

**Oldham Borough Council
Record of Decision**



1. **TITLE:** Afghan Resettlement Programme
2. **SERVICE AREA:** Housing Services
3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**
The proposal seeks approval for an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules ("CPRs") to enable a five-year contract to be awarded to First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) to deliver the Afghan resettlement schemes on behalf of the Council.
4. **DECISION MADE BY:** Chief Executive
5. **DECISION:**
 1. To approve an exemption from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
 2. To directly award a new five-year procurement contract to FCHO to deliver the Afghan resettlement schemes on behalf of the local authority from 1st April 2026 – 31st March 2031. This option would mitigate any disruption in service to Afghan households resettled through these programmes who are accommodated in Oldham, which in turn would protect the reputation of the Council.
6. **REASON FOR DECISION**
The reason for this request is because no genuine competition can be obtained in respect of these specific services (CPR 21.3b) within the timescales to implement the scheme. Furthermore, no other service provider in the area has the capacity and capability to deliver this contract. The proposal seeks approval to execute a contract with FCHO with a commencement date of 1st April 2026.
7. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**
Option 1 (Recommended).
 - a. To approve an exemption from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
 - b. To directly award a new five-year procurement contract to FCHO to deliver the Afghan resettlement schemes on behalf of the local authority from 1st April 2026 – 31st March 2031. This option would mitigate any disruption in service to Afghan households resettled through these programmes who are accommodated in Oldham, which in turn would protect the reputation of the Council.**Option 2 (Not recommended)**
 - a. To bring the service in-house
 - b. To terminate any future relationship with FCHO to deliver the service on behalf of the Council.
 - c. To TUPE eligible staff currently employed within FCHO into the Council To bring the service in-house would require significant infrastructure, including staffing resources, to deliver the programme and would take a significant period of time to establish.
9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:**
Consultation has taken place with internal colleagues within the council in terms of finance, procurement and legal issues and their comments are detailed below.

10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:**
- a. Afghanistan Locally Employed Staff Ex Gratia Scheme Report – March 2021
 - b. Appendices to the report