

**Oldham Borough Council
Record of Decision**



1. **TITLE:** Approval of Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Housing Services

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

A report requesting approval to enter into a grant agreement with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Under the proposed arrangement, Oldham will hold its own grant agreement with the Combined Authority to fund two services dedicated to supporting residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

4. **DECISION MADE BY:** Chief Executive

5. **DECISION:**

That the Chief Executive:

1. Authorises Oldham Council to agree and enter into grant agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
2. Approves the continued delivery of the two services captured in the grant agreement, namely, ABEN and RSI.

6. **REASON FOR DECISION**

The Council are currently delivering two specific services that are intrinsically linked by virtue of the support they provide to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The two respective services are:

- A Bed Every Night (ABEN)
- Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI)

To ensure the continuation of these vital local services and to formalise monitoring and reporting arrangements, the Council is required to enter into a grant agreement with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). Securing this agreement is necessary for accessing the funding needed to sustain services delivery.

These services have been operating successfully for several years through a joint procurement arrangement with Oldham Borough Council and Rochdale Borough Council. However, moving forward, Oldham Council will independently procure its own RSI and Navigator services to better meet local needs and priorities.

The services identified for continued GMCA funding between 2026 to 2029 are firmly embedded within Oldham's local support framework. They play a crucial role in delivering the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Reduction Strategy and directly contribute to the Government's national Ending Rough Sleeping agenda

7. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 1.1 Option 1 – Do not enter into a grant agreement with GMCA.

Proceeding with this option would result in the Council being unable to deliver the two projects detailed in this report. There would also be significant increase in numbers of rough sleepers in Oldham during a period of significant homelessness and pressure, which is further exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

This would significantly reduce local capacity to prevent and respond to rough sleeping and would likely lead to an increase in the number of people sleeping rough in Oldham. This risk is heightened by ongoing pressures within the housing system and the wider impacts of the cost-of-living crisis.

Option 2 (preferred Option) –To enter into a grant agreement with GMCA

This option would allow the Council to continue delivering the two programmes locally. The funding would support ongoing prevention activity, outreach work, and the provision of temporary accommodation placements for people experiencing rough sleeping.

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** Not applicable
10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Not applicable