

CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE (LIF)
Agenda

Date Monday 13 December 2021

Time 5.30 pm

Venue Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

Notes 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires any advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or Constitutional Services in advance of the meeting.

2. CONTACT OFFICER for this Agenda is Constitutional Services Tel. 0161 770 5151 or email elizabeth.drogan@oldham.gov.uk

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Any member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the Contact officer by 12 Noon on Friday, 10 December 2021.

4. FILMING - The Council, members of the public and the press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

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Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law including the law of defamation, the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Act and the law on public order offences.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE (LIF) IS AS FOLLOWS:

Councillors Chadderton, Jabbar and Shah

Item No

1 Election of Chair

The Panel is asked to elect a Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.

2 Apologies For Absence

3 Urgent Business

Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair

4 **Declarations of Interest**

To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.

5 **Public Question Time**

To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

6 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 2)**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee (LIF) held on 11th November 2020 are attached for approval.

7 **The Local Improvement Fund - Project Recommendations 2021/22 (Pages 3 - 10)**



CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE (LIF)
11/11/2020 at 3.00 pm

Present: Councillor
Councillors Fielding, Jabbar and Shah

Also in Attendance:

Emma Barton	Director of Economy
Jonathan Downs	Corporate Policy lead
Matthew Drogan	Head of Strategy and Performance
Paul Entwistle	Director of Legal Services
Anne Ryans	Director of Finance
Rebekah Sutcliffe	Strategic Director Communities and Reform
Sian Walter-Browne	Principal Constitutional Services Officer

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Members were asked to elect a Chair for the duration of the meeting.

RESOLVED that Councillor Fielding be nominated Chair of the Sub-Committee for the municipal year.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

6 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee (LIF) held on 20th March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

7 **THE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - PROJECT UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee gave consideration to a report of the Corporate Policy Lead which asked Members to review the project updates and agree additional resource requirements, if applicable

Members were informed that, at the meeting of the Council on the 22nd May 2019, it was agreed that a Local Improvement Fund (LIF) should be established to support district priorities. The LIF is a £500k capital fund that all elected members and District Teams can access through a bidding process.

The LIF launched in July 2019 and required elected members to submit expressions of interest for funding, with two funding rounds held in November 2019 and February 2020. In total the

LIF funded 20 projects, totalling £499,260. The report provided an update on all 20 projects, including additional funding requirements.

Members gave consideration to three projects which had requested additional funding:

1. Application 6 – Hollinwood War Memorial – £2,273 over budget.
2. Application 10 – Turn Lane Footway – £5,000 over budget (Members noted that £2,500 had been found by the service to support the delivery of the project and the requirement from the LIF was an additional £2,500).
3. Application 13 – Lees Village Centre – £5,000 over budget.

Members were informed that, if approved, the shortfall of £6,108.87 could be managed within the overall capital programme approvals.

Members noted that one project had been delivered under budget, Application 14 – Martha Street and Ripon Street Play – £3,644.13 underspend.

The Council had allocated an additional £500k for the Local Improvement Fund. However, further funding rounds had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Options/Alternative considered:

- Option 1 - Do Nothing – this was not the preferred option as, without additional funding, the three projects detailed above could not progress.
- Option 2 - Allocate additional funding – the Sub-Committee was recommended to review current projects and agree which projects should receive additional LIF Funding.

RESOLVED that:

1. The progress on current projects as set out in the report be noted.
2. Additional funding be agreed for the three projects which had requested it.
3. An update be provided to a future meeting with regards to works to Sholver Community Centre (replacement of boiler, windows and kitchen).
4. An update be provided to a future meeting with regards to Failsworth War Memorial Renewal.

The meeting started at 3.00 pm and ended at 3.38 pm



Report to CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

The Local Improvement Fund – Project Recommendations 2021/22

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Arooj Shah, Council Leader

Officer Contact: Guy Parker (Policy Manager)

Report Author: Guy Parker (Policy Manager)

13 December 2021

Reason for Decision

The Local Improvement Fund (LIF) provides funding of £500,000 for projects that aim to improve Oldham's neighborhoods for the benefit of local residents. The LIF Cabinet Sub-Committee are asked to review the final scores and comments provided by the advisory panel and agree which applications should receive funding.

Recommendation

Review the Advisory Panel recommendations 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. With residents having experienced such hardship over the course of the pandemic, councillors were encouraged to propose projects that would help their community recover socially and economically.
- 1.4 The latest round of the LIF launched in June 2021 and required elected members to submit expressions of interest for funding by 23rd July. In total the LIF received 42 expressions of interest.
- 1.5 The LIF Advisory Panel, consisting of representatives from Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, met in August and scored the expressions of interest, recommending that 25 of the expressions of interest be invited to submit full applications, with 14 not progressed and 3 recommended for additional consideration outside of the LIF.
- 1.6 23 full applications were ultimately submitted for consideration. The LIF Advisory Panel met again on 22nd November and scored the full applications. The Advisory Panel's recommendations and comments are included in Appendix 1. The panel have recommended that 19 projects with a total value of £482,807 be approved across all five of Oldham's districts. They have recommended that the remaining £17,193 be retained as a contingency fund for the approved projects.
- 1.7 The LIF Cabinet Sub-Committee are asked to review the final recommendations and comments provided by the advisory panel and agree which applications should receive LIF funding, totalling no more than £500k.

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 full Advisory Panel recommendations and agree which should receive LIF funding.

3 Recommended Option

- 3.1 Review the full Advisory Panel recommendations and agree which should receive LIF funding.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Capital Programme includes £0.500m to support the Local Improvement Fund for Districts. Funding requests of £0.483m are recommended for approval. Provided the sub-committee approve only the recommended schemes then £0.017m of funding remains available. If the sub-committee wishes to approve additional schemes then the total should not exceed the approved capital programme allocation of £0.500m. Colleagues are reminded that expenditure on all approved schemes must meet the statutory definition of expenditure for capital purposes. (Andy Moran, Assistant Director of Finance)

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

18 Appendices

18.1 Appendix 1 – Advisory Panel Recommendations and Comments

Local Improvement Fund 2021/22: Cross-Party Advisory Panel Recommendations

	Amount Requested	Advisory Panel Recommendation	Panel Feedback
Central			
Application 1 – Creating a wildlife sanctuary at Sickle Street	£28,835	FUND	Overall a positive application, creating a community space, helping residents engage with wildlife.
Application 2 – Update the outdated weather pitch / astro turf on West End Street	£65,000	DO NOT FUND	The panel agreed that the application required additional design work. It would also be helpful to consider what the wider use of the grounds may be. The panel raised concerns about the use of match funding that hasn't been secured yet, adding risk to the successful delivery of the project. The panel recommended the application be deferred to a future funding round, so the concerns raised can be fully answered.
Application 3 – Fully repair the ongoing issues within the OBA Millennium Cultural Centre	£37,500-£108,200	FUND (Advisory Panel recommend providing £50,000 LIF funding)	There are some financial figures included in the application, though it is not clear how they break down, or the link between the different elements of the bid and the benefits The panel agreed that the project was important for the local community so proposed allocating £50,000 to the project to enable the delivery of urgent works.
East			
Application 4 – Refurbishing existing street furniture and community notice boards at Stoneleigh and Whitehall Lane parks	£56,310	FUND	The panel agreed that it was important to ensure a fair allocation of funding between the two parks, based on the priorities outlined in the funding applications. This needs to be agreed by ward members.
Application 5 – Saddleworth Historical Society Holly Bank Project	£60,587-£79,502	DO NOT FUND	The Advisory Panel felt that the project had merit. However, they felt that the level of benefit compared to cost was lower than other projects and therefore would not be as impactful.

			They recommended that the project be looked at again in future if more LIF funding were available.
Application 6 – Carry out essential repairs to Friezland arena	£18,410	FUND	The panel recognised the positivity of the project, especially as the group have already actively sought other funding to support the delivery of the project. The panel felt that the application was incredibly positive, helping refurbish a well-used community asset.
Application 7 – Deliver improvements to child safety and road congestion along Rowland Way and Medlock Way	£22,930	FUND	The panel agreed that this was a positive application, recognising that improvements would lead to greater child safety in the area.
Application 8 – Repairs and refurbishment of Springhead Community Centre	£10,000	FUND	The panel agreed that the refurbishments would help to continue providing an important community facility, so recommended allocating funding,
Application 9 – Belmont Ave. open space improvements	£35,200	DO NOT FUND	<p>The panel agreed that the application has merit but raised concerns about funding. Could grant funding be explored to support the bid?</p> <p>The panel agreed that if this is a safety issue (the path is unsafe), it should not be funded by the LIF. It is recommended that Members discuss with Highways, so a safety assessment can be undertaken.</p> <p>If the pathway improvement element of the project was removed, the remaining application would be Revenue and not eligible for the LIF.</p> <p>The panel recommended seeing if Pocket Park funding be explored. Officers were requested to provide feedback directly to the applicant, so that other funding sources could be considered, including a future bid to the LIF if appropriate.</p>
Application 10 – Lydgate Leaving Lockdown	£20,000	FUND	The panel agreed that the application was well developed, and welcomed the additional funding secured from a range of other sources to supplement the funding from the LIF.
North			

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Application 11 – Improve traffic management on the approach to Tandle Hill	£36,000	FUND	The Panel agreed the expanded project had significant merit and approved funding it.
Application 12 – To make the road to St Paul’s School safer for young people	£6,900	FUND	The Panel expressed some concerns that the funding requested would make delivery very tight. They agreed however that the project has significant merit and should be supported.
Application 13 – Salmon Fields Highway Improvement	£25,000	FUND (Advisory Panel recommend providing £20,000 LIF funding)	The Panel welcomed the project but felt that it would be most appropriate to utilise £20,000 of LIF funding on the project and to source the remaining £5,000 locally.
Application 14 – Improvements to Dogford Park	£34,800	FUND	The Panel welcomed the project, providing funding both to address safety issues and to improve the aesthetics and usability of the park.
Application 15 – HCP Tennis Courts	£27,724-£47,600	DO NOT FUND	The Panel felt that the lower cost option would not prove economical in the long-run, but that the higher cost option was too great a proportion of the funding for the potential benefit in comparison to other bids.
Application 16 – George Street Pitch	£5,990	FUND	The Panel welcomed the project as an efficient use of funds and agreed to support it.
Application 17 – Crompton Cemetery Improvements	£12,850	FUND	The Panel was positive about improving Crompton Cemetery, recognising it as an important community asset. The Panel agreed to spend £12850 on the project.
South			
Application 18 – Refurbish Progress Community Hub	£20,000-£25,000	FUND (Advisory Panel recommend providing £20,000 LIF funding)	The Panel agreed for £20,000 to be spent on this project, subject to a definitive quote being provided, having funding contingent upon agreement on what will be delivered and the agreed contractor having sound financial history. Members agreed that there needs to be additionality.

Application 19 – Fitton Hill and Hathershaw Bulldogs, restoring community base	£20,636	FUND	The Panel welcomed this project and the additional funding sources the applicants had secured and agreed to support its progress.
West			
Application 20 – Traffic Calming and Road Safety Scheme Burnley Lane Chadderton	£44,146	FUND	The Panel were happy to support the scheme which will significantly improve road safety in Chadderton
Application 21 – Traffic calming across the Firwood Park Estate	£30,000	FUND	The Panel supported the project which combines funding from the LIF to funds allocated from the Capital Programme to achieve significant benefits.
Application 22 – Nile Mill Engine House Restoration	£20,000	FUND	Members felt that the Council should support the project and building by funding it. Members agreed that funding the project through the LIF has the potential to unlock further funding from elsewhere.
Application 23 – Reimagining Chadderton District Centre	£25,000	FUND	The Panel was happy to support this project which they felt would be highly beneficial for Chadderton town centre.