and existing communities. The Big Lottery have offered funding of £342,915 over 3 years for the project. The project will complement funding secured through the Government's Controlling Migration Fund for work to support the integration of new communities in Oldham.
- 2.3 The main components of the bid are:
 - Staffing –
 - 1 full-time Roma Outreach Worker,
 - 1 part-time Asylum Seeker and Refugee Outreach worker, and
 - 11 hrs a week of Project Co-ordination through a dedicated Community Development Officer.
 - Language support – After School English Classes, Talk English 16+, and Family Learning
 - Welcome To Oldham – Welcome to Oldham Guide, Welcome to Oldham Workshops, Visits around the Borough
 - Translation Support – Community Translators
- 2.4 The proposed Emerging Communities Team will be based within the Stronger Communities Service. The team and project will maintain strong links, and work closely, with the relevant district executives, ward councillors, and district teams.