

CABINET Agenda

Date Monday 17 October 2022

Time 6.00 pm

Venue Council Chamber, 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 Liz Droган in advance of the meeting.
 2. CONTACT OFFICER for this Agenda is Liz Droган 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 Wednesday, 12 October 2022.
 4. FILMING – This meeting will be recorded for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items and the footage will be on our website. This activity promotes democratic engagement in accordance with section 100A(9) of the Local Government Act 1972. The cameras will focus on the proceedings of the meeting. As far as possible, this will avoid areas specifically designated for members of the public who prefer not to be filmed. Disruptive and anti social behaviour will always be filmed.

Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed for the Council's broadcast 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.

Please also note the Public attendance Protocol on the Council's Website

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/homepage/1449/attending_council_meetings

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CABINET IS AS FOLLOWS:

Councillors Akhtar, Ali, Brownridge, Chadderton, Jabbar, Moores, Mushtaq and Taylor

Item No

- 1 Apologies For Absence
- 2 Urgent Business
Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 3 Declarations of Interest
To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4 Public Question Time
To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 5 Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 21st September 2022 (Pages 1 - 10)
- 6 Household Support Fund (Round 3) (Pages 11 - 22)
- 7 Grant Acceptance: City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) - Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor (Pages 23 - 30)
- 8 Future contracting tender arrangements for residential and dual registered care homes (Pages 31 - 42)
- 9 Accessible Oldham - Henshaw Street (Pages 43 - 48)
- 10 Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3. (Pages 49 - 54)
- 11 Exclusion of the Press and Public
That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.
- 12 Accessible Oldham - Henshaw Street (Pages 55 - 66)
- 13 Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3. (Pages 67 - 72)



Oldham
Council

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Present: Councillor Chadderton (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Ali, Brownridge, Jabbar, Mushtaq and Taylor

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

A minute silence was held following the death of the late, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

A minute silence was held following the death of Councillor Jean Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and former Leader of the Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Moores.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 22ND AUGUST 2022**

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd August 2022 be approved.

6 **OLDHAM'S COST OF LIVING RESPONSE**

The Cabinet gave consideration a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought to outline proposals to be introduced by the Council in response to the ongoing cost of living crisis. It was reported that in Oldham, some of parts of the Borough have the highest rates of deprivation in the country and that many residents would face hardships over the coming months with more people than ever facing some form of financial crisis. As a result, Oldham Council was predicting a significant increase in demand for financial assistance, advice and support in the coming months with a need to increase investment in those services.

In response to the Council the Council were proposing a £3 million investment in services, support and funding to help reduce the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on all Oldham households but also to widen the safety net for those residents most vulnerable to financial crisis.

On the 27th of July 2022, Oldham Council held the Cost of Living Summit, bringing together residents, partners and voluntary organisations to discuss and plan for how to collectively respond to the crisis. The summit's objective was to focus on the practical actions we could take locally to best support residents over the winter months.

The proposals outlined in the report reflected Oldham Council's response to the Cost of Living Summit, providing a comprehensive package of support for our residents this winter. Members welcomed the report and endorsed the support and interventions outlined.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve the interventions outlined in the report.

Option 2 – Not to approve the interventions outlined in the report.

RESOLVED – That the interventions outlined in the report, committing to providing a £3 million package of support to Oldham's residents during the cost-of-living crisis be approved.

7

TOMMYFIELD MARKET - LEASE MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which sought approval of new lease agreements for and renewal of the lease model for traders existing and new of Tommyfield Market.

It was reported that Tommyfield Market was moving into the Shopping Centre and there were plans to redevelop the current market site when it was vacated. The proposals were for existing tenants to relocate into the heart of the Town Centre as requested at previous trader engagement meetings.

In readiness for this relocation, this report sought approval to review existing tenancy arrangements to provide consistency and to ensure vacant possession could be obtained in a timely manner as soon as the opportunity arose.

Engagement sessions were continuing with tenants to help clarify their relocation requirements and to help map out their business plans.

In addition, this report sought approvals to respond to market traders ask for financial assistance as they continued to report that the current trading situation was difficult.

This was due to a slow recovery from the Covid pandemic, and the challenges associated with the current market site: traders had asked for assistance to aid their sustainability during these currently challenging times and, ensure market continuation ahead of moving across to the new market site.

Options/alternatives considered

The options considered were mapped out in the report at Item 15 of the agenda. The options considered aid the future vacation of the Market site for its redevelopment and would help tenants in their ability to plan for the future.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 15 of the agenda before making a decision.

8

DON'T TRASH OLDHAM CAMPAIGN: YEAR END REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which sought approval to roll out further activities over the next twelve months in support of the continuation of the

Don't Trash Oldham campaign, utilising funding commitments from earlier in the year

It was reported that clean streets and tackling issues of fly tipping and littering that blight Oldham's communities remained a priority for Oldham residents and for the Council. The Don't Trash Oldham (DTO) campaign commenced in September 2021, following Cabinet approval, which focused on community engagement, and confirmed the investment and resources required in order to strengthen current street cleaning and enforcement activity.

This report provided an end of year report and detailed the outcomes and achievements over the last twelve months; it examined the lessons learnt (what has worked and what could be improved) and proposed some new measures / targeted interventions for the next twelve months, following announcements earlier this year about a further financial commitment.

Members welcomed the report and the achievements of the campaign and asked that a vote of thanks be recorded for all the staff involved in the Campaign and the benefits it has achieved.

Option /alternatives considered

Option1 - Continue with the current approach and extend the campaign by revisiting the areas on rotation for one month in line with Appendix 1 of the report with enhanced visibility.

Option 2 -Target known hotspot locations with enforcement, engagement and dedicated clean up to induce behaviour change, and introduce a boroughwide 'betterment' plan to enhance all local communities / establish a DTO legacy.

Option 3 - Do nothing and bring the campaign to a close with the year end report, and convert the funds to support in-year funding pressures.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The achievements of the Don't Trash Oldham Campaign across the borough over the last twelve months be noted.
2. The proposals to roll out further activities over the next twelve months in support of the continuation of the DTO campaign, utilising funding commitments from earlier in the year be noted.
3. Option 2 as outlined in the report be approved for a focused and targeted delivery campaign to significantly improve the living conditions for our local communities, and to ensure a sustainable legacy is created with the available funding.
4. A vote of thanks be given to all staff involved in the Don't Trash Oldham Campaign.

9

GRANT ACCEPTANCE: MAYORS CHALLENGE FUND (MCF) - BEE NETWORK CROSSINGS

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which confirmed the value of the grant available to Oldham Council from the Mayoral Challenge Fund and the intention to add this additional resource to the Council's Transport Programme.

It was reported that the Council had secured additional funding for scheme delivery, on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), via the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF). The Greater Manchester Mayor established a £160M Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund for cycling and walking infrastructure to kick-start delivery of the Greater Manchester Bee Network in June 2018.

The fund was being used to deliver the first phase of the walking and cycling elements of the wider Bee Network, which will transform Greater Manchester's transport system. This network, once completed, would cover circa 1,800 miles and be the longest, integrated, planned network in the country connecting every neighbourhood of Greater Manchester.

Transport for Greater Manchester successfully bid to MCF Tranche 6 in November 2019 for the Greater Manchester Bee Network Crossings scheme.

The scheme represented a rolling programme of highway crossing interventions across all districts in Greater Manchester, designed to reduce severance for walkers and cyclists. Phase 1 is currently delivering a package of crossings in Bury and Manchester.

Phase 2 of the GM Bee Network Crossings scheme would deliver new and upgraded crossing facilities to overcome highway severance at 7 sites located throughout Bolton, Oldham, Stockport, and Wigan.

This Phase 2 package of works had been developed in collaboration with Local Authority partners. The release of the funding for Phase 2 delivery was approved at GMCA on 29th July 2022.

Option 1 - Accept the grant offer, enter into the delivery agreement with TfGM for the proposed Oldham schemes and progress the delivery of all schemes in the appropriate timescales.

Option 2 - Do not accept the grant offer and do not enter into the delivery agreement with TfGM to deliver the schemes

RESOLVED – That:

1. The grant offer from the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) for delivery of the Bee Network Crossings scheme in Oldham be accepted.
2. The Council enter into a Delivery Agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester for the proposed scheme.
3. The intention to bring the additional resource into the transport capital programme in 2022/23 and complete delivery of the schemes in the appropriate timescales be noted.

10

HACKNEY CARRIAGE (TAXI) FARE INCREASE

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which sought to review and approve a request made by Hackney Carriage trade representatives for an increase in Hackney Carriage (taxi) fares.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to set the maximum costs and fares that drivers may charge the public for journeys taken in a taxi.

In setting taxi fares, the Council must balance any increase of taxi fares against the needs of the travelling public. A review of taxi fares last took place in 2012.

It was reported that Taxi fares have remained static since 2012, despite the increase in the cost of living.

The trade had seen an increase in costs associated with licensing, maintaining, and running a taxi over the previous 10 years, and were now requesting the Council review the fares they are permitted to charge in order to mitigate those costs. The existing and proposed fares were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1: Approve the request

Option 2: Do not approve the request

RESOLVED – That:

1. The request to increase Hackney Carriage Taxi fares as detailed at appendix 1 to the report be approved.
2. Any objections to the statutory notices issued following approval of this report are delegated to the Leader of the Council.

11

FAIR COST OF CARE EXERCISE AND LIVING WAGE FOUNDATION NATIONAL LIVING WAGE IMPLEMENTATION

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Adult Social Care which sought approval for the arrangements for the implementation of the Living Wage, following the commitment included in the 2022/23 Revenue Budget report (approved 2 March 2022) to implemented by October 2022. It was reported that due to the timescales for the submission to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) of the Fair Cost of Care proposals by the 14 October 2022, approval was sought to delegate authority to sign off the report submission to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care. An update report would then follow to Cabinet to note the decisions made. This report provided an overview of the Fair Cost of Care (FCoC) exercise which the Council was required to submit to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), including the timeline and approval process required. Additionally, the paper confirmed the implementation plan for the Living Wage Foundation National Living Wage (FLW).

Option/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care to sign off the report submissions.

Option 2 – Require a Cabinet Decision on the Fair Cost of Care Submissions. Due to the internal approval process if this option is chosen it would not be possible to achieve the submission deadline of the 14 October, which risks not only the reputation of the council but also may affect the funding received in year and expected in future years.

Option 3 – Pay the Foundation Living Wage at the Current rate of £9.90 effective from 1 October, with implementation by the end of October 2022.

Option 4– Implement the Foundation Living Wage at the September announced level by the end of October 2022.

Option 5 – Not to implement the Foundation Living Wage.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed delegation of authority for the submissions required by 14 October 2022 to the Department of Health and Social Care.. A Cabinet report to follow to note the decision made and costs and models agreed.
2. The implementation the Foundation Living Wage by the end of October 2022 be approved at the current rate and from the first of April 2023 move to the rate announced in September 2022 (which was announced with six months to implement) at an estimated cost of £1M from October 2022 - March 2023.This would include an increase in the fees paid to providers and contract variations to ensure the increase is passed on to social care staff.

12

DAY SERVICES CONTRACT PROVIDED BY AGE UK OLDHAM.

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Adult Social Care which sought approval for a proposed 12 month interim funding arrangement for day services and to re-engage Age UK Oldham to deliver a service during that period. It was reported that it was important to support the continuation of day care delivery in the short term and to support the ongoing relationship that Age UK Oldham, as a respected strategic partner have developed with the community in Oldham. Age UK Oldham were proactive in redefining their local offer throughout 2020 as the Covid Pandemic emerged and had continued to provide valued and relevant services to local residents.

Option/alternatives considered

The options were considered at Item 17 of the agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 17 of the agenda.

13

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of the appropriate budget to proceed with identified prioritised work within the Property Management Programme.

This report provided a review of a 3-year plan of Backlog Maintenance agreed in 2021.as detailed at appendix A to the report

It was stressed that several schemes previously identified had already been delivered. All schemes had been reviewed and some reprioritised based upon site knowledge of technical officers and risk analysis. Several schemes were currently in

progress therefore already committed as proposed delivery for 2022/2023.

A detailed review of known current maintenance and investment schemes had been completed and included a review of outstanding schemes previously captured in a report by the 'Head of Strategic Assets & Facilities' from April 2021 along with additional schemes that had been identified in recent months. A collaborative meeting was held on 6th May 2022 to collectively review and agree the property management programme based on priority assessment, asset strategy, budget availability and procurement considerations. Technical officers in collaboration with colleagues in finance, procurement, highways, estate management and education had confirmed the specific schemes which were required in either 2022/2023, 2023/2024 or 2024/2025.

The review had included revision to previous budget cost of each scheme to reflect the current scope of works whilst also considering the current commercial procurement market. It was considered that the current contractor market was volatile resulting in tender return increases. Consequently, budget cost had been reviewed to avoid future budget increases. Where possible, schemes had been re-prioritised with a view to doing essential works only thus affording further time to realign with wider considerations such as Decarbonisation and Disposal programmes

Specific schemes had been identified as being beyond the realms of maintenance due to scale, complexity, and cost. It was considered that these such schemes are more appropriately addressed in alternative programmes.

Options/Alternatives

Option 1 - Do nothing, which was not considered viable as the schemes identified are considered as priority maintenance works that were required necessary either to maintain the full operational use of the buildings, to mitigate legal risks, are of a health and safety issue, or are considered needed to meet statutory legislation requirements.

Option 2 – To approve the budget and to commission the required works in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. This would assist to maintain and facilitate improved functional use of the corporate assets, whilst mitigating relevant operational and health and safety risks.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 16 of the agenda before making a decision.

14

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

15

TOMMYFIELD MARKET - LEASE MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 - Tommyfield Market - Lease Management.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The offer of a new lease agreement to existing tenants of Tommyfield Market as detailed within the commercially sensitive report be approved.
2. The new lease arrangements be offered to all new tenants for fairness and equality during this financial period of trading in this existing location.
3. The rental model though the new lease arrangements be reviewed which would provide a rent reduction on full price charges through the new lease agreement providing the tenant is in compliance with their existing tenancy agreement and have no rental arrears as detailed with options in the commercially sensitive report.
4. Further engagement takes place with tenants as detailed within the commercially sensitive report.
5. Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth to finalise the terms and conclude the new tenancy agreements, together with any ancillary documentation.
6. Authority to be delegated to the Director of Legal Services or his nominated representative to sign and affix the Common Seal of the Council to all contractual documentation necessary to give effect to the above authorisations and delegations.

16

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 13 - Property Management Programme Update.

RESOLVED – That the budget as detailed in the report be approved to enable commission of the required works in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. This would assist to maintain and facilitate improved functional use of the Council's Corporate assets, whilst mitigating relevant operational and health and safety risks.

17

DAY SERVICES CONTRACT PROVIDED BY AGE UK OLDHAM.

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 12 - Day services contract provided by Age UK Oldham.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed interim funding arrangements as detailed within the commercially sensitive report for the day services for 12 months be approved.
2. The re-engagement of AGE UK to deliver a service during that 12 months be approved.
3. All further detail in the recommendation within the commercially sensitive report be approved.

The meeting started at 4.30pm and finished at 5.05pm



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Report to CABINET

Household Support Fund (Round 3)

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Abdul Jabbar, MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon

Officer Contact:

Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

Report Author:

Chris Kelsall (Acting Head of Revenues & Benefits)

17 October 2022

Reason for Decision

The purpose of the report is to request approval to allocate the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in the sum of £2,419,369 over the period 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2022. The report sets out options for the allocation of funding across several initiatives including food support for children and young people over the school holiday periods and help with the cost of fuel and essential items for pensioners and vulnerable households. It also presents the preferred option.

Executive Summary

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has allocated a sum of £2,419,369 of funding to the Council to deliver a Household Support Grant scheme covering the period 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2022.

The HSF supports the delivery of food and fuel support and other essential items to vulnerable families with children and other vulnerable individuals. This is the third round of such funding and unlike previous rounds, there are no constraints as to the proportions that must be allocated to specific groups such as pensioners or children. However, a condition of the grant is that at some of the funded must be operated on an application basis – i.e residents should have the opportunity to come forward and ask for support.

Three options have been considered appropriate for presentation, however, there is a wide range of potential options. The report presents options 1-3 and these are set out in Appendices 2-4 and discussed in detail in the body of this paper. All options provide for a food, fuel and essential items offer for families with children and pensioners. All options propose to fully utilise the fund but differ

in terms how much of the fund is used to finance measures outlined in the Council's Response to the Cost of Living Crisis approved by Cabinet on 21st September.

A further option is that the Council could choose not to deliver a package of support to vulnerable residents over the October 2022 to March 2023 period. As the HSF funding is ringfenced, this would mean returning the funding to the Government.

Table 1 sets out the recommended option (Option 1) which utilises the Government grant funding in full. This option provides a food offer amounting to £15 per week for the October, February and Easter holidays and total payment of £20 per week per eligible child over the Christmas holiday. Option 1 also supports the comprehensive offer of support provided under the Council's response to the Cost of Living crisis, providing help with fuel costs together with a package of support from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector.

Table 1: Option 1

Proposed Area of Expenditure	£
Food Support for children and young people at £15 per week for the October, February and Easter holidays and total payment of £20 per week per eligible child over the Christmas holiday	1,950,000
Additional Support for the Local Welfare Provision Scheme	25,000
Allocations to support the Council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis: Support for the Warm Homes Team to provide fuel vouchers for those in emergency need and the provision of a boiler repair/replacement service	100,000
Enlisting support in partnership with funding administered by Action Together, from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to provide support) in the following areas	220,000
- warm clothing /bedding	
- support for those with no recourse to public funds	
- essential items for the elderly including food	
Provide additional funding for Age UK to support older people with fuel payments.	50,000
Providing additional HUGGG vouchers to complement the Holiday Activity Fund.	15,000
Administration costs	59,369
TOTAL	2,419,369

Recommendations

That Cabinet approves Option 1 (set out above) which utilises the HSF grant funding in full.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has announced a new round of Household Support Fund (HSF) grant funding amounting to £2,419,369 (which is the same as the funding for the last round). It covers the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2022. This grant is a successor to the DWP Winter Grant first offered in December 2020, and subsequently the Local COVID Support Grant and earlier iterations of the Household Support grant fund. These grants have been short term regimes set up to support vulnerable residents with a food, fuel and essential items offer.
- 1.2 This is the third round of HSF funding and unlike previous rounds, there are no constraints as to the proportions that must be allocated to specific groups such as pensioners or children. However, a condition of the grant is that at some of the funds must be operated on an application basis – i.e., residents should have the opportunity to come forward and ask for support.
- 1.3 To date, most iterations of this fund have predominantly been used to provide a school holiday food offer in the form of vouchers to support children and young people eligible for means tested Free School Meals, as well as low-income families with pre-school children and care leavers under 25. However, the last HSF round stipulated that one third of the funds should be allocated to pensioners and therefore a significant proportion of the fund supplemented payments from the Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme. The allocation of HSF Round 2 (1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022) is outlined in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 Allocating resources so that the school holiday food offer is £15 per week (£20 per week at Christmas) would cost an estimated £1.95m (covering the Autumn (2022) and Spring half term weeks (2023), two weeks at Christmas 2022 and 2 weeks at Easter 2023). This would leave some £0.47m remaining to be allocated.
- 1.5 The Government also expects Local Authorities to place a greater emphasis on supporting households that do not have access to other Government support schemes such as the Council Tax Energy Rebate schemes or Winter Fuel payments. In particular, the Government has requested the Council consider prioritising the following residents:
- eligible for but not claiming qualifying benefits;
 - who become eligible for benefits after the relevant qualifying dates;
 - are in receipt of Housing Benefit only;
 - who are ordinarily eligible for benefits but who had a nil award in the qualifying period due to, for example, a fluctuation in income;
 - who have fuel costs but who cannot access the £400 of energy support from the Energy Bill Support Scheme or the equivalent package confirmed on 29 July.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Council must determine its delivery plan for the HSF and submit the plan to the Government by 28 October 2022. Three options for the use of the funding are set out in Appendices 2 – 4 and there can of course be a range of combinations that could utilise the fund. However, funds must be defrayed by 31 March 2023 and this places a significant constraint on the number of different grant allocations that either the Council, or its partner organisations, can process in respect of application based claims. The significant areas of support provided by the fund are considered below.

-
- 2.2 **Holiday Food Support for Children and Young People.** All options presented in Appendices 2 to 4 of this report propose a weekly eligible food voucher offer for children and young people at £15 per week for the October, February and Easter holidays and total payment of £20 per eligible child over the Christmas holiday. This is estimated to cost £1.95m. As the Easter holidays are in early April 2022, vouchers will be issued before the end of March to ensure grant is defrayed within the qualifying period.
- 2.3 **Fuel Support.** With the allocation of £15 and £20 respectively to food support vouchers means there is limited scope to provide such support in this round. Option 3 does include it, for consideration, the provision of a £25 voucher to all residents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction benefits. However, this would be in addition to support already provided under existing Government initiatives and such support may be better targeted under the Council's Response to the Cost of Living Crisis (see paragraph 2.4 below).
- 2.4 **Council's Response to the Cost of Living Crisis.** Options 1 and 2 support the Response by contributing £385,000 and £310,000 respectively. There are three main advantages to this:
- 1) it ensures the fund will be directed to priorities already identified by the Council
 - 2) it mitigates the level of reserves required to deliver the Response
 - 3) the partners organisations involved will provide opportunities for residents in need of such support to apply, thus meeting one of the Governments' requirements for this round of the HSF grant
- 2.5 The main ways in which the allocation will support the Response are outlined below:
- a) *Action Together.* Enlisting support in partnership with funding administered by Action Together, from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to provide support in the following areas: warm clothing & bedding, essential items for the elderly and support for those with no recourse to other public funds.
 - b) *Warm Homes.* Additional funding would continue the offer provided in previous rounds of the grant regime to provide credits to pre-payment meters and a boiler replacement/repair service.
 - c) *Age UK.* To support people with fuel payments
 - d) *HUGGG vouchers.* To complement the Holiday Activity Fund offer.
- 2.6 **Other Support.** All options also propose to allocate £25,000 to fund applications directed to and eligible for the Council's Local Welfare Provision scheme
- 2.7 **Administration** – the Council can use the grant to support the cost of administering the grant. This covers the cost of the purchase the vouchers via WONDE, administration costs of partner organisations, such as Action Together and other administrative costs including direct staffing costs, printing and postage (as required). Estimated sums of between £60,000 and £90,000 are presented for this purpose, although the exact administration cost will depend on the option chosen.
- 2.8 **Schemes no longer funded by the HSF.** As stated above, unless Option 3 is chosen funding would no longer be available for payments made in the previous round alongside the Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme towards fuel costs (£1.13million).

3 Options / Alternatives

3.1 Four options are presented for consideration with Options 1-3 set out in Appendices 2-4.

- 1) Option 1 - provides £1.95m of school vouchers and contributes £385,000 towards the Council's Response to the Cost of Living Crisis.
- 2) Option 2- is as per Option 1 but with an additional cash payment of £30 to support the purchase of school uniforms for parents with children who qualify for Free School Meals (FSM) at reception and year 7, based on £30 per child. This would cost £75,000 and reduce the contribution to the Response by the same amount.
- 3) Option 3- reduces the school voucher payment over the Christmas holiday to £15 and allocates £500,000 to fund a payment of £22.50 towards fuel costs to all residents currently receiving Council Tax Reduction benefits.
- 4) Option 4 - the Council could choose not to deliver a package of support to vulnerable residents over the April to September 2022 period. As the DWP funding is ringfenced, this would mean returning the funding to the Government. This option can be quickly discounted.

3.3 Option 2 would deliver a proposal initially considered by the Cost of Living Working Group to support the purchase of school uniforms. However, it will add another layer of administration to the provision of vouchers and on balance it is proposed that the grant resources would be best utilised through supporting the package of measures already agreed by Cabinet.

3.4 Option 3 would provide additional funding towards fuel payments but to some extent this will duplicate support already provided by the Government and again it is proposed that resources could be more effective if directed elsewhere. It would also lead to increased administrative costs to issue the associated vouchers via Royal Mail.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 The preferred option is Option 1. During the second half of the financial year 2022/23, this provides a food offer amounting to £15 per week for the October, February and Easter holidays and total payment of £20 per eligible child over the Christmas holiday. It supports the priorities identified in the Council's Response to the Cost of living Crisis.

5 Consultation

5.1 A communications strategy will accompany the support offered to vulnerable families over this period and to ensure the right support is signposted to the right people at the right time. Information about the wider package of financial support available to these groups includes:

- The communication plan developed in conjunction. with the Council's Response to the Cost of Living Crisis.
- www.oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp which lists the support and benefits available for those struggling for food and provisions. This webpage lists support available from the Warm Homes team, Local Welfare Provision support, Council Tax Reduction and more
- Advice from the Welfare Rights, Get Oldham Working and Helpline teams in maximising income and enlisting the full range of support available to residents
- Financial advice and support available via the Support and Inclusion Team, Citizen's Advice and Step change

5.2 The wider package of support and includes:

- Free childcare places of up to 15 hours a week for pre-school children www.oldham.gov.uk/2yearolds
- Healthy Start vouchers for those who are pregnant or have a child under 4 years old. Eligible residents can get free vouchers every four weeks which are worth £4.25 to spend on cow's milk, fresh, frozen or tinned fruit and vegetables, infant formula milk, fresh dried or tinned pulses. Healthy Start vitamins are also available. Applications can be made online at Healthy Start, visit www.healthystart.nhs.uk or by directly requesting an application form from a health visitor or midwife
- The Holiday Activities and Food Programme
- Council Tax Discount for Care leavers under 25

5.3 Take-up of services and support will be measured to ensure the Council is supporting all those who need it and allow the Council and its partners to change their approaches should experience and insight suggest the need to do things differently.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 On 31 August 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) issued guidance for the Household Support Fund Grant (HSF) but there was no indicative funding allocation. Oldham's draft allocation was notified on 22nd September and subsequently confirmed on 30 September at £2,419,369.

6.2 The grant is to fund expenditure outlined in the grant determination from the 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 and the initial Delivery plan must be submitted by 28 October 2022. The grant is paid in arrears and Authorities are required to provide 2 statements of grant and management information returns (MI). The interim MI return must be submitted by 25 January 2023 and this will be used to determine an interim grant payment. The final MI return is due on 28 April 2023 and following verification, a final grant payment will be made.

6.3 Option 1 Table 1 outlines the recommended allocation of the grant all of which are in line with the grant conditions. This option covers the spend of the HSF in full, with no requirement to augment the offer with additional resources.
(Nicola Harrop – Finance Manager)

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 The recommended option is supported. There is funding and the affected individuals would be the most in need within the borough. It is advised that the Revenues & Benefits team familiarise themselves well with any specific grant funding conditions and ensure that such conditions are adhered to carefully. Support and guidance should be sought from the Commercial Legal team on a continued basis through-out the grant period.
(Alex Bougatef – Group Lawyer – Litigation).

8 Co-operative Agenda

8.1 The allocation of this funding is consistent with the Council's co-operative themes of community leadership, partnership working and co-production and ensures that support is available for vulnerable residents.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 Not Applicable

10 Risk Assessments

- 10.1 The Council needs to set out its proposals on how to utilise the funding in a tight timescale. This report sets out how it can do this and satisfy the requirements of the DWP. (Mark Stenson, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management)

11 IT Implications

- 11.1 N/A

12 Property Implications

- 12.1 N/A

13 Procurement Implications

- 13.1 There are no current procurement implications in the allocation of the grant funds however grant agreements will need to be in place where necessary. There are however implications regarding the appointment of WONDE to administer the vouchers. This can be done compliantly by via a direct award from the Crown Commercial Service's framework for Voucher Schemes (RM6255). The Commercial Procurement Unit will support the Revenue & Benefits Service in undertaking the call off procedure. (Emily Molden).

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

- 14.1 N/A

15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

- 15.1 The emerging impacts of the Cost of Living crisis has demonstrated increased and continuing demand for crisis support services. As part of Oldham's response, a Stage 1 Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. This funding will impact positively for residents needing additional help and support through the Cost of Living crisis benefiting those residents on fixed or low incomes. There will be little/no negative impacts on residents with protected characteristics. (Jonathan Downs – Corporate Policy Lead)

16 Implications for Children & Young People

- 16.1 Families with children and young people will directly benefit from the recommended allocation of the HSF grant.

17 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

- 17.1 A Stage 1 EIA has been completed. The proposals are unlikely to have a detrimental impact on any groups with protected characteristics as they actively seek to ensure that all residents can access the help and support they need to avoid crisis through the winter months 2022/3. (Jonathan Downs – Corporate Policy Lead)

18 Key Decision

- 18.1 Yes

19 Key Decision Reference

19.1 A Rule 13 approval has been sought from and agreed by the Chair of Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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

The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

File Ref: Background papers – Household Support Fund – Guidance for Local Councils – link to website
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils>

Officer Name: Chris Kelsall
Contact: chris.kelsall@oldham.gov.uk

23 Appendices

Appendix 1: Round 2 Approved Allocation
Appendix 2: Option 1 (Recommended Option)
Appendix 3: Option 2
Appendix 4: Option 3

Use of HSF Round 2: 01April 2022 to 30 September 2022

Approved Area of Expenditure	£
Food Support for children and young people at £15 for the Spring Bank Holiday and total payment of £40 per eligible child over the <u>Summer</u> holidays	1,097,415.00
Payment of £25 to support fuel costs for households of working age but in receipt of Council Tax Reduction	381,050.00
Payment of £110 to support fuel costs for households of pensionable age and in receipt of Council Tax Reduction with £55 payable on approval of the scheme and £55 prior to the additional fuel increase in October 2022	749,430.00
Support for the Warm Homes Team to provide fuel vouchers for those in emergency need and the provision of a boiler repair/replacement service	80,000.00
Enlisting support in partnership with funding administered by Action Together, from the Voluntary, Community, <u>Faith</u> and Social Enterprise section to provide support in the following areas (of which £0.050m must be allocated to pensioners): - warm clothing /bedding - support for those with no recourse to public funds - essential items for the elderly including food	60,000.00
Administration costs	51,474.23
TOTAL	2,419,369.23

Proposed Area of Expenditure	£
Food Support for children and young people at £15 per week for the October, February and Easter holidays and total payment of £20 per week per eligible child over the Christmas holiday	1,950,000
Additional Support for the Local Welfare Provision Scheme	25,000
Allocations to support the Council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis:	
Support for the Warm Homes Team to provide fuel vouchers for those in emergency need and the provision of a boiler repair/replacement service	100,000
Enlisting support in partnership with funding administered by Action Together, from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to provide support) in the following areas	220,000
- warm clothing /bedding	
- support for those with no recourse to public funds	
- essential items for the elderly including food	
Provide additional funding for Age UK to support older people with fuel payments.	50,000
Providing additional HUGGG vouchers to complement the Holiday Activity Fund.	15,000
Administration costs	59,369
TOTAL	2,419,369

Proposed Area of Expenditure	£
Food Support for children and young people at £15 per week for the October, February and Easter holidays and total payment of £20 per week per eligible child over the Christmas holiday	1,950,000
Providing a cash payment to support the purchase of school uniforms for parents with children who qualify for Free School Meals (FSM) at reception and year 7, based on £30 per child	75,000
Additional Support for the Local Welfare Provision Scheme	25,000
Allocations to support the Council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis	310,000
Administration costs	59,369
TOTAL	2,419,369

Proposed Area of Expenditure	£
Food Support for children and young people at £15 per week for the October, February and Easter and Christmas holidays	1,755,000
Additional Support for the Local Welfare Provision Scheme	25,000
Support for the Warm Homes Team to provide fuel vouchers for those in emergency need and the provision of a boiler repair/replacement service	25,000
Enlisting support in partnership with funding administered by Action Together, from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to provide support) in the following areas	25,000
Payment of £22.50 to support fuel costs for all households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction	500,000
Administration costs	89,369
TOTAL	2,419,369



Report to CABINET

Grant Acceptance: City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) – Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor

Portfolio Holder (s):

Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

Officer Contact:

Emma Barton, Executive Director Place and Economic Growth

Report Author:

Eleanor Sykes, Transport Policy Officer

17th October 2022

Reason for Decision

Oldham Council has secured additional funding for scheme development of the Oldham section of the Rochdale – Oldham – Ashton Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor, on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), via:

- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)

The purpose of this report is to confirm the value of the grant available to Oldham and notify Cabinet of the intention to bring this additional resource into the transport capital programme to commence detailed development of the scheme.

The report will also outline the steps that Oldham Council will need to take to procure the necessary support to develop the scheme in the appropriate timescales and to meet the funding requirements for both development and future delivery of the scheme.

Executive Summary

The Greater Manchester CRSTS programme business case was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) in September 2021 by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) on behalf of themselves and all 10 GM districts.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) received confirmation of our full CRSTS allocation of £1.07bn for spend across 2022/23-2026/27 on the 1st April 2022.

On the 29th July 2022, the DfT, as the funders of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, confirmed the delivery plans and funding allocations to each city region and sent a funding letter to each City Region Mayor.

One scheme included in the delivery plan is the TfGM-led Quality Bus Transit (QBT) scheme for the Rochdale – Oldham – Ashton Corridor.

This scheme has been developed over the past 2 years and has now secured Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) assurance through TfGM processes to move to the next stage of scheme development, utilising some of the now approved DfT CRSTS capital budget.

Recommendations

- That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for scheme development of the Oldham section of the Rochdale – Oldham – Ashton Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor, on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), be accepted.
- Approval is granted to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development.
- That the intention to bring the additional resource into the transport capital programme in 2022/23 and complete development of the scheme in the appropriate timescales be noted.
- Approval to procure and make tender awards relating to the necessary external support required to develop the QBT scheme (examples listed in the report) be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth.
- Approval to use part of this resource to progress the development of and tender for a Strategic Partnership Agreement with a view to awarding the works packages to a single Contractor to meet the expectations and timescales of the funders be granted.
- Approval to use part of this resource to appoint temporary agency support within the Highways Team to progress design options to secure further capital funding for Oldham be granted.

Grant Acceptance: City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) – Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor

1 Background

- 1.1 Quality Bus Transit (QBT) refers to a programme of highway improvements along corridors that will improve the reliability, accessibility, and attractiveness of local buses on strategic corridors that connect people to key destinations, such as town centres, schools, hospitals, and employment sites, as well as the wider transport network.
- 1.2 As part of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 (GMTS2040) 10 bus routes across GM were proposed for development as QBT corridors in the 5-year Transport Delivery Plan (2021-26), including the Rochdale – Oldham - Ashton QBT.
- 1.3 QBT measures can include the following:
- Strategic bus priority measures that reduce journey times and bus delays e.g. new and extended bus lanes, bus priority at junctions, bus gates/bus only streets, signal priority for buses.
 - Bus stop improvements e.g. accessibility improvements, high quality shelters and seating, information on buses, improved public realm, improved links to/from bus stops.
 - Streets for All improvements e.g. wider streets-based improvements to the corridor that complement bus measures, coherent bee network facilities, public realm improvements, improved connections to rail and Metrolink stops.
 - Wider supporting measures e.g. high-spec electric buses, smart/integrated ticketing, and promotional and engagement activities.
- 1.4 The ROA corridor is a 10-mile orbital corridor, which serves 4 town centres, includes 1 bus route, connects to the wider transport network (Metrolink and rail), and includes key development sites delivering c.1,200 new homes.
- 1.5 Within Oldham the route runs through six of our wards - Medlock Vale, Alexandra, Werneth, Coldhurst, Royton South and Royton North.
- 1.6 This corridor is in the first phase of QBT delivery across GM and had Transforming Cities Funding (TCF) awarded to commission the consultant Atkins to develop concept designs and a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC).
- 1.7 The relevant Portfolio Holders (Planning, Neighbourhoods, Transport and Finance and Low Carbon) had a presentation from TfGM and Council officers on the ROA QBT in January 2022. This was prior to the SOBC being complete and CRSTS funding being confirmed but Members were supportive and very keen to see the scheme progress.

2 Current Position

Next Steps

- 2.1 The GM Streets for All Programme Board endorsed the recommendation to approve the SOBC for the ROA QBT scheme on the 27th July 2022.
- 2.2 The next steps now include:

- TfGM request Outline Business Case (OBC) development funding drawdown to GMCA in September 2022 from the CRSTS allocation for this QBT corridor of £50m. This drawdown includes an ask of £632,050 for Oldham Council costs to develop the scheme to the OBC stage.
- Oldham Council accept the grant offer of £632,050 for scheme development of the Oldham section of the Rochdale – Oldham – Ashton Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor, on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM).
- Oldham Council enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development.
- Oldham Council bring the additional resource into the transport capital programme in 2022/23 and commence design development for main scheme and ‘quick win’ interventions in October 2022 (on behalf of TfGM).
- Completion of OBC for corridor and combined Outline/Full Business Case for ‘quick win’ interventions with a target date of May 2023 (completed by TfGM).

External Support

2.3 The £632,050 ask prepared by Oldham Council to TfGM for development costs includes the following work:

- Officer time on developing the scheme, consultation and engagement with Members and key stakeholders, communications, finance, legal and procurement input (£554,650).
- Traffic Modelling.
- Signal design.
- Topographical surveys.
- Intrusive surveys and site investigation.
- Landscape architect input.
- Development of a Strategic Partnership Agreement to aid with delivery of this, and other, CRSTS schemes.

2.4 The elements of the above work that we require external support to deliver (topographical surveys, intrusive surveys, site investigation and landscape architect input etc.) will be discussed with procurement and the most appropriate procurement methods selected. It is proposed that the approval for any procurement activity, including the award of contracts for any of these works will be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth (who may delegate further if appropriate to ensure procurement and delivery in a timely manner).

Strategic Partnership Agreement (Delivery Model)

2.5 For Oldham Council to meet the expectations and delivery timescales required under CRSTS we need to adopt a pro-active approach to procurement of a contractor to deliver works.

2.6 We have previously entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement – ‘Accessible Oldham’ - with a medium-sized local contractor who are successfully delivering several works packages across the town centre to meet timescales put in place by funders. This agreement is working well and evidence that, once established, in conjunction with legal, procurement and finance colleagues, a Strategic Partnership Agreement can be used to negate the need for lengthy procurement exercises of up to 3-4 months for each package of works.

-
- 2.7 Repeating this successful model for the development and delivery of highway works on the QBT (and other schemes coming forward through CRSTS allocations) means that individual projects will be procured via a Call Off procedure under the Strategic Partnership Agreement. The Call-Off procedure would be governed by the overarching agreement and each order for works (Call-Off) would be approved at Director level (in liaison with the Directors of Finance and Legal Services) rather than through individual Cabinet reports for each element of work over £400k.
- 2.8 In addition, having a Strategic Partner in place will assist the Delivery Team at key stages of the development of schemes and business cases through Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) and fast-track, where applicable, the construction of projects, to meet the expectations demands of the overseeing organisations.

Additional Highways Resource

- 2.9 In addition to the delivery model outlined above there is also a need to appoint temporary agency support within the Highways Team to progress design options on the QBT to ensure we can secure further capital funding for the scheme and its delivery at various upcoming assurance stages.
- 2.10 An element of the £632,050 development drawdown for Oldham (£554,650) is set aside for staff time for all the necessary resources to develop the scheme, including input from a wide range of Council colleagues.
- 2.11 This identified budget will support the request to appoint additional agency members of staff via a recognised framework to produce the design information and technical support needed for outline and full business case(s) subject to available external funding and programme permits.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 There are two options:

Option 1:

- That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for scheme development of the Oldham section of the Rochdale – Oldham – Ashton Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor, on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), be accepted.
- That approval is granted to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development.
- That approval for all procurement activity and tender award decisions relating to the necessary external support required to develop the QBT scheme (examples listed in the report) be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth.
- That approval to use part of this resource to progress the development of and tender for a Strategic Partnership Agreement with a view to awarding the works packages to a single Contractor to meet the expectations and timescales of the funders be granted.
- That approval to use part of this resource to appoint temporary agency support within the Highways Team to progress design options to secure further capital funding for Oldham be granted.

Option 2:

- That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for scheme development of the Oldham section of the Rochdale – Oldham – Ashton

Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor, on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), is not accepted.

- That approval to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development is not granted.
- That approval for all tender award decisions relating to the necessary external support required to develop the QBT scheme (examples listed in the report) be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth is not granted.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 We are recommending 'Option 1' as this will enable us to develop the QBT scheme in the appropriate timescales to meet the funding requirements for both the development and future delivery of the scheme.

4.2 The alternative, 'Option 2' would be reputationally damaging. We have committed to develop and implement these types of schemes as part of the GM 2040 Transport Strategy (<https://tfgm.com/2040-transport-strategy>).

4.3 In addition, this scheme will make the corridor a more attractive option for travel by bus and active travel modes for both local, short, and onward journeys.

5 Consultation

5.1 As part of the Atkins commission into the QBT they carried out some public engagement, however Covid-19 impacted on this.

5.2 Key Portfolio Holders in Oldham were briefed in January 2022 and introduced to the QBT scheme as part of a wider briefing on the GM Streets for All approach.

5.3 We will continue the engagement with Members of wards along the route and are currently working on how this takes place as we start to develop our stakeholder engagement plan.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The acceptance of the £632k CRSTS capital grant funding will enable delivering the scheme development of the Oldham section of the Rochdale – Oldham – Ashton Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor, which is detailed in the body of the report, on behalf of TfGM. The overall cost of the scheme will need to be contained within the available funding.

6.2 The Councils 2022/23 capital programme will be amended to reflect the receipt of the £632k additional grant and planned programme of expenditure.

(John Edisbury)

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 Grant funding awarded by TfGM will be subject to the Council entering into a grant funding delivery agreement. It is essential that the agreement is reviewed by Legal Services so that any risks can be addressed and, where possible, mitigated. All matters of note and all risks will be communicated to relevant officers for consideration.

7.2 The procurement activity proposed in the report must be undertaken in consultation with the Commercial Procurement Unit and with Legal Services, who will supply suitable forms of contract. Provided all activity follows the Contract Procedure Rules and that the award

processes are in accordance with the advertised evaluation and scoring criteria, there are no known legal implications linked to the procurement recommendations.
(Sarah Orrell)

8. Co-operative Agenda

- 8.1 Development of the QBT scheme in Oldham is part of the collaborative approach to public transport and active travel schemes which sees the 10 Greater Manchester councils, including Oldham, working in partnership with GMCA and TfGM to improve the city-region's active travel network.

The QBT proposals will assist Oldham to meet the mode share targets we have supported as part of the GM 'Right Mix Vision' – for 50% of all journeys in Greater Manchester to be made by walking, cycling and public transport by 2040.

They will also encourage travel by active and sustainable modes, reduce road danger in Oldham and improve the environment and air quality for people living and working in Oldham.

9 Human Resources Comments

- 9.1 None

10 Risk Assessments

- 10.1 The Council in accepting this grant must determine whether it can comply with the grant conditions and deliver the project. The risks in accepting this grant award are assessed as minimal.

(Mark Stenson)

11 IT Implications

- 11.1 None

12 Property Implications

- 12.1 None

13 Procurement Implications

- 13.1 If option one is selected and approved, that the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) is accepted for scheme development and a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM be entered into in relation to the proposed scheme, any additional external support resources required by Oldham Council to discharge its obligations for the grant funded scheme must be fully compliant in accordance with the **Public Contracts Regulations (2015)**.

The compliant procurement of external consultants and professionals for the delivery of services, as previously stated, traffic modelling, signal design, topographical surveys and the development of strategic partnership agreements will be delivered using specialist frameworks as permitted and set out in **PCR 2015 Chapter 2, Section 4 r33 Framework Agreements**.

A decision to utilise certain frameworks available to Oldham Council has been taken including the use of the Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) framework Lots to deliver

these specialist requirements and services. The use of frameworks allows compliant flexibility and efficiency in securing the necessary external support services required for successful delivery.
(Phil Harper-Oliver)

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 NEI-13-22



Report to CABINET

Title: Future contracting tender arrangements for residential and dual registered care homes

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Barbara Brownridge, Lead Member for Health & Social Care

Officer Contact: Jayne Ratcliffe, Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)

Report Author: Neil Clough, Commissioning Manager

17th October 2022

Reason for Decision:

To update the contract arrangements for residential and nursing home provision in the borough and seeks approval to conduct an open tendering exercise.

Executive Summary

There are 44 care homes in Oldham, operating a mix of residential, and residential and nursing beds.

The current Oldham Council contract and service specification that is used when care home places are commissioned dates back to 2011 and a refreshed approach is now needed. The landscape for adult social care is changing rapidly. The reform programme for adult social care is ambitious and far reaching. Pivotal changes such as the Health and Care Act 2022 and adult social care charging reforms must be reflected in commissioning and contracting arrangements for the future.

The current arrangement does not have an expiry date so there is no risk of providers operating with a contract that has expired. However, it is acknowledged that NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) - Oldham locality (previously NHS Oldham CCG) also contract with a number of care homes in the borough who deliver nursing provision. These contracts did expire on 31st March 2022 and were extended for a further 12 months

to enable this work to conclude. We are working together with the intention of one contract with the commissioning lead being Adult Social Care.

The commissioning intention is to implement these revised contracting arrangements with the market by 1st April 2023 and this paper sets out the implementation plan in the run up to that date. The proposed contract arrangements will be in place for a minimum of 5 years with the option to extend for up to a further 2 years, on an annual basis.

This report is seeking approval to go out to market for the provision of residential and nursing care under these revised arrangements. The report also requests delegated authority to the DASS to approve the awarding of contracts to providers who have successfully completed the tender supplier questionnaire documentation, have provided the required evidence of their suitability, which includes compliance with all due diligence checks.

Recommendations

This paper proposes that revised commissioning and contracting arrangements are put in place with the market reflecting these changes, including the implementation a revised service specification which references all relevant legislative requirements, with an increased focus on quality, safety, meeting system pressures, unmet need and better recognising the staff who deliver these vital services. It is therefore recommended that:

- **Approval** is granted for undertaking an open tender exercise for residential provision in the borough
- **Approval** is granted to delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care (DASS) for awarding the contracts following the evaluation and moderation process being conducted

1. Background

1.1 Oldham Council and NHS Greater Manchester ICB - Oldham locality (previously NHS Oldham CCG) spend approximately £36m per annum and fund the care for circa 1130 people at any one time in the borough's care homes. Oldham Council funds the greatest element of this, circa £30m in the last financial year and this is consistent with the local authority position as lead commissioner in this market. Oldham ICF spent £6m with this market in the same period. It is estimated that there are around 450 people living in local care homes who are self-funders.

1.2 A project group consisting of representatives from the contracting and quality functions within the NHS team in Oldham, ASC commissioning, legal and procurement is in place and has been meeting regularly to plan for the implementation of this revised contracting and commissioning approach.

1.3 In March 2022 a series of 3 market engagement sessions were held with providers of residential and nursing care within the market. This was advertised on the chest procurement portal and through our existing networks. A total of 36 national and local providers attended and gave feedback on topics including contract and quality monitoring approach, discharge pathways, diversifying their service offer to address unmet need, and challenges that exist in their operating environment.

1.4 A similar engagement exercise was conducted with practitioners and other key internal stakeholders in May 2022 to understand the challenges, and successes associated with the current commissioning model for residential and nursing provision in the borough.

Market Sustainability Assessment of Oldham's residential market 2020

1.5 In the summer of 2020, at the height of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Commissioning Manager for Older People undertook a market wide care homes market sustainability assessment.

1.6 assessment followed a multi-disciplinary approach, and involved input from safeguarding, commissioning, quality, and business intelligence services. Care homes were assessed against a whole range of factors. These included their CQC rating, the quality of service provided, the type of service provision, acknowledging that some homes have a generic service offer whilst some deliver more specialist provision, a home's willingness to adapt to future changes within the market, such as diversifying into different types of care, bed base, location spread of homes across the borough, noting where there is a large concentration of homes offering generally similar provision.

1.7 The assessments enabled the establishment of a number of evidence based conclusions about the local market. These conclusions were consistent with what we know about the market from our interactions with providers and representatives across the health and social care system in Oldham, and feedback obtained through the discharge and enablement bronze system meetings and provider forums.

1.8 The assessments told us that the most strategically relevant homes were the nursing homes in the borough based upon the increase of complex needs being discharged from hospital, that there is a shortage of nursing provision and this shortage of provision is further exacerbated in the more specialist domains such as complex dementia, bariatric and specialist mental health provision for older people.

1.9 The inconsistent geographical spread of care home provision in the borough was also highlighted, as 70% of our care homes have at least 20 other homes located within a 2-mile radius, and the work also highlighted that almost 75% of the boroughs residential and nursing care is delivered from buildings that are over 40 years old.

1.10 A key motivation for completing these assessments in 2020 was out of a concern in respect of the fragility of a local residential and nursing market that had experienced a significant reduction in levels of occupancy as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.11 The assessments therefore provided a picture of the local residential and nursing market that was very current, reflective of the developments during the pandemic, and one that was consistent with what anecdotal experiences of the market had been indicating.

Market Position Statement

1.12 This very recent data has therefore been used to develop the care homes Market Position Statement (MPS). The information within this document was discussed as part of the engagement sessions with providers and practitioners. The primary aim of a MPS is to signal to existing operators in the market and prospective new entrants the types of provision that are required locally. The document is explicit in demonstrating that there is an oversupply of generic, residential care for over 65-year-olds, and this is extremely pronounced in certain localities within the borough, whilst other types of provision are under-represented.

1.13 It is hoped that the market will respond to the MPS in a number of ways. Those currently delivering in a more crowded part of the market may decide, after consulting the document, and assessing their own reduced levels of occupancy, to diversify into more specialist types of care. Examples of this might be a residential home registering with the CQC to deliver nursing care, or a nursing home branching out into complex dementia or bariatric services.

1.14 It is also noted that the MPS may better articulate to the market the very real situation that the generic residential market in Oldham is over catered for, and by articulating the position in this MPS, some providers may take the decision to undertake an orderly and managed exit from the market.

1.15 Oldham has also seen a number of instances in recent years where planning applications have been submitted for generic residential care services that have not been submitted following dialogue with the commissioning team prior to the submission of a planning application. Such prospective new services are not therefore reflecting what is required in the borough. It is acknowledged that the absence of an up to date and specific care homes MPS may be one of the factors that has contributed to elements of the market reacting without taking the local needs into account. There is work ongoing with Housing and Planning departments of the local authority to agree the strategy via the Local Plan.

1.16 The findings from the market sustainability work, production of the MPS, provider and practitioner engagement has been used to inform the draft service specification.

2. Current Position

2.1 A service specification has been produced. This work takes into account the current landscape around adult social care reform and has resulted in an updated service specification including, but not limited to;

- Revisions to The Care Act
- Discharge to Assess (D2A) arrangements from hospital into residential and nursing services,
- The flow between reablement services into and out of care homes,
- A holistic measure of quality that is consistent across the local authority and the ICF,
- Reference to Infection, Prevention & Control arrangements reflecting the learning from the Covid 19 pandemic,
- An updated and relevant offer in relation to provision of community equipment
- Considers our ambitions only to contract with those services rated with CQC as Good or Outstanding whilst recognising that a number of current operators (currently 19 %) in the local market are rated as Requires Improvement. (Albeit with quality improvement action plans in place and strong engagement with the quality service).

2.2 The new specification also better recognises the role of those staff that deliver front line care services, ensuring that they have appropriate pay, recognition and working conditions, and takes into account Oldham's ambitions in respect to ensuring all staff in contracted services are paid in accordance with the Real Living Wage and the work undertaken by the Living Wage Foundation which will become a contractual requirement following the implementation of the LWF rates from October 2022 in Oldham.

2.3 The specification also enables residential and nursing settings to perform appropriate lower-level health tasks underpinned by a robust governance structure to protect service users and staff.

2.4 To support contract and quality monitoring of services, a care homes outcome framework has been developed, building on the one in place for care at home services and developed in consultation with those who use these services.

2.5 This work has been progressed in recognition of the wider system change currently underway, reflecting the views of the market (particularly in respect of factors such as any premiums paid for complex dementia services, arrangements around continuing health care, and the payment profile for nursing services), the outcome and embedding the findings of the Fair Cost of Care workstream and following a detailed analysis of current systems, and how these might need to be revised in the future.

2.6 Alongside commissioning, the procurement service has developed a flexible route to market. These services currently exist and are operational within the local community and as such, a traditional competitive route to market, where existing providers may not be successful is not appropriate for this market. As a result, a compliance framework has been developed, which existing providers are able to engage with as well as potential new entrants to the market.

2.7 The contracting and market management approach recognises the Oldham Council and GM wide ambition only to contract with providers registered CQC Good or above. The process includes mechanisms to ensure that those providers who are registered Requires Improvement are able to evidence that they are working closely with the Quality Assurance and Monitoring function that sits within the commissioning service and can demonstrate appropriate levels of engagement.

2.8 The process does not support contracting with providers rated by the CQC as Inadequate and is developed in conjunction with the Oldham Council provider suspension and provider failure protocols.

2.9 All stakeholders acknowledge that care homes are operating in a challenging operating environment, with staff recruitment and retention concerns, significant market change and uncertainty in addition to the care homes building back towards business as usual as they emerge from the pandemic.

2.10 It is important that any procurement and contracting exercise that is undertaken acknowledges the pressures the market is currently facing and is conducted in as least disruptive a way as possible, therefore supporting good levels of support and engagement.

2.11 The process has been developed in conjunction with the market and the theme of co-production is set to continue as the new arrangements are implemented. Providers will be encouraged to develop solutions together and work collaboratively and will be an example of Oldham Cares 'doing with' the market rather than 'doing to'.

2.12 The proposed timeline for the work is set out in the table below:

Task	Timeframe
Alert the market that this opportunity will be going live during September 2022	This will take place in August 2022 following previous engagement sessions
Procurement exercise is published on the Chest portal	During September 2022
Deadline returns – allowing 6 weeks for providers to submit expressions of interest	Closing date for submissions 6 weeks after publication (i.e., late October / early November 2022).
Submissions evaluated by evaluation panel	By 31 st January 2023
Embed new contracting arrangements with providers	By 31 st March 2023

3 Options

The report presents the following options;

3.1 Option 1 – Do Nothing

3.1.1 The existing contracts that Oldham Council have with providers do not have an end date. Should we wish, we do not need to take any action and could allow the current contracts to continue.

3.1.2 The NHS contracts have an expiry date of 31st March 2023, so a do nothing option would leave these services out of contract and alternative contracting arrangements would be required. This contradicts the current objective of Adult Social Care as the lead commissioner and contracting body for residential care in Oldham.

3.1.3 This is not the recommended approach. The existing contracts require a refresh and do not reflect the changing landscape of adult social care, including recent and far reaching legislative changes.

3.2. Option 2 – Approval to go out to market with a revised contracting approach and provide delegated authority for the DASS to award the contracts to compliant providers following the tender process.

3.2.1. This option would ensure that the contracting approach is fit for the future and will better reflect our requirements as we head towards 2030.

3.2.2 By Cabinet authorising delegated authority to the DASS to award contracts

following a robust tendering process, this option will also ensure a timely contract award process, enabling new contracts to be in place for April 2023.

3.3 Options Table

The table below sets out advantages and disadvantages associated with the various options.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1 – Do nothing, Continue with existing Arrangements	Some existing providers would probably favour this option on the grounds that this would continue 'business as usual' and would mean that they did not have to engage in a procurement exercise which is something that they are not experienced in	This would ensure that the current contracting arrangements do not adequately reflect our current and anticipated future requirements.
		Significant changes in legislation and guidance would not be recognised in our contracting approach.
		NHS contracts have been extended already and expire 31 st March 2023.
Option 2 - Go out to market with a revised contracting approach and provide delegated authority for the DASS to award the contracts to compliant providers following the tender process.	Reflects our requirements going forwards and ensures that the contracting landscape for care homes is fit for the future.	Providers may not engage with the process. (Although there are mitigations planned to prevent this following a robust initial period of provider engagement).
	Better supports integration between health and care as this approach has been developed jointly and enables a seamless transfer to the new contracting arrangements in a timely manner.	
	Is expected to encourage existing providers to consider their offer going forward and whether they need to change this to meet future demand.	

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1. With reference to the options table above, 'option 2' is the preferred option; to go out to market and provide delegated authority to the DASS to award the contracts following the conclusion of the tender exercise. Given the objective as consolidating the lead commissioning arrangements to adult social care as per health and social care integration.

5 Consultation

-
- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with a range of key stakeholders including providers, and colleagues who represent community health and adult social care. Adult Social Care operational practitioners have been involved in the engagement to develop the approach.

6 **Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The Finance Service has representatives on the working groups that are assessing what the joint commissioning arrangements will be from 1st April 2023. The Council's current contractual arrangements are adequate, but it is acknowledged that they may now not be as relevant post pandemic nor in line with the current market position statement.

- 6.2 At this stage, there are no financial implications should option 2 be approved. The Finance Service will continue to support colleagues with the impact of future commissioning arrangements. However, it should be noted that if the decision is made that the Council becomes the lead commissioner & purchaser of residential and nursing placements on behalf of the ICF, further financial modelling will need to be undertaken. This work will be required to ensure that adequate resources are in place to be able to manage the additional workload that will follow and that changes can be made to the ASC IT systems along with policy and procedural updates including staff training.

Liz Taylor (Senior Accountant)

- 6.3 There are no financial implications of choosing option 2 for NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board - Oldham locality at this stage either.
Karen Ratzeburg (Senior Finance Business Partner, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care)

7 **Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 A fit for purpose procurement exercise, which allows the Council to contract with any suitable current and future providers is required and this must be developed in consultation with the Commercial Procurement Unit and in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules, incorporating public procurement legislation. A new form of contract will be issued with any tender documentation sent out to providers. The form of contract will incorporate all current Council priorities, including provision for payment (by the providers) of the Living Wage Foundation Rate. The contract will also be drafted to allow for future changes to be made in the event of new legislation or guidance. Finally, the contract will detail the process which both the Council and the Oldham Integrated Care Partnership will follow when making placements and the paperwork which will be put in place to formalise each placement. As this is intended to be a joint procurement with the Oldham ICP, any specification issued with the tender documents must detail any individual requirements of the two parties and any shared requirements. Work has begun to produce a suitable form of contract and the draft will be shared with Oldham ICP in due course.

Sarah Orrell (Commercial and Procurement Solicitor)

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

- 8.1 This action supports the continuation of residential and nursing provision and supports the ongoing relationship that Oldham care homes have developed with the community of Oldham. Oldham care homes were pivotal in the local response to the Covid 19 pandemic and have proved themselves to be a vital component of the community offer in the borough. These providers have continued to provide valued and relevant services to local residents.

9 **Human Resources Comments**

- 9.1 NA - We do not provide residential services in house.

10 **Risk Assessments**

- 10.1 N/A

11 **IT Implications**

- 11.1 N/A

12 **Property Implications**

- 12.1 N/A – These are privately owned businesses.

13 **Procurement Implications**

- 13.1 The Commercial Team is working with the commissioners to develop a sourcing strategy to undertake a tendering exercise in compliance to the Council's CPRs and Council's policies on Early Payment, Social Value etc for the provision of this service. A market engagement exercise took place in March 2022 to make the potential providers aware of the potential new procurement and enabled us to seek their views on the current service provision.

The new procurement is intended to be carried out jointly with GMCA ICS Oldham with Oldham Council to be the lead commissioner. Both organisations are working to agree a form of contract i.e. Standard NHS or Council's, to commission the service and also further clarity is sought on the role to GMCA who may commission Complex Care service that may have an impact on the scope of this tendering exercise.

Raj Ahuja (Lead Consultant)

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

- 14.1 Oldham care homes are monitored to ensure their compliance with all environmental, health and safety requirements. This proposal supports the development of an overarching contract and quality monitoring approach including linking in more closely with key partners such as Infection Prevention & Control, Building Control and Fire Safety.

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 The service is available to eligible service users from all communities.

16 **Implications for Children and Young People**

16.1 None

17 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

17.1 An EIA will be completed to reflect the preferred option

18 **Key Decision**

18.1 Yes

19 **Key Decision Reference**

19.1 CPB-01-22

20 **Background Papers**

20.1 These are included in the appendices

21 **Appendices**

N/A

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Report to CABINET PART A

Accessible Oldham – Henshaw Street

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth

Report Author: James Tolan, Principal Regeneration Officer
Ext. 4537

17th October 2022

Reason for Decision

To approve recommendations relating to the Accessible Oldham Programme that will create an improved town centre pedestrian link and connectivity.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report relates to the Accessible Oldham Programme that will create an improved town centre pedestrian link and connectivity.

The costs can be financed from within the existing external Future High Streets Fund allocation for the Accessible Oldham scheme.

Recommendations

That Cabinet is requested to approve:

- i. Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth to finalise terms together with any ancillary documentation and contracts as outlined in the restricted part of this report.
- ii. Delegated authority to the Director of Legal Services or his nominated representative to sign and affix the Common Seal of the Council to all contractual documentation necessary to give effect to the above authorisations and delegations and all as described in the restricted part of this report.
- iii. To note that the costs can be financed from within the existing Future High Streets Fund allocation for the Accessible Oldham scheme.
- iv. All other recommendations are as contained within the restricted part of this report.

Accessible Oldham – Henshaw Street

1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide and approve recommendations relating to part of the Accessible Oldham Programme that will create an improved town centre pedestrian link and connectivity.

The proposal will create an improved pedestrian access and connectivity in the town centre significantly improving the linkage on Henshaw Street, Albion Street and to the proposed linear park.

The costs will be financed from within the existing external Future High Streets Fund allocation for the Accessible Oldham scheme.

Accessible Oldham is part of The Creating a Better Place programme which is focused on building more homes for the borough's residents, creating new jobs through town centre regeneration and ensuring Oldham is a great place to visit with lots of family friendly and accessible places to go.

A central focus of this programme includes the redevelopment of the former Tommyfield market which includes a proposed linear park and residential development. Improved pedestrian access will enhance the connectivity of this location.

2 Funding

In April 2020, Oldham Council submitted a total £15.55m bid to the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) for three town centre projects, Egyptian Room, Prudential Building and Accessible Oldham.

In December 2020, the Council received an in-principal funding offer of £10.75m, representing approximately 69% of the amount requested from the FHSF and leaving a funding gap of £4.8m.

The Government accepted the revised funding envelope described below on 1st April 2021:

	FHSF Bid Amount (£000)	Council Match Funding (£000)	Total (£000)
Egyptian Room	1,103	267	1,370
Prudential Building	8,165	2,014	10,179
Accessible Oldham	1,482	8,720	12,950
Total	10,750	11,001	24,499

In respect of the Council's match funding for Accessible Oldham this will be from the Mayors Cycle and Walking Fund and Growth Deal 3 and this would not require any additional internal Council resources.

The design and business case for Albion St (GD3) has been approved and the MCF elements are currently in design and will follow TfGM governance to gain approval. The designs will be submitted to TfGM design review panel for approval prior to completion of the business case for submission. The MCF schemes are split into 3 separate business cases:

- West Street
- Lord St/Rock St
- Market Place/Curzon St/Fountain St

The West St design has been approved by the Portfolio Holder, Leader and TfGM DRP. Approvals will be sought for the other two phases as and when each design is complete.

The design for Market Place/Curzon St/Fountain St is at concept stage. Moving forward, a workshop is to be organised with relevant stakeholders to inform the design for the subsequent stages. This will include the discussion around the current WOW Bed and Play area in relation to the overall design. The landscape architects brief includes an element of play within the design and this will be developed within the series of workshops. The final output will be determined as part of the workshops with the stakeholders.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 The options considered vary from not continuing with the programme of work through to full delivery and progression of the recommendations in this report.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Progress the recommendations that will deliver this part of the Accessible Oldham Programme.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation on the proposals for Accessible Oldham has taken place through the Council's Big Town Centre conversation and more specifically as the project continues to roll out. Members have been briefed on the proposals.

6 Financial Implications

Financial Implications are described in the restricted part of this report.

7 **Legal Services Comments**

Legal Comments are described in the restricted part of this report.

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 This proposal forms part of the broader re-development and regeneration of the town centre and as such supports delivery of the Oldham Model; helping to accelerate economic recovery and sustain a thriving town centre for our communities.

(Amanda Richardson, Policy Manager)

9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 None

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 Risk assessments are described in the restricted part of this report.

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 Property Implications are described in the restricted part of this report.

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 There are no procurement implications. The recommended approach identified in the report will need to comply with the Future High Streets Funding Agreement, and Council's Land and Property Protocols.

(Dan Cheetham, Commercial Procurement Unit).

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 ESR-23-22

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 Reference to background papers are contained in the restricted part of this report.

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendices are contained in the restricted part of this report.



Oldham
Council

Report to CABINET

Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Eddie Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Officer Contact: Richard Lynch, Director for Education, Skills and Early Years

Report Author: Andrea Weir, Senior Commissioning and Partnerships Manager

17th October 2022

Reason for Decision

Permission is sought from Cabinet to approve the utilisation of Regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to enable a modification to the term of the existing contracts for Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Lots 2 and 3 currently held by Positive Steps to allow for a further extension of 12 months from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024. This approach, if approved, would complement and feed into the proposed early help, early intervention work, build on integrated commissioning intentions and the development of a range of delivery options.

Recommendations

The recommended option is that Cabinet approves the utilisation of Regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to enable a modification to the term of the existing contracts for Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Lots 2 and 3 currently held by Positive Steps to allow for a further extension of 12 months from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024.

Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3.

1 Background

Positive Steps currently hold two contracts within the Targeted Youth Support (TYS) service offer. Both contracts were awarded from 1 April 2020 for an initial period of two years up until 31 March 2022 with an option to extend for up to a maximum period of a further twelve months to 31 March 2023.

The contracts within scope of this report are as follows:

- TYS lot 2 – youth justice board offer with an annual funding envelope representing the Youth Justice Grant
- TYS lot 3 – young carers, targeted impartial information and careers advice and missing return home interviews with an annual funding envelope. This contract already has an identified saving in place from 1st April 2023..

An extension to the existing contracts is now being sought for a period of twelve months up until 31 March 2024 under corporate exemption rules. This would ensure future options for delivery of services within scope are co-terminus with wider directorate strategic proposals.

Positive Steps are in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive as the current post holder is retiring an extension would enable us to build a relationship with the new post holder and determine the direction of travel. It is also recognised that Positive Steps are an important strategic partner within Oldham, a full tender process at this time may have a destabilising effect on the provider.

2 Current Position

The Council currently commissions Positive Steps to deliver a range of services to support Oldham's young people under the overarching banner of Targeted Youth Services. These include support services for young carers; delivery of missing from home return interviews; careers information advice and guidance as well as the Council's Youth Justice Service.

The current contracts end on 31 March 2023.

It is proposed that within the proposed extension period a full options appraisal is undertaken to explore alternative delivery methods including consideration of bringing or returning elements in-house. The exercise would also compliment the proposed early help and early intervention work and build on integrated commissioning intentions.

The Council would be able to demonstrate services achieve outcomes, contribute to communities and prevention agendas ensuring all young people fulfil their full potential and aspirations.

The extension would allow service area leads and partners to work together to identify all other possible options of service delivery including a fully commissioned tendering process to the open market or by bringing some or all of the service area elements in-house in a planned and coherent manner. This would align with the place-based model within Oldham ensuring high quality services are available at a time and place to suit children, young people and families/carers needs. This would also enable dialogue with the current provider to explore alternative delivery models both within the remaining

contract period and beyond with a particular focus on the targeted impartial careers guidance element, NEET and Not Known. A revised specification for Lot 3 to reflect areas for improved performance and financial savings will be agreed as part of the extension offer

Governance arrangements will be established within the context of the wider piece of work outlined above to ensure a holistic approach to service delivery.

3 **Options/Alternatives**

Option One:

TYS Lots 2 and 3 contracts are modified and extended for a period of twelve months up until 31 March 2024.

Option Two:

Services are tendered via The Chest. There is insufficient time for a full tendering exercise and options appraisal within the development of the wider model.

Option Three:

Services are delivered in-house from 1 April 2024. TUPE implications would need to be considered as part of this arrangement and there is insufficient time to manage this following completion of an options appraisal.

4 **Preferred Option**

Option One:

TYS Lots 2 and 3 contracts are modified and extended for a period of twelve months up until 31 March 2024.

5 **Consultation**

Consultations will be undertaken with young people and key stakeholders including schools as part of the development process and findings will form part of future delivery options

6 **Financial Implications**

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

7 **Legal Services Comments**

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

The current contract is based on the co-operative agenda of the Council and any future commissioning intentions will also reflect these principles.

9 Human Resources Comments

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

10 Risk Assessments

N/A

11 IT Implications

N/A

12 Property Implications

Non for the Council. The provider will have their own property arrangements from which to deliver services.

13 Procurement Implications

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

There are no implications for these services. The successful provider will be expected to adhere to all Oldham's terms and conditions as outlined in the standard contract.

15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

The current contract delivers youth Justice Board statutory responsibilities on behalf of the council including community and prevention-based work.

16 Implications for Children and Young People

Statutory services for children and young people will continue from 1 April 2023 and children and young people will be involved in the development of any future commissioning intentions.

17 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

A stage one EIA was completed as part of the original tender. Further evaluation of the impact of these services will be carried out as part of the development of future commissioning intentions.

18 Key Decision

Yes

19 Key Decision Reference

CHS – 10 -22

20 **Background Papers**

Non

21 **Appendices**

Non

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