

CABINET Agenda

Date Monday 7th April 2025

Time 6.00 pm

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

Notes 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires 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 Alex Bougatef or Peter Thompson/Constitutional Services at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is Peter Thompson/Constitutional Services – email: peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk or, constitutional.services@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 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025.

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

Please note that anyone using recording equipment both audio and visual will not be permitted to leave the equipment in the room where a private meeting is held.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CABINET

Councillors M Ali, Brownridge, Dean, Goodwin, F Hussain, Jabbar, Mushtaq, Shah (Chair) 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 (Pages 5 - 16)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24th March 2025, are attached for approval.

6 Household Support Fund 7 – Utilisation of Grant Allocation (Pages 17 - 26)

A report seeking approval to allocate grant funding from the Department of Work and Pensions to Oldham Council to deliver the seventh round of the Household Support Fund.

7 Future Commissioning Arrangements for Supported Living Services for People with Learning Disabilities, Complex Needs and/or Autism (Pages 27 - 34)

A report that outlines future commissioning arrangements for the provision of Care and Support Services for people with Learning Disabilities, Complex Needs and/or Autism.

8 Public Health Budget Settlement 2025/26 (Pages 35 - 42)

The purpose of this report is to note and accept the increased notional Public Health budget settlement for Oldham in 2025/26.

9 Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) (Pages 43 - 52)

To consider a report regarding the allocation of grant funding for 2025/26 to improve Drug and Alcohol treatment and recovery provision and outcomes in the borough.

10 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that discussions may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, under paragraph 3 as defined in the provisions of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

11 Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) (Pages 53 - 56)

The Cabinet is requested to consider a confidential appendix to the report that

was presented at agenda item 9.

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Present: Councillor Shah (in the Chair)
Councillors M Ali, Brownridge, Dean, Goodwin, Jabbar, Mushtaq
and Taylor

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fida Hussain.

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 for this meeting of the Cabinet to consider.

5 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 3rd March 2025, be approved as a correct record.

6 **REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME 2024/25 MONTH 10**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Director of Finance that provided Members with an update, as at 31st January 2025 (Month 10), of the Council's 2024/25 forecast revenue budget position (detailed at Annex 1) alongside the financial position of the capital programme together with the revised capital programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 (detailed at Annex 2).

In terms of the revenue position the forecast overspend position based on the Month 10 profiled budget was £12.164m which, if not addressed, would result in a year-end overspend of £14.597m (£14.178m at Month 9). This financial monitoring report followed on from the previously reported positions and detailed the potential year end position if no further action was taken to reduce net expenditure.

The management actions already implemented for 2024/25 had been factored into the current forecasts and have had a positive impact on the adverse position from that reported at Quarter 1 (£26.033m). Work continued across the organisation to address this position and reduce this position even further.

An update on the Month 10 2024/25 position was detailed within Annex 1. Information on the forecast year end position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and Collection Fund were also outlined in the submitted report.

In term of the capital position, the report outlined the most up to date information for 2024/25 to 2029/30 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2024/25 was £87.460m at the close of Month 10 (£87.260m at Month 9), a net increase of £0.200m. The actual expenditure to 31st January 2025 was £59.145m (67.63% of the forecast outturn).

Options/alternatives considered:

- a. To consider the forecast revenue and capital positions presented in the report.
- b. To propose alternative forecasts.

The preferred option was 'a.' above.

Resolved that the Cabinet:

1. Notes the contents of the report.
2. Approves forecast profiled budget, being an adverse position of £12.164m at Month 10 and the forecast potential adverse position by year end of £14.597m, with mitigations in place to reduce expenditure as detailed at Annex 1.
3. Approves the use of general earmarked reserves to fund any year end revenue overspend for 2024/25.
4. Notes the forecast positions for the Dedicated Schools Grant and Collection Fund.
5. Approves the revised capital programme for 2024/25 including the proposed virements and the forecast for the financial years to 2029/30 as at Month 10 as outlined in Annex 2 to the report.

7

GRANT ACCEPTANCE: COMMUNITY REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which advised members that following receipt of grant notification on 21st February 2025, from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), on behalf of national government, the submitted report was seeking approval to accept £20,100,000 (twenty million, one hundred thousand pounds). Members were reminded of previous announcements about Oldham being included in the Levelling Up Partnership on behalf of national government. The notification had also confirmed that the programme has changed its name to the Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership.

Within MHCLG, a sub-team called the Communities Delivery Unit (CDU) had led the work which began in April 2024, and included community engagement and, data insight and assessments to assess the “need” for Levelling Up Oldham. The CDU undertook further scoping work, desk-based research, literature reviews and work with analysts to develop an evidence base on the opportunities and challenges for Oldham.

Due to the timing of the General Election, the programme was paused from June to November 2025; however, all the work then resumed and informed a cross-government process to develop a long-list of policy options and interventions, as set out in the submitted report. The finalised selection of projects/list of

interventions was developed and confirmed by the CDU in February 2025, following ministerial sign off and approval: again, the detail of which was set out in the submitted report.



Oldham
Council

On acceptance of the grant, the Council and the MHCLG will form the Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership, and after reviewing the identified programme, the proposals are fully aligned with the Oldham Plan and Creating a Better Place framework to create jobs, build homes, and enhance buildings and communities across the borough.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1: To accept the list of projects identified by MHCLG and the proposed grant funding allocation as set out in this report which will create the opportunity to delivery significant outcomes across the borough aligned to the Oldham Plan priorities and expend the grant in accordance with the development and delivery plan approved in line with the delegations recommended in this report. Parts of the grant may be used by the Council to purchase works, supplies or services or it may be used to make onward grants to third parties.

Option 2: To decline the offer of the external funding. This option is not supported or recommended as it would result in a significant missed opportunity to deliver a range of activity, across the borough, where funding does not currently exist and associated outcomes will not be achieved.

The preferred Option is Option 1.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet:

1. Approves the acceptance of the £20,100,000 grant funding award from the MHCLG.
2. Approves a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with the MHCLG in respect of the grant award and establishment of the Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership.
3. Notes the extensive consultation and work undertaken by the MHCLG's CDU Team to collect and assess the longlist of projects and ideas submitted by Oldham's communities and partners and to note the projects selected by the CDU (after passing MHCLG business case approval) for progression.
4. Delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham, the Director of Finance and the Interim Borough Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, or his nominated representative to oversee and approve: the expenditure of grant funding for the projects selected by MHCLG; the onward award of the grant funding for any policy intervention or project listed by the CDU team; and, any associated partnership or programme of activity.
5. Delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham, the Director of Finance and the Interim Borough Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, or his nominated representative to approve the procurement and

appointment of contractors and service providers (and to authorise any sub-contractors) to supply any works, supplies or services needed to deliver the programme of activity following procurements undertaken in compliance with the Council's own Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (or Procurement Act 23, as of 24th February 2025).

6. Delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in consultation with the Interim Director of Finance and the Interim Borough Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, or their nominated representatives to award onward grant funding and to enter into any associated grant agreements with delivery partners and/or community groups, as applicable, setting out clearly prescribed funding timescales, project scope as agreed with MHCLG and subject to appropriate terms and conditions, including any relevant provisions within the MoU entered into with the MHCLG.
7. Delegate authority to the Interim Borough Solicitor/Monitoring Officer and/or his nominee to formalise any necessary legal requirements including signing and/or sealing any documentation required to give effect to the recommendations and/or delegations in this report.
8. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and the Interim Borough Solicitor/Monitoring Officer and/or their nominee(s) to approve the appointment of external legal advisors required to protect the Council's interests and/or give effect to the recommendations in this report and carry out all necessary legal formalities in respect of any activity approved by virtue of this report.

8

OLDHAM'S PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY (2025)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) that asked members to note the findings and recommendations set out within the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy; to agree to their publication on the council's website (the documents were attached at Appendix 1 to the report); and to delegate the approval of future updates of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy documents to the Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Decent Homes and Don't Trash Oldham.

In 2023, Cabinet was advised that Oldham Council had commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to carry out a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS). The PPOSS updates the previous (2015) PPOSS and will build on the assessment of outdoor sports facilities undertaken within the Council's Open Space Study (2022).

The PPOSS provides a more in-depth assessment of the borough's pitches and outdoor sports sites, identifies the current and future needs for particular sports and sets out an Action Plan for future investment and improvement. The PPOSS provides evidence to support the implementation of existing

local planning policies, will inform planning policy within the new Local Plan and will be a material consideration for planning decisions.

The PPOSS will also inform how and where S106 developer contributions are secured and spent. In terms of investment, it is often a requirement that an area/ local authority has an up-to-date PPOSS to access funding from Sport England, National Governing Bodies (e.g. the Football Association, England and Wales Cricket Board, England Netball, Rugby Football Union etc), and other organisations.

As such the PPOSS can be used to help sports clubs and the council gain access to funding and investment. In particular, the PPOSS provides:

- Evidence of supply and demand of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision.
- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- A series of strategic recommendations which provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

The PPOSS was completed in February 2025.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 was to approve and publish the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) (2025) on the council's website and to delegate approval for future updates of the documents to the Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Decent Homes and Don't Trash Oldham. The advantages to this were that publishing the PPOSS will inform the planning process and the council's maintenance and management of pitches and outdoor sport provision, support local sports development, guide investment and support funding opportunities.

Option 2 – Not to approve and publish the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) (2025) on the council's website and not to delegate approval for future updates to the Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Decent Homes and Don't Trash Oldham. There are no advantages in following this course of action.

Option 1 was the preferred Option,

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the findings and recommendations set out within the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.
2. Cabinet agrees to the publication of the strategy on the council's website (the documents were attached at Appendix 1 to the report).
3. Cabinet agrees to delegate the approval of future updates of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy documents to the Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Decent Homes and Don't Trash Oldham.

9

SOUTH PENNINE MOORS SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION/SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS JOINT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Cabinet received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which sought agreement to adopt the South Pennine Moors Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The report also sought for the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes and Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to be given delegated authority to agree the date on which the SPD takes effect; and to delegate approval to the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to make minor, non-material modifications to the South Pennine Moors SPD before final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the two other relevant Places for Everyone authorities (Rochdale and Tameside Borough Councils).

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 - That the Cabinet agrees the recommendations detailed in the submitted report. This will ensure that the South Pennine Moors SPD can become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and that development does not cause / mitigates adverse impact(s) on the protected habitats and species of the relevant parts of Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside local authority areas. There are no disadvantages to this option.

Option 2 - To not approve the SPD for adoption. This would prevent the SPD from becoming a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and would significantly limit the ability to secure appropriate development in the South Pennine Moors area of the three relevant PfE authorities. There were no reported advantages to this option.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet agrees to adopt the South Pennine Moors Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), attached at Appendix 1 to the report and for the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes and Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to be given delegated authority to agree the date on which the SPD takes effect.

2. That Cabinet delegates approval to the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to make minor, non-material modifications to the South Pennine Moors SPD before final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the two other relevant Places for Everyone authorities (Rochdale Council and Tameside Council).

10

HOLCROFT MOSS PLANNING OBLIGATIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Cabinet considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) that sought adoption of the Holcroft Moss Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and for the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes and Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to be given delegated authority to agree the date on which the SPD takes effect; to agree to provide Warrington Metropolitan Borough Council (as the responsible authority for implementing a mitigation strategy for Holcroft Moss), as necessary and through an appropriate mechanism, with S106 funds collected in accordance with the Holcroft Moss SPD; and to delegate approval to the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to make minor, non-material modifications to the Holcroft Moss SPD before final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the eight other relevant Places for Everyone authorities.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 – that the Cabinet approves the recommendations detailed in the submitted report. This option will ensure that the Holcroft Moss SPD can become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and that developer contributions required to mitigate adverse impact(s) on the protected habitats and species of Holcroft Moss can be collected and appropriately handled. There are no disadvantages to this option.

Option 2 - To not approve the Holcroft Moss SPD for adoption. This would prevent the SPD from becoming a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and hinder the collection of developer contributions required to mitigate adverse impact(s) on the protected habitats and species of Holcroft Moss. There were no reported advantages to this option.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet:

1. Agrees to adopt the Holcroft Moss Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), attached at Appendix 1, and for the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes and Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to be given delegated authority to agree the date on which the SPD takes effect.
2. Agrees to provide Warrington Metropolitan Borough Council (as the responsible authority for implementing a mitigation strategy for Holcroft Moss), as necessary and

through an appropriate mechanism, with S106 funds collected in accordance with the Holcroft Moss SPD.

3. Delegates approval to the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to make minor, non-material modifications to the Holcroft Moss SPD before final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the eight other relevant Places for Everyone authorities.

11

COMPLYING WITH THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY - OUR POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THRIVING WILDLIFE IN OLDHAM

The Cabinet received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) that sought approval and subsequent publication of Oldham Council's policies and objectives to conserve and enhance biodiversity – 'Complying with the Biodiversity Duty – Our Policies and Objectives for Thriving Wildlife in Oldham'.

The submitted report included actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The Environment Act 2021 introduced a strengthened 'biodiversity duty' into the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 which required all public authorities in England to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Oldham Council as a public authority, was required to:

- a. Consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- b. Agree policies and specific objectives based on our consideration.
- c. Act to deliver our policies and achieve our objectives.

Following this initial consideration, Oldham Council must agree our policies and objectives as soon as possible after. This report fulfils this second step. This decision will ensure that the council is meeting its legal duties in relation to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and helping to support implementation of other plans and strategies such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1: To approve the recommendations detailed in the submitted report. This would ensure that the council was meeting its legal duties in relation to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and helping to support implementation of other plans and strategies such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. There were no reported disadvantages however some resources such as funding may be needed to be identified for management plans however most actions can be met through internal and partnership work.

Option 2: To not approve the recommendations detailed in the submitted report. This would mean that the council was currently failing to take account of environmental law in relation to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and would not through this report be supporting implementation of other plans and strategies such as the Local Nature Recovery

Strategy. There were no reported advantages to this option as the council would need to consider how it was going to meet the strengthened biodiversity duties.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet approves and publishes Oldham Council's policies and objectives to conserve and enhance biodiversity – 'Complying with the Biodiversity Duty – Our Policies and Objectives for Thriving Wildlife in Oldham'.
2. That the Cabinet supports implementation of the actions identified within Tables 4 to 9 of the submitted report.

12

PROCUREMENT OF WASTE COLLECTION RECEPTACLES

The Cabinet received a report of the Director of Environment that sought approval to enable the Waste Team, to procure and contract, for the provision of various domestic and non-domestic waste collection receptacles to replace existing life cycle expired waste collection receptacles, lost and damaged receptacles, to supply new receptacles to new dwellings and businesses as well as to repair and service the goods for a total term of 6 years duration.

The Cabinet were informed that the Council is a duty holder in connection with the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as updated by the Environment Act 2021. Therefore the provision of domestic and non-domestic waste collection was a statutory obligation under the legislation. In order to fulfil its duty, the Council must procure an adequate supply of waste collection receptacles to cater for the volumes and types of waste generated by businesses and households, and the Council must be able to maintain satisfactory stocks of waste collection receptacles as shall enable the Council to respond quickly to operational needs. The Council's duties and obligations were ongoing and the continual depletion of its stock of replacement waste collection receptacles means that the Waste Team needs a quick, effective and compliant route to market to ensure the replenishment supply arrangements are satisfactory.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1: This entailed agreeing a 6-year procurement strategy in consultation with the Commercial Procurement Unit.

Options 2 and 3: these Options sought agreement to a 4-year procurement strategy in consultation with the Commercial Procurement Unit, with variations in the specific detail for each of these Options.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet approves the Procurement Strategy, detailed in the submitted report at Option 1.
2. That the Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham, the Interim Director of Finance, the Interim Borough Solicitor and the Head of the

Commercial Procurement Unit, or each of their nominees to approve all expenditure linked to Option 1 and to implement the Procurement Strategy under Option 1, to agree and implement the specific commissioning arrangements for each of the requirements under Option 1 and to award and enter into contracts with the preferred suppliers identified in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

3. That the Cabinet delegates authority to the Interim Borough Solicitor or his nominated representative to carry out all legal formalities associated with Option 1, detailed in the submitted report, including the execution of all contracts.

13 **FUTURE COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, COMPLEX NEEDS AND/OR AUTISM**

Resolved:

That consideration of this item be deferred to the Cabinet's next meeting on 7th April 2025.

14 **TRAVEL ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITY (SEND)**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years that provided Members with details of a formal review and consultation of Oldham's SEND Travel Assistance Policy, that was carried out from early December 2024 to the end of January 2025. The Cabinet was requested to approve the revised policy and to formally adopt it (as set out at Appendix 1 to the report).

Local authorities were advised to keep their school travel policy under regular review to ensure it continued to meet local needs and that it complied with statutory requirements. An up-to-date policy must be available each year, so that parents/carers may take it into account when deciding which schools to apply for during the normal admissions round.

Oldham's current policy had been reviewed with partners and a targeted public consultation had taken place. In consideration of those activities, the submitted report described the current position and also set out proposals for a revised policy.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: was to approve and adopt the proposed policy, with a primary offer (for those eligible) of a personal travel budget, with effect from September 2025 for all current and new post 16 learners.

Option 2: was to maintain the current policy, with no changes. This would mean that statutory review of the policy has not been considered and acted upon.

The preferred Option was Option 1. This would allow for changes to be made from September 2025, that would apply equally to all young people who are affected by the change to an

emphasis on personal travel budgets, rather than council organised transport. This would enable a focus on more independence for the majority of post 16 learners. There would also be budget savings associated with this option, as set out in the finance section of the submitted report.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet approves the proposed Travel Assistance Policy, with effect from September 2025, including adoption of the proposed policy, of a primary offer (for those eligible) of a personal travel budget, with effect from September 2025, for all current and new post 16 learners.

15

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY - IN WORK PROGRESSION

The Cabinet received a report of the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years that requested acceptance of a £400,000 grant from Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) for Get Oldham Working on behalf of Oldham Council to deliver the In Work Progression project over the next two years starting January 2025.

GMCA had secured and offered each Local Authority funding for In Work Progression activity. Oldham Council have developed a proposal for Get Oldham working to support approx. 150 residents per year for next two calendar years, starting in January 2025 to support residents in work to progress, obtain better earning potential, find more hours or change jobs due to individual circumstances.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option One: to accept the grant and deliver project.

Option Two: to not accept the grant and therefore not to deliver the project.

Option One was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet accepts the £400,000 grant from GMCA for Get Oldham Working on behalf of Oldham Council.
2. That the Cabinet authorizes the application of the funding, as outlined in the submitted report, to deliver the In Work Progression project over the next two calendar years starting January 2025.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.25pm

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Report to CABINET

Household Support Fund 7 – Utilisation of Grant Allocation

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Arooj Shah, Leader of Oldham Council and Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham and
Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability

Officer Contact: Fran Lautman, Assistant Director of Customer Experience

Report Author: Fran Lautman, Assistant Director of Customer Experience

Monday 7 April 2025

Reason for Decision

This report seeks Cabinet approval to allocate grant funding of £4,264,066.44 from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to Oldham Council to deliver the seventh round of the Household Support Fund (HSF) from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

HSF is designed to support vulnerable households in most need with the cost of essentials during the funding period.

Recommendations

To approve the scheme outlined in *Table 1*. The proposed option balances supporting specific cohorts with providing support across a range of low-income households. The scheme proposed will ensure the full grant funding is spent in accordance with the grant funding criteria from the DWP within the limited time allocated.

Data and insight have been used to inform the proposed options in addition to engagement with teams delivering the fund. Four thematic areas have been established to formulate priority areas for allocation of the grant funding:

- Children and Young People – preventing holiday hunger
- Energy costs – delivering urgent and proactive support
- Housing – supporting sustainable tenancies
- Crisis Support – providing a prompt response and signposting to wider support

Table 1: Household Support Fund 7, Recommended Option

Area of Expenditure	£m
Supporting families with children and young people eligible for Free School Meals Helping around 21,000 children and young people including pre-school age, school and college age and care-leavers of college age. Funding will be issued via a supermarket voucher (HUGGG voucher) over the following school holidays: • May half-term: £15 • Summer: £60 • Christmas: £40 The total funding across 2024/25 is £115 per eligible child	2.415
Expanding the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme to low-income households Additional funds for the Holiday Activity and Food programme over the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays. This expands the offer to low-income households who do not qualify for Free School Meals. Specific sessions will be provided for children and young people living in Temporary Accommodation.	0.100
Delivering urgent and proactive support for rising energy costs Funding fuel vouchers to top up pre-pay meters for households experiencing financial crisis. Support with small measures and advice to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy bills. Signposting and advice around engaging with energy suppliers.	0.395
Providing support in a financial crisis to access food and essential supplies Issuing supermarket vouchers (HUGGG voucher) to provide support quickly in a crisis.	0.325
Supporting sustainable tenancies in order to prevent households from entering Temporary Accommodation Assessing a households financial circumstances ensuring that all other funding and benefits are exhausted before supporting with a bond and/or up to 3 months' rent as a deposit.	0.450
Supporting Pensioners to keep warm over the Winter Providing support from our Local Welfare Provision scheme to issue 'Winter Warm packs' to low-income Pensioners over the age of 80 to help keep warm during the Winter.	0.025
Supporting the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to distribute funds	0.300

Allocating funds to Action Together to manage and distribute across the VFCSE sector supporting a breadth of low-income households experiencing financial crisis including: • Essential warm clothing including coats, blankets, bedding, nightwear and school uniform. • Essential items including culturally appropriate food, toiletries and baby items.	
Supporting Oldham Foodbank to maintain stock throughout the year	0.040
Scheme delivery costs (capped at 5% of total funds allocated)	
Covering the cost of Helpline Staff, Warm Homes Call handlers, print and postage and communications	0.214
TOTAL	4.264

1 Background

- 1.1 The DWP wrote to County and Unitary councils on 4 March 2025 with notification of grant funding allocations and scheme guidance for HSF 7. A total of £724 million has been made available compared to £842 million in 2024-25.
- 1.2 Oldham Council has been allocated £4,264,066.44 over the 12-month funding period, 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Funding must be spent in full within this timeframe. HSF 7 includes a 12% reduction in funding of £574,717.02 when compared to HSF funding allocated to Oldham Council in 2024-25.

DWP Scheme Guidance

- 1.3 The primary objective of the fund is to provide crisis support to vulnerable households in the most need with the cost of essentials. The secondary objective is to provide preventative support to prevent vulnerable households from into – or falling further into crisis.
- 1.4 Authorities should identify and provide support to a broad cross section of vulnerable households to prevent escalation of problems including:
- families with children of all ages,
 - pensioners,
 - unpaid carers,
 - care leavers,
 - disabled people,
 - larger families,
 - single-person households and
 - those struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events.
- 1.5 The grant should primarily be allocated to support with the costs of essentials for example energy, water and food support and wider essentials such as support with bills, clothing, period and hygiene products, essential travel related costs and one-off payments to prevent a crisis.
- 1.6 Councils should use their discretion on how to identify and support vulnerable households taking into account a wide range of information and how assistance will be provided whether directly by the Authority or through a third party. The Household Support Fund is not limited to residents in receipt of benefits.

-
- 1.7 As part of their offer, every Authority must operate at least part of their scheme via applications - in other words, residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support.
 - 1.8 By exception and where existing household support has been exhausted, councils may allocate HSF to support households with housing costs where existing housing support does not meet this need.
 - 1.9 Authorities must complete a delivery plan in a template provided by DWP to outline the intentions for the fund and the ways in which they intend funding to be allocated. Delivery plans must be submitted to DWP by 30 May 2025. Councils must maintain reliable, accessible, and up to date accounting recording with an adequate audit trail for all expenditure.
 - 1.10 Councils are required to publish information about how to access support funded by Household Support Fund on their website. Publicity should make clear that funding is provided by UK Government and Delivery Plans must be signed off by the Section 151 officer and responsible Cabinet Member before submission to DWP. Admin costs should be kept to reasonable levels and around 5% of total expenditure.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Data and insight have been used to inform the proposed options in addition to engagement with teams delivering the fund. Four thematic areas have been maintained from the previous round of HSF to formulate priority areas for allocation of the grant funding.

Children and Young People – Preventing Holiday Hunger

- 2.2 As at March 2023, 42.2% of children in Oldham are living in Relative Poverty (DWP, Children in Low Income Families). This is the second highest rate across England only behind Pendle (43.3%).
- 2.3 As of October 2024, Free School Meals eligibility was 35.2% across Oldham (from reception to Year 11). At neighbourhood level, the highest rates are around 63%.
- 2.4 The proposed scheme extends the focus from previous Household Support Fund schemes to prevent child hunger during school holidays. The Oldham scheme will support around 21,000 children from preschool age up to and including young people and care leavers of college age with a supermarket voucher over May half-term at £15, Summer holidays at £60 and Christmas holidays at £40.
- 2.5 The Oldham scheme will also continue to expand access to the Government funded Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) scheme by including low-income households above the Free School Meals threshold. This will ensure that children from low-income households can receive a hot meal and enriching activity over the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays. The offer will also include specific provision for children and young people living in Temporary Accommodation.

Energy Costs – Delivering Urgent and Proactive Support

- 2.6 According to the Spring 2024 Greater Manchester Residents Survey, 55% of Oldham residents reported that it's difficult to afford energy costs in comparison to 48% average across GM. This is set against the context of the 10% annual rise to energy bills effective from October 2024 for the average household in England, Wales and Scotland.

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- 2.7 The extension of the Household Support Fund continues the investment in the emergency fuel voucher scheme to top up pre-pay meters delivered by the Council's Warm Homes service. An increase in vouchers has been established for this funding period. This support provides a swift response to residents across all low-income households to keep their homes and families warm whilst experiencing crisis. The Warm Homes service also provides energy and tariff advice as well as small preventive measures to increase energy efficiency and to support residents to reduce future energy bills.

Housing – Supporting Sustainable Tenancies

- 2.8 As of February 2025, 642 Oldham households are living in temporary and commissioned accommodation including 752 children.
- 2.9 In response to the housing crisis, it is proposed in accordance with DWP guidance that a proportion of funds are used to support sustainable tenancies in order to prevent families from entering Temporary Accommodation. Each case is assessed to ensure that all other funds for example Discretionary Housing Payments are utilised first as well as a review of household income to ensure that properties are affordable.

Crisis support – providing a prompt response and signposting to wider support

- 2.10 Council and partner services continue to experience increased demand for crisis support. The council Helpline received a 39% increase in calls in February 2025 in comparison to February 2024. Each month Oldham Foodbank delivers around 1,000 parcels, helping around 2,300 people. As of February 2025, deliveries have maintained this level for the last 2 and a half years.
- 2.11 The preferred option includes sustaining Helpline capacity and expertise (captured within scheme delivery costs) to ensure residents can access crisis support and be signposted and/or referred to partner services for wider support including personal budgeting, debt advice and health and wellbeing. We will continue to proactively promote the Helpline service.
- 2.12 Oldham's scheme continues from the previous round of HSF to allocate funds to Oldham Foodbank to increase and sustain stock levels to meet current levels of demand throughout the year.
- 2.13 The recommended option includes supporting residents experiencing crisis to access food and essential items via supermarket vouchers (HUGGG). During the two previous rounds of Household Support Fund, the breadth of teams who can issue supermarket vouchers was increased to ensure crisis support can be provided at the first point of contact wherever possible. This is an important offer ensuring that residents can access essential supplies including sanitary items, personal care goods, nappies, wipes and formula depending on the household needs.
- 2.14 As in previous Household Support Fund schemes, provision has been made for crisis support delivered directly by the council and partners across the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector co-ordinated by Action Together. This ensures that residents can access support via several routes depending on their needs and circumstances across the range of low-income households outlined in the DWP guidance. This includes older people, people from specific communities, for example; the Romani community and people without resources to public funds.
- 2.15 This Household Support Fund scheme continues to fund the council's crisis support Local Welfare Provision scheme. The scheme can support in a range of circumstances including

but not limited to families under exceptional financial pressure, residents moving into accommodation who were previously homeless, residents fleeing domestic violence and vulnerable older people. For HSF 7, the primary focus will be supporting low-income pensioners with winter warm packs to help keep them warm over the winter.

Scheme Delivery Costs

- 2.16 Costs to administer the schemes will also be incurred as in previous rounds of Household Support Fund. This includes the cost of Helpline staff, Warm Homes call handlers, admin fees, print and postage costs and communications.
- 2.17 The council's Helpline continues as the central point of resident support. Helpline capacity will include resource to handle incoming contact in addition to outbound calling to support with specific campaigns. As in 2024-25, this will include contacting residents who may be eligible for Pension Credit who are not currently claiming. The team will support residents to understand the support available and they will arrange for in person support to meet a resident at home or a convenient location to make a claim. In addition, the Low-Income Family Tracker tool (LIFT) will be used to identify those pensioners who are up to £1k above the threshold for pension credit eligibility. This will enable support, for example through the Warm Homes fund, to be targeted to those pensioners most likely to face hardship through the winter. Moving forwards, we will utilise text messaging wherever possible to target residents who may need support.
- 2.18 A communications plan will be developed to ensure residents are kept informed about the work we are doing to support the most vulnerable and that those residents in need will know how to access support. We will ensure the breadth of support available is promoted throughout the year particularly during the autumn and winter. The plan will also signpost to other support available including from our partners so that residents can get a full view of all the help available to them. The plans objectives are:
- To increase the number of residents accessing the services we signpost to
 - To increase the number of residents accessing the support that our partners offer
 - To maximise resident income
 - To highlight via proactive case studies how residents have been supported
- 2.19 The plan will be co-produced with the Oldham Poverty Action Network in partnership with Action Together to ensure that the resident voice and lived experience informs the plan and support reaches as many residents as possible.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 The extension of the Household Support Fund scheme continues to provide crisis support to low-income households living in Oldham. The support provided is well established and are all deliverable within the timeframe outlined within the DWP's scheme guidance.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 The proposed option balances supporting specific cohorts with providing support across a range of low-income households. The scheme proposed will ensure the full grant funding is

spent in accordance with the grant funding criteria from the DWP within the limited time allocated.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 The four thematic areas outlined within this report reflect the priorities of the administration and there are limited alternative methods of delivery given the grant-funding timeframe.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 On 4 March 2025, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) issued final guidance and allocations for round 7 of the Household Support Fund Grant (HSF). Oldham's allocation is £4,264,066.44.
- 6.2 HSF 7 includes a 12% reduction in funding of £574,717.02 when compared to HSF funding allocated to Oldham Council in 2024-25.
- 6.3 The grant is to fund expenditure outlined in the grant determination from the 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- 6.4 Authorities are required to submit a Delivery Plan by 30 May 2025 and make 4 statements of grant and management information returns (MI). The grant will be paid in arrears following DWP verification of these returns.
- 6.5 The table below details the deadline for submission of each MI return.

MI	Deadline
Interim 1 (1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)	1 August 2025
Interim 2 (1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025)	31 October 2025
Interim 3 (1 April 2025 to 31 December 2025)	6 February 2026
Final (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)	8 May 2026

- 6.6 *Table 1* outlines the recommended allocation of the grant, all of which are in line with the grant conditions. This covers the spend of the HSF in full, with no requirement to augment the offer with additional resources.

(Matthew Kearns, Finance Manager)

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The recommended option is supported. There is funding available, and the affected individuals would be the most financially in need within the borough. There would be a Council reputational risk if the funding is not utilised and administered to those in need within the borough.
- 7.2 It is advised that the Customer Support Centre Team familiarise themselves well with any specific grant funding conditions and ensure that such conditions are adhered to. Support and guidance can be sought from the Council's Legal team on a continued basis throughout the grant period.

(Alex Bougatef, Interim Borough Solicitor)

8 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

- 8.1 The proposals aim to address inequality and disadvantage by targeting the Household Support Fund towards residents disproportionately impacted by poverty. The scheme continues to provide vital support for children and young people by extending supermarket vouchers to pre-school age children, young people of college age, and care leavers during key school holiday periods. Additionally, access to the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been expanded to include low-income households above the Free School Meals threshold, ensuring more children receive a hot meal and enriching activities during school holidays. Specific support has also been maintained for children and young people living in temporary accommodation.
- 8.2 The scheme also recognises the ongoing financial pressures on low-income households by continuing emergency fuel support, crisis support through supermarket vouchers, and investment in sustainable tenancies to prevent homelessness. The council Helpline and Oldham Foodbank remain key components in providing immediate assistance, signposting to wider support services, and ensuring essential items remain accessible for residents in crisis. The scheme's focus on supporting low-income pensioners with winter warm packs further demonstrates a commitment to protecting vulnerable groups. A completed Equality Impact Assessment is included below.

(Jonathan Downs, Corporate Policy Lead)

9 Key Decision

- 9.1 Yes

10 Key Decision Reference

- 10.1 FCR-02-25

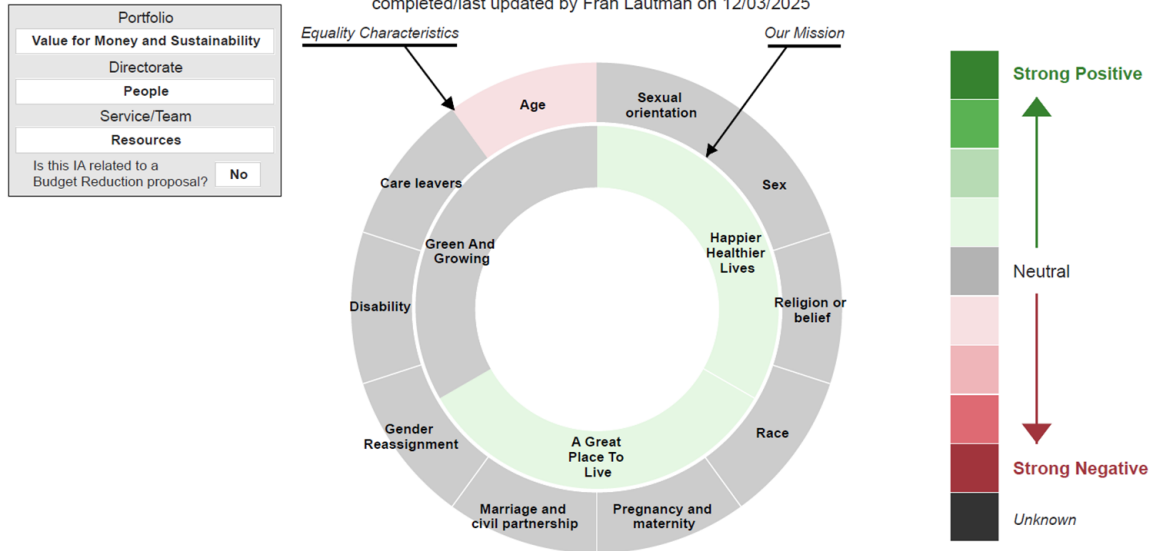
11 Background Papers

- 11.1 None

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment

Household Support Fund 7 – Utilisation of Grant Allocation

completed/last updated by Fran Lautman on 12/03/2025



Equality Characteristics

Category	Impact	Likely	Duration	Impact Score	Comment
Age	Moderate Negative	Possible	Short Term	-1	Potential for older residents lacking awareness of how to access support beyond whats available on the council website.
Care leavers	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
Disability	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
Race	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
Religion or belief	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
Sex	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
Sexual orientation	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	

Our Mission / Corporate Priorities

Category	Impact	Likely	Duration	Impact Score	Comment
Green And Growing	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	0	
A Great Place To Live	Moderate Positive	Possible	Short Term	1	The HSF 7 scheme continues to support Oldham households to avoid entering Temporary Accommodation by assessing legibility for the bond and deposit scheme.
Happier Healthier Lives	Moderate Positive	Possible	Short Term	1	The scheme is designed to support residents experiencing financial crisis - there are multiple options in the scheme to support residents including supermarket vouchers, Warm Homes Oldham as well as signposting and/ or referrals to council services and partners.

Negative Impacts

Category	Impact	Likely	Duration	Impact Score	What action can be taken to mitigate the potential negative impacts?	Action(s)	Owner(s)	Timescale(s)	If the negative impacts can't be mitigated, why should the project/decision proceed?
Age	Moderate Negative	Possible	Short Term	-1	Ensure comprehensive comms plan in place to ensure that older residents can access information about the scheme and how to access support. Budget has been set aside for communications.	Draft comms plan to be developed and co-designed with input from Oldham Positive Action Group.	Communications Team	April - May and October - November 2025	Evaluation measures will be in place and engagement with District Teams.

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Report to CABINET

Future commissioning arrangements for Care and Support Services for people with Learning Disabilities, Complex Needs and/or Autism.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Barbara Brownridge, Lead Member for Health and Social Care

Officer Contact: Jayne Ratcliffe, Director of Adults Social Services

Report Author: Fateha Khanom, Commissioning Manager, Working Age Adults, ASC Commissioning and Market Management

07th April 2025

Reason for Decision

The Council's contractual arrangements for the delivery of care and support services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism ended in 2020.

The Council has a statutory duty to deliver care and support services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism based on assessed Care Act 2014 needs to support some of Oldham's most vulnerable adults residing in supported living accommodation.

To meet its obligations, the Council proposes to utilise the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home, which is being tendered by Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) as the lead authority for the 10 GM authorities and will be available to the Council and other contracting authorities from its commencement. Tenders have been received and are being evaluated with STaR procurement advising RMBC. The estimated commencement date is 1 April 2025. The new contractual arrangements will replace the current GM Learning Disabilities and Autism Flexible Procurement System which expires on 31 March 2025.

Executive Summary

The Council entered into a Framework Agreement with six service providers in 2016 to deliver care and support services to eligible service users living in named properties (owned by third party landlords). The service providers were allocated to properties and all orders for services were directed to the relevant service provider attached to the relevant property. The Framework Agreements for the delivery of services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism ended in 2020.

Since then, any additional placements required have been made with the previously appointed service providers in respect of those service users residing in the properties listed in the Annex to this report, using the framework approach.

In addition, individual placement arrangements have been made for service users requiring an out of borough placement where there is a limited market, where there was either a need to place out of borough for safety and best interest needs, or where there was not any appropriate provision in Borough.

Where possible, the Council has been placing orders under the current GM Learning Disabilities and Autism Flexible Procurement System, but this flexible system will close on 31 March 2025.

The Council has a statutory duty to deliver care and support services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism based on assessed Care Act 2014 needs to support some of Oldham's most vulnerable adults residing in supported living accommodation. Therefore, it is vital that a procurement compliant route to market is established to procure the services in a swift but fit for purpose manner for both in and out of the Oldham borough placements.

To meet its statutory obligation to deliver a range of care and support services which meet assessed needs, the Council proposes to utilise the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home, which is being tendered by RMBC and will be available to the Council and other contracting authorities from its commencement.

Recommendations

1. Approval is requested for Oldham Council to call-off any care and support (supported living) services it requires during the term of the GM Supporting People to Live Well at Home flexible framework arrangements which are planned to commence on 1 April 2025 in order to meet the assessed needs of service users.
2. Approval is requested to carry out a mini procurement exercise (competition) under Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council's flexible framework arrangements for Supporting People to Live Well at Home, in respect of in-borough care and support (supported living) services:
 - (a) for existing residents in the properties listed in the Annex to this report; and
 - (b) for any replacement service users which take occupation in the properties
3. Approval is requested to carry out mini procurement competitions as and when required under the GM Supporting People to Live Well at Home flexible framework arrangements for the provision of care and support (supported living) services of any nature to new service users who:
 - (a) are not resident in the properties listed in the Annex to this report, but are or will be resident in properties in or outside of the Oldham borough.
4. Approval is requested to enter into Call-Off Contracts with the successful service providers referenced in recommendations 3 and 4 above who will be appointed from time to time by the Council under and in accordance with the GM Supporting People to Live Well at Home flexible framework arrangements.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council entered into a Framework Agreement with six service providers in 2016 to deliver care and support Services to eligible service users living in named properties (owned by third party landlords). The service providers were allocated to properties and all orders for services were directed to the relevant service provider attached to the relevant property. The Framework Agreements for the delivery of care and support services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism ended in 2020.
- 1.2 Since then, ad-hoc placements have been made with the previously appointed service providers in respect of those service users residing in the properties listed in the Annex to this report.
- 1.3 In addition, ad hoc arrangements have been made in respect of service users requiring an out of borough placement or requiring specialist services where there is a limited market.
- 1.4 Where possible, the Council has placed orders under the current GM Learning Disabilities and Autism Flexible Procurement System, but this flexible system will close down on 31 March 2025 and this will be replaced with the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home.
- 1.5 The Council has a statutory duty to deliver care and support (supported living) services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism based on assessed Care Act 2014 needs in order to support some of Oldham's most vulnerable adults residing in supported living accommodation. Therefore, it is vital that a procurement compliant route to market is established in order to procure the required care and support services in a swift but fit for purpose manner for both in and out of the Oldham borough placements.
- 1.6 To meet its statutory obligation to deliver a range of care and support services which meet assessed needs, the Council proposes to utilise the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home, which is being tendered by Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) as the lead authority for the 10 GM authorities and will be available to the Council and other contracting authorities from its commencement.
- 1.7 Submissions received in response to the invitation to tender issued by RMBC in respect of the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home are currently being evaluated. Unless the procurement timetable is amended, it is anticipated that the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home will commence on 1 April 2025 and will operate for an initial term of **4 years**, with the option for RMBC to extend that term for **two additional years**, followed by another possible extension of a **further two years**. This ensures that the contractual arrangements can remain adaptable to changes in demand while providing stability in service provision over a longer period.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 In anticipation of the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home, officers within the commissioning team are currently completing the Oldham service specification for the care and support services required by those service users who currently live in the properties detailed in the Annex to this report and any future residents of those properties. It is anticipated that six service providers will be needed, but this will be confirmed in the final draft of the service specification.

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- 2.2 While the properties in which service users reside are not owned by the Council, efforts will be made to establish service level agreements with landlords to align property arrangements with service delivery. Further, obligations will be imposed on the service providers to work with the landlords. This alignment will create a cohesive and efficient framework for people living independently, benefitting both the service users and providers through clear agreements and operational stability.
- 2.3 The mini competition for the initial call-off under the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home will be designed by the commissioning team, in consultation with the Commercial Procurement Unit. The award and scoring criteria will be led by what is permitted under the call-off process detailed within the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home.
- 2.4 Any future call-off arrangements for the individual in-borough or out of borough placements will also be carried out in accordance with GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home.
- 2.5 No procurement activity under the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home would be pursued until after it has been confirmed the arrangements have officially commenced and all appointed service providers have executed an overarching agreement with RMBC.
- 2.6 The GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home will provide a compliant and flexible framework for procuring high-quality care and support services through a streamlined call-off process.
- 2.7 All Call-Off Contracts entered following the completion of a call-off process under the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home will be largely in the form prescribed under the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home.
- 2.8 The estimated costs of commissioning the required services under GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home during its 4 + 2+ 2-year term are dealt with in the Finance implications.
- 2.9 A further report will be presented to DMT following the local competition and to confirm the approved providers going forward, to ratify the local commissioning arrangements.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 Option 1: Maintain the existing ad hoc service provision arrangements

- **Details**

Maintain the existing ad hoc service provision arrangements with the current providers of the required services.

- **Risks**

- **Viability Issue:** This option is not viable as the contracts for these services expired in 2019. Continuing with the current providers without new commissioning arrangements would breach the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, which incorporate the relevant legislative requirements.
- **Missed Opportunities:** Failing to test the market would mean missing opportunities to ensure value for money and service quality improvements.
- **Insufficient Terms and Conditions:** The purchase order terms and conditions may not meet the evolving needs of service users or reflect best practices.

3.2 Option 2: Cease Delivery of Supported Living Services

- **Details:**
Discontinue the provision of care and support services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism.
- **Risks:**
 - **Statutory Duty:** This option is not viable as these services are statutory under the Care Act, 2014 which requires the Council to meet the assessed needs of individuals.
 - **Vulnerable Service Users:** The absence of care and support services would leave vulnerable individuals without necessary support, forcing the Council to seek costly alternative placements or emergency solutions.
 - **Reputational and Legal Risks:** There is the potential for reputational damage and legal challenges for failing to meet statutory obligations.

3.3 **Option 3: Procure Services via the GM Supporting People to Live Well at Home FPS Agreement (Preferred Option)**

- **Details:**
For the immediate in-borough requirements (for current service users resident in the in the properties listed in the Annex to this report and any new service users who move into the properties when accommodation becomes available), proceed with a mini competition under the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home, procured by RMBC. For future in-borough and out of borough ad hoc arrangements, procure all requirements in accordance with the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home. This option ensures a compliant and transparent process to secure high-quality care and support services through the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home.
- **Risks:**
 - TUPE – subject to the way in which the lots are designed for the immediate in-borough requirements for the properties listed in the Annex to this report and subject to which service providers are allocated to the lots, there could be (but will not necessarily be) a fragmented service; however, it is anticipated that staff will be required so even if there are TUPE implications, a contractual transfer of staff could be agreed.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 **Option 3 – Procure Services via the GM Supporting People to Live Well at Home FPS Agreement (Preferred Option)**

This option aligns with statutory obligations, procurement regulations, and best practices for service delivery. This approach provides the most flexible, compliant, and transparent solution for securing high-quality services for Oldham's most vulnerable residents.

5 **Consultation**

5.1 A comprehensive consultation exercise has been conducted to inform the design and delivery of care and support services in Oldham for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism based on assessed Care Act 2014 needs. The consultation aims to ensure that individuals with learning disabilities and/or autism:

- Are fully included and integrated into the community.
- Are treated with dignity and respect.
- Have choice and control over their lives, enhancing their independence and promoting health and positive well-being.

Two key stakeholder groups have been engaged as part of this consultation:

-
- Adults with learning disabilities and/or autism, alongside their parents, families, and carers.
 - Providers of the care and support Services.

Further consultation was undertaken by STAR procurement to help shape the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home.

- 5.2 The principles outlined above guided the local Oldham approach to the consultation. Engagement visits were carried out with all six framework providers to explore their practices and gather examples of best practice. During these visits, service users were engaged with to capture a diverse range of perspectives. Structured questions were used to gather feedback, and the responses were analysed to identify recurring themes, strengths, and areas for improvement. This engagement model ensures that service providers are well-equipped to create inclusive, supportive, and empowering environments for individuals with learning disabilities and/or autism.
- 5.3 A market engagement event with existing and potential providers was held in May 2024 to initiate consultation on the proposed commissioning framework. Additionally, current providers were invited to a focused session on Friday, 10th May 2024, to directly discuss commissioning intentions. This dialogue with providers will continue throughout the procurement process to ensure alignment with service user needs and the Council's objectives.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The proposal to procure services via the FPS Agreement is not expected to present any adverse cost implication to existing commissioned service provision. There is no intention to revise the current core and flex models of delivery, and the hourly rates will be agreed and set as part of the annual ASC market uplifts, subject to a separate report.

There may be opportunities to realise potential cost reductions from non-commissioned provision once framework providers are known and min-competitions are performed.

There are risks however, that specialist or out of borough settings could become more expensive if existing providers don't form part of the framework, resulting in service users being placed in alternative more costly provision.

Andy Pearson, Accountant

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 Rule 4 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules governs the procurement processes which must be followed depending on the proposed contract value.
- 7.2 Rule 4.1 allows for call-offs to be made under procurement compliant Framework Agreements which have been commissioned in accordance with the correct rules and legislation.
- 7.3 In this matter, it is proposed that the care and support services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism based on assessed Care Act 2014 needs which are or may be required over the coming years are, where possible, commissioned under the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home, which is currently out to tender and is scheduled to commence on 1 April 2025. The Framework is being tendered by RMBC and is available to other contracting authorities (such as the Council) to use. The Commercial Procurement Unit is monitoring the tender procedure to ensure that a

procurement compliant arrangement is finalised by RMBC and that it will be lawful for the Council to place orders under the Framework.

- 7.4 Once the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home is in place and live, the Council must undertake all commissioning activity in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Framework and the form of contract must be as governed by the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home.
- 7.5 Provided the Council complies with the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home, the legal implications of delivering the recommendations in this report should be minimal. However, it isn't possible to guarantee that any commissioning activity under the GM Framework for Supporting People to Live Well at Home will not be challenged; all the Council can do is mitigate against any risks by complying with prescribed processes and terms and conditions.
- 7.6 If the Council were to be challenged by way of a judicial review claim, it should be noted that there are limited grounds for bringing such a claim; a decision made must be illegal (a decision-maker breaches a legal requirement, misdirects itself in law, exercises a power wrongly, or purports to exercise a power that it does not have, which is known as acting 'ultra vires') or it must be irrational (i.e., if it "is so unreasonable that no reasonable authority could ever have come to it") or if it is procedurally improper (a failure to observe statutory procedures or natural justice) or it is made in breach of legitimate expectation (when a public body has failed to act in line with an expectation that it has created by its own statements or acts).
- 7.7 Further, the claimant must have sufficient interest, or "standing" in the matter to which the judicial review relates (for example, a contractor who has not been given the opportunity to bid for the contracts). An application for permission to apply for judicial review in England must be made "promptly" and in any event not later than one month from the date when grounds for the application first arose (in procurement cases).
- 7.8 One or more of six forms of final relief are available, and all are at the discretion of the court. Declarations and quashing orders are by far the most granted remedies in judicial review. It is rare for the other remedies to be granted.

Sarah Orrell – Commercial & Procurement Solicitor

8 Procurement Implications

- 8.1 Current arrangements are non-compliant and carry a risk to the organisation, so it is important that this is addressed as a matter of urgency. The quickest and safest route to market would be through the new GM framework, and this would be compliant with the Oldham Council CPRs. If we were required to go out and create our own framework, this would result in significant delays (9-12 months), and the FPS/DPS model is not available under the new regulations.

The GM framework was started under the PC2015 regulations so is governed by these. It should end in 2029 as per government guidance around the length of these contracts following the implementation of the PA23 regulations. At this time, we do not know which companies have been successful in their application to the new GM framework. If there is a change in supplier for any of the lots then we would expect staff in current services to TUPE across to a new provider, ensuring consistency of staffing and care for the service users, with minimal impact to them.

We do need to be aware that there may be a short delay from the framework going live to us being able to access it, or there could be some delays in the final few weeks causing a

short delay to the implementation of the framework and therefore our ability to access it. We will need to finalise the breakdown of the lots, and decisions as to whether these are by properties or by geography (and depending on this, what happens to any new properties that come online in Oldham boundaries), before we can go out with a mini-comp.

James England – Procurement Manager

9 Human Resources implications

9.1 Should OPTION 3 be approved, there would be no HR implications as there are no people implications.

10 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

10.1 Yes – to follow

11 Key Decision

11.1 Yes

12 Key Decision Reference

12.1 This item has been included on the Forward Plan under reference HSC-01-25.

13 Background Papers

13.1 N/A

14 Appendices

14.1 None



Report to CABINET

Public Health Budget Settlement 2025/26

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet member for Adult Social Care, Health, and Wellbeing

Officer Contact: Rebecca Fletcher, Director of Public Health

Report Author: Rebecca Fletcher, Director of Public Health

April 2025

Reason for Decision

The purpose of this report is to note and accept the increased notional Public Health budget settlement for Oldham in 2025/26.

Further, approval is sought to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health, and Wellbeing to agree all spending decisions related to, and any decisions taken in respect of procurement or contract modification activity linked to the notional Public Health budget settlement for Oldham in 2025/26.

Executive Summary

In the 2025 to 2026 financial year, the total public health grant by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to local authorities under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 will be £3.858 billion in total. This includes the notional amounts for the 10 Greater Manchester (GM) local authorities under the business rate retention arrangement.

Oldham Council is one of the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities piloting the business rate retention for public health and, therefore, no longer receives a public health grant, which is why the funding values referenced in the DHSC grant award are notional allocations only.

However, the impact of the business rate retention arrangement in GM is that whilst the 10 GM authorities, including Oldham, have agreed through GMCA to forgo the public health grant, each council retains higher shares of business rates.

The notional public health grant allocation for 2025/26 has been confirmed as £19,853,309, which is an increase of £1,014,142 from the published allocation for 2024/25 and which corresponds to a per head allocation of £81.19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-grants-to-local-authorities-2025-to-2026/public-health-ring-fenced-grant-financial-year-2025-to-2026-local-authority-circular>

The notional public health grant settlement for Oldham will be received from the GM business rate retention arrangement rather than through the public health grant.

As a result, the GM authorities are not subject to all the terms and conditions of the public health grant, as imposed by the DHSC.

On average, people in Oldham are less healthy than those in other parts of the North West region and when compared to the England average. Oldham's communities have wide ranging health and wellbeing needs, and these can vary significantly between different groups. It is important that the Public Health funding is invested effectively, to address identified health and wellbeing needs, ensuring the greatest possible positive impact on the health and wellbeing of Oldham's people.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet approves:

- the notional DHSC 2025/26 Public Health budget settlement for Oldham of £19.8m,
- that the value of the Public Health settlement for 2025/26 of £19.8m shall be allocated to the public health budget via the Business Rates Retention Pilot
- the delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing to make all spending decisions relating to the Public Health settlement for 2025/26
- the delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Director of Finance (where required) to procure, award, and modify all contracts stemming from spending decisions relating to the Public Health settlement for 2025/26 and from a compliant procurement process
- the delegation of authority to the Borough Solicitor or their nominee to carry out all necessary legal formalities linked to the above approvals, including the signing and sealing of contracts

Public Health Budget Annual Report 2025/26

1. Background

- 1.1. Oldham's published public health allocation for 2025/26 has been confirmed as £19,853,309 (£81.19 per head). The council has agreed to ensure that this allocation is used in line with the grant conditions to focus on improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Oldham. This funding supports the local authority to meet its duty to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population.
- 1.2. The National Health Service Act (2006) includes a statutory duty to be informed by the health needs of the local population when deciding on the most appropriate use of public health funding. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, <https://www.jsnaoldham.co.uk/> identifies the health and wellbeing needs of the local population. This has informed the Integrated Health and Care Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oldham, and the Public Health Business Plan. The planned use of the Public Health allocation in 2025/26, as set out in this report, is assessed as being the most appropriate allocation of resource to ensure the delivery of activity required within the conditions of the grant, as well as address the health and wellbeing needs of the local population.
- 1.3. The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age have a profound influence on health and health inequalities. Local authorities have a key role to play in shaping these conditions, and as a consequence also have a key role in terms of improving the health and wellbeing of their local population (in line with statutory duties).

2. Oldham Overview

- 2.1. Local authorities (upper tier and unitary) are statutorily responsible for improving the health of their local population and reducing health inequalities, under the National Health Service Act 2006. Alongside this duty, a ring-fenced public health grant (RPHG) is provided, for expenditure where the 'main and primary purpose...is public health'. In Greater Manchester, this funding is provided via the Business Rates Retention Pilot. There is still a published allocation for the public health budget for each GM Authority.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-grants-to-local-authorities-2025-to-2026/public-health-ring-fenced-grant-financial-year-2025-to-2026-local-authority-circular>
- 2.2. Oldham Council is statutorily required to ensure the provision of public health services to meet the needs of local residents. The terms of the public health responsibilities outline prescribed (services mandated in the NHS Act 2006) and non-prescribed services, all of which are required as part of the conditions of the grant. Local authorities must report forecasted and actual public health spend against these categories.
- 2.3. The population of Oldham have a lower life expectancy when compared to regional and national averages. They can also expect to live a shorter proportion of their lives in good health (healthy life expectancy measure).
- 2.4. Oldham has higher smoking rates when compared to other adults in England, with around 1 in 6 adults being current smokers. This demonstrates the importance of continued focussed investment in effective interventions that will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the population.

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- 2.5. The current Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oldham, agreed in March 2022, set out five priority areas for collective action to improve health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities in Oldham:
- Supporting our residents to gain the knowledge and skills to confidently make choices and make decisions about their own health,
 - Reduce smoking,
 - Giving children the best start in life,
 - Increasing physical activity,
 - Improving mental wellbeing and mental health.
- 2.6. Public Health funding will continue to be invested to support the delivery of the above priorities. Further detail about the progress to date can be found in the update to Health Scrutiny (July 2024).
- 2.7. The planned use of the Public Health allocation 2025/6 is assessed as being an effective and efficient use of the resource available, to ensure:
- The effective delivery of all required public health services,
 - The delivery of activity identified as being required to address the five priorities set out within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Oldham,
 - The delivery of activities to address needs as identified through the JSNA
 - That all Public Health expenditure is eligible, in line with the public health duties of the council,
 - The delivery of all activity within the Public Health Business Plan.

3. Current Position

- 3.1. The Public Health Team commission a wide range of activity to address the health and wellbeing needs of Oldham communities and improve outcomes for residents. Key commissioning activity undertaken during 2024/25 which has informed the use of the Public Health allocation in 2025/26 included:
- Award of the six-year social prescribing service contract,
 - Extension of the Infant Feeding Peer Support Service by 1 year,
 - Implementation of a new delivery model for the Integrated Children and Families Service under our Section 75 partnership with the NCA,
 - The procurement of additional pharmacists to provide emergency contraception.
- 3.2. The public health commissioning pipeline for 2025/26 includes the following activity:
- Commissioning a new Infant Feeding Peer Support Service
 - Commissioning a new NHS Health Checks provision
 - Commissioning a new Oral Health Improvement for Older Adults Service
 - Commissioning a new Genetics Outreach Service
 - Review of the Health Improvement Service ahead of a potential extension (as per provision included in original contract)
 - Review of Young People's Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Service ahead of potential extension (as per provision included in original contract)
- 3.3. Increased areas of need as identified by the JSNA and engagement with residents include:
- All age oral health
 - Tier 2 weight management and prevention of obesity
 - Access to contraception, including Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)

- Outbreak response and prevention of infections in our communities
- Support for vulnerable young people
- Support for infant feeding, safe sleep and child development
- Tackling the risk factors for cardiovascular disease, cancers and dementia including obesity, lack of physical activity, alcohol intake and smoking
- Increase provision for community-led prevention including via social prescribing

4. Options/Alternatives

4.1. Option 1 Approve the recommendations set out in the report:

- the notional DHSC 2025/26 Public Health budget settlement for Oldham of £19.8m be accepted,
- that the value of the Public Health settlement for 2025/26 of £19.8m shall be allocated to the public health budget via the Business Rates Retention Pilot
- the delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing to make all spending decisions relating to the Public Health settlement for 2025/26
- the delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Director of Finance (where required) to procure, award, and modify all contracts stemming from spending decisions relating to the Public Health settlement for 2025/26 and from a compliant procurement process
- the delegation of authority to the Borough Solicitor or their nominee to carry out all necessary legal formalities linked to the above approvals, including the signing and sealing of contracts

4.2. Option 2 Do not allocate the value of the Public Health settlement for 2025/26 to the Public Health budget via the Business Rates Retention Pilot.

This would mean that the Public Health Department would not have the funding in 2025/26 to provide public health support to the value of the Public Health Settlement for 2025/26.

The Business Rates Retention Pilot is more flexible with regard to what funds can be spent on but failing to provide public health support would mean that the Council would not be fulfilling its statutory duties on public health. In addition, it would not be in line with the Council's Corporate Plan with its focus on Happy, Healthier Lives.

Without this additional funding, contract values for public health services will need to remain static and so provision will reduce in real terms as a result of the National Insurance increases, and other cost increases. In addition, services to address crucial public health issues will not be provided or adequately funded. This will result in decreased health and wellbeing for our residents, and an increase in health inequalities.

5. Preferred Option

5.1. Option 1 is the preferred Option

6. Consultation

6.1. The public health business plan and priorities are informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and from feedback from residents via a range of routes including the Bee Well Survey. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy was developed by the Health and Wellbeing Board based on local data, and input from local residents.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The notional public health grant allocation for 2025/26 has been confirmed as £19,853,309, which is an increase of £1,014,142 from the published allocation for 2024/25 and which corresponds to a per head allocation of £81.19.
- 7.2 The value of the Public Health settlement for 2025/26 of £19.8m has been received via the Greater Manchester Business Rates Retention Scheme, therefore there is no requirement for the cabinet to accept / approve receipt of the settlement.
- 7.3 A budget of £19.8m will be allocated to the 2025/26 Public Health base budget, in line with the agreed settlement. All services within the Council will be subject to an ongoing review in 2025/26 to ensure that wider financial needs of the Council are met.

Matthew Kearns 20/03/2025

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1. The DHSC grant determination is made under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, so it is a lawful grant; however, as part of the GM Business Rates Retention Pilot, Oldham will forgo the grant in return for the benefit of higher business rate retention.
- 8.2. The grant determination for the DHSC award clearly provides that the grant will be ring-fenced for use on public health functions, but the Business Rates Retention pilot, which is where funding will come from, is more flexible.
- 8.3. The DHSC grant award notification references the grant conditions that will apply to each public health grant award, but Oldham will not be subject to these terms and conditions because funding will stem from the Business Rates Retention pilot.
- 8.4. The council is, however, required to comply with any terms and conditions imposed by the Business Rates Retention pilot. Advice from Legal Services should be taken from time to time, as needed.
- 8.5. In expending the grant funding, the council must comply with the Contract Procedure Rules, which incorporate relevant procurement legislation. As required under the CPRs, advice from the Commercial Procurement Unit shall be obtained and procurement procedures shall be managed by the CPU, where required.
- 8.6. If grant funding is awarded using the grant funding, advice should be taken from Legal Services to determine if the proposed grant award(s) are in line with the Business Rates Retention pilot and what, if any terms and conditions need to be imposed on grant recipients. Any grant awards must also be subject to a subsidy control assessment.
- 8.7. Whilst it is not possible to completely eradicate risk, risk can be mitigated as far as is possible. Therefore, subject to the approval of the recommendations, if any resultant actions are taken by the Council, there are procedures in place to ensure officers have access to advice and assistance which will enable them to comply with the Business Rates Retention pilot, any relevant external or internal rules or procedure, procurement rules, legislation, subsidy control requirements etc. This will assist officers in mitigating risk and reducing any legal implications.

Sarah Orrell – Commercial & Procurement Solicitor

9. Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

9.1. No

10. Key Decision

10.1. Yes

11. Key Decision Reference

11.1. HSC-06-25

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PART EXEMPT – Appendix 1 - NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it contains commercially sensitive information



Report to Cabinet

Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG)

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member Health and Social Care

Officer Contact: Rebecca Fletcher, Director of Public Health

Report Authors: Amber Podmore, Programme Support Officer (Public Health) / Andrea Entwistle, Senior Business and Commissioning Manager (Public Health)

April 2025

Reason for Decision

The purpose of this report is to note the allocation of grant funding for 2025/26 to improve Drug and Alcohol treatment and recovery provision and outcomes in the borough.

Approval is sought to delegate authority to agree all decisions related to the utilisation of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Grant (DATRIG) to the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health, and Wellbeing. This will include the authority to vary existing contracts (and any associated collaborative commissioning agreements) or award grant agreements or contracts stemming from a compliant procurement process. It is also requested that authority is delegated to the Borough Solicitor or nominee to carry out all necessary legal formalities, including the execution of any contracts.

Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Note and accept the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Grant (DATRIG) settlement for 2025/26, including the conditions of funding outlined in this report and that the DATRIG is limited to 12 months of funding, and agree that the grant funding is allocated to Public Health to enact, in line with the grant conditions.
2. Delegate authority for the execution of all decisions regarding utilisation of the funding from the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Improvement Grant 2025/26 to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing.

-
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in conjunction with the Borough Solicitor and Director of Finance (or their nominees), to vary existing contracts (and any associated collaborative commissioning agreements), issue grant agreements or award contracts stemming from a compliant procurement process.
 4. Delegate authority be delegated to the Borough Solicitor or their nominee to carry out all necessary legal formalities linked to the actions delegated to the Director of Public Health, including the execution of contracts.

Cabinet

7 April 2025

Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG)

1 Background and Context

- 1.1 Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities have a duty to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of their local population by ensuring that there are public health services aimed at reducing drug and alcohol misuse.
- 1.2 Having a high functioning drug and alcohol treatment and recovery offer is an essential component of the range of activity required to achieve better population health and reduce demand on health and social care services.
- 1.3 Oldham Council currently use the public health settlement to commission a range of interventions, including but not limited to an Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Service (delivered by Turning Point, under the service name ROAR [Rochdale and Oldham Addiction Recovery]) and a Young People's Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Service (delivered by Early Break in partnership with HCRG Care Group under the service name, MYNO [Meeting Your Needs Oldham]) to minimise drug and alcohol related social and health harms through prevention, education and awareness raising, treatment and recovery provision.
- 1.4 Additional funding has been available from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) from 2022 – 2025 to improve services in line with the ambitions of the Government's Drug Strategy, [From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan](#) and the recommendations from [Dame Carol Black's independent review](#). The additional funding has included the following time-limited, central government grants: Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG), In-patient detoxification (IPD) Grant, Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG), Individual Placement and Support (IPS), and Housing Support Grant (HSG).
- 1.5 The grants are provided by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and managed on a regional basis by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). Grant funding has been dependent on the Council maintaining or building on existing investment in drug and alcohol treatment and recovery from the Public Health Settlement. Details of the grant settlements for 2024-25 and how this was utilised are outlined in Appendix 1 (which is exempt from publication due to containing commercially sensitive information), for reference.
- 1.6 In line with government policy, for 2025/26, the DHSC have made the decision to amalgamate the grants into a single Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG). The DATRIG has been allocated for a 12-month period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and consolidates previous grant funding provided through the SSMTRG, RSDATG and IPD grant. As with previous arrangements, all additional grant funding is conditional on the basis that there will be no disinvestment in treatment services that are currently funded by the core Public Health Settlement.

-
- 1.7 Conditions of the DATRIG include a continued ambition in reducing levels of unmet need, and an enhanced focus on the quality of the treatment and recovery offer for people with drug and alcohol treatment needs. The focus on quality will reduce attrition rates and representations, improve the number of people entering treatment and making meaningful progress, support more people to initiate and sustain recovery (including through improved employment and housing support) and reduce the number of people dying from drug and alcohol related deaths. In turn, continued improvement in the range and quality of support being provided will make services more attractive, accessible and effective.
- 1.8 The grant conditions stipulate that we must report on the following five measures, that are intended to improve the delivery of drug and alcohol services:
1. Increase numbers in treatment for Opiate, Non-Opiates and Alcohol
 2. Reduce Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths
 3. Increase capacity in the workforce and improve training
 4. Improve engagement rates (continuity of care) for those residents released from custody and maintaining treatment and recovery when in the community
 5. Increase numbers accessing Residential Rehab by 2% of all those in treatment
- 1.9 Public Health and providers have worked alongside Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Regional Teams and Greater Manchester Combined Authority to meet these targets. All have been achieved apart from a reduction in alcohol related deaths, that is slightly higher than the national average.
- 1.10 At the time of writing, there has been no indication from central Government whether DATRIG or any other form of additional grant funding to support drug and alcohol treatment and recovery will be available after 31 March 2026.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The total DATRIG funding for Oldham for 2025/26 is expected to be £1,870,970. This is a slight reduction compared to the amount received in 2024/25 (as set out in Appendix 1). It should be noted that only the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment (RSDAT) component (£707,083) is confirmed at the time of writing, with the remaining grant indicative funding.
- 2.2 Any utilisation of the grant is subject to sign-off of the DATRIG 2025-26 Grant Planning Documentation by Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), which has been submitted to OHID and is currently awaiting approval, and satisfactory completion of the required grant funding monitoring submissions.

3 Proposed Approach

- 3.1 In anticipation of receiving the DATRIG allocation from OHID for 2025/26, this paper is proposing that the grant funding is accepted and that authority to execute all decisions regarding use of this additional funding is delegated to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing.
- 3.2 Whilst the Council will hold the funds and the grant agreement with OHID, it is proposed that the budget is allocated to public health, along with the management and reporting mechanisms of the grant spend as required by the DHSC, and that the Director of Public Health has delegated responsibility for this budget and its utilisation, subject to consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing.
- 3.3 As per previous years, some of the grant funding will be used to supplement services commissioned by both the Council and external partners and other elements will be used to

deliver or support projects and programmes of work undertaken by individual project partners. The Director of Public Health will work with legal, finance and procurement colleagues to ensure the appropriate procedures are followed, and relevant agreements put in place to support these arrangements. It is recommended that authority be delegated to the Borough Solicitor or their nominee to carry out all necessary legal formalities linked to the utilisation of the grant, including the execution of contracts.

- 3.4 In executing the DATRIG on behalf of Oldham, the following activity will be required to be undertaken:
- Commissioning of a new dedicated recovery offer for Oldham to meet the needs of our residents and community, with the aim of improving long-term outcomes and reducing repeat presentations to treatment services.
 - It is proposed that the Council procure this service, for an initial contract period of one year, via the most appropriate procurement route subject to procurement advice, and that authority is delegated to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, to award the contract following the completion of the evaluation process.
 - Modifications to existing substance misuse contracts funded by core public health budget (and any associated collaborative commissioning agreements), where provision allows subject to legal advice, to allow expenditure of the DATRIG through the existing contract to supplement the current provision
 - As most components of the DATRIG are indicative at present, modifications will be made dependent on final confirmation of funding
 - Approval is sought to review and update any existing substance misuse contracts, whilst modifications are made to allow for use of the DATRIG through the existing contracts, to ensure that specifications and performance indicators are still fit for purpose and to revise funding envelopes in line with any uplifts (in line with National Insurance changes and inflation) or any change in delivery models. Final sign off of any modifications to be delegated to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member or Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and Director of Legal Services
 - Award 12-month contracts or grant agreements – as per the most appropriate process to providers to deliver outcomes against the DATRIG grant conditions which best meet the needs of our residents, as set out in the planning documentation submitted to OHID.
 - Final allocations are subject to confirmation of funding and approval of proposals shared with OHID
 - It is proposed that delegated authority is given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member or Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and Director of Legal Services, to allocate the funding and award the necessary contracts agreements, via the most appropriate procurement route, to ensure the allocations are compliant with the grant conditions.

3 Options/Alternatives

Option A: Accept the DATRIG grant funding and delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and the Borough Solicitor or their nominee, to enact all decisions regarding allocation of the funding, as outlined in the report. Further, delegate authority to the Borough Solicitor or their nominee to carry out all legal formalities linked to the enactment of decision regarding the spend of the DATRIG.

This is the recommended option because it will ensure that we can continue to improve prevention and early intervention around drugs and alcohol, improve access to treatment and recovery services and improve quality of provision to ensure that Oldham residents receive the best possible support to tackle drug and alcohol related harm, which will in turn improve health outcomes and reduce the number of drug and alcohol related deaths.

Delegated authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member or Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and the Borough Solicitor or their nominee will ensure that any contractual arrangements in relation to the use of the DATRIG additional funding can be expedited to ensure that funding is available as soon as possible and impact can be made to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.

Option B: Do not accept the DATRIG grant:

This is not recommended, as investment of grant funding in our current drug and alcohol treatment and recovery offer to date has made a difference in terms of increasing numbers in treatment but more needs to be done to improve quality of provision, as per the intentions of the DATRIG, and to improve the recovery offer locally.

Not accepting the DATRIG grant will greatly reduce the capacity and effectiveness of Oldham's treatment and recovery provision meaning that fewer residents will be able to access the services and would risk worsening health outcomes and further increasing drug and alcohol related mortality rates in the borough.

It would also mean that staff from services (between 35 – 40 posts), many of whom are Oldham residents, may be made redundant. This will mean a significant increase in caseload sizes in treatment services, reduction in capacity to support increased numbers of residents in treatment and decreased level of support able to be offered across the wider partnership.

We also risk destabilising collaborative commissioning arrangements, inadvertently creating an inequitable offer where residents of Oldham are not able to receive the same level of service as those from other localities accessing the same provision, and reputational risks for not investing in tackling drug and alcohol related harm when additional funding is available and Oldham has poor outcomes, compared to regional and England averages.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option A is the recommended option as this will ensure that we are investing all available funding in the borough to address drug and alcohol related harms by improving capacity and quality of provision and delegating authority will ensure that the funding can be used quickly and effectively, to ensure maximum impact, whilst meeting the associated grant conditions and reporting requirements.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Member of Health and Social Care, who are both regularly updated regarding the performance of the commissioned services. Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board have also received regular updates regarding the commissioned services and use of any additional drug and alcohol treatment and recovery grant funding.

5.2 Feedback is gathered from service users, as standard, regarding their experiences of the different services and this is used to inform service development and continuous improvement.

5.3 Consultation has also been undertaken by public health with the service providers, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Regional Teams and Greater Manchester Combined Authority to consider how additional grant funding can and has been used to best improve outcomes locally and what the impacts would be if funding was not utilised.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for 3 requests:

- 1) Note the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Grant (DATRIG) settlement for 2025/26.

The total DATRIG funding for Oldham for 2025/26 is estimated to be £1,870,970. This is a slight reduction compared to the amount received in 2024/25.

Grant component	Indicative	Confirmed
SSMTR (Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery)	£940,844	
HS (Housing Support)	-	
IPD (Inpatient Detoxification)	£52,453	
RSDAT (Rough Sleeping Drug & Alcohol Treatment)		£707,083
DATRIG (Drug & Alcohol Treatment, Recovery & Improvement Grant)	£1,870,970	
IPS (Individual Placement & Support)	£170,590	

It should be noted that only the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment (RSDAT) component of the grant (£707,083) has been confirmed at the time of writing, with the remaining grant is indicative funding.

- 2) Delegate authority for the execution of all decisions regarding utilisation of the funding from the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Improvement Grant 2025/26 to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing.
- 3) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to vary existing contracts (and any associated collaborative commissioning agreements), issue grant agreements or award contracts stemming from a compliant procurement process and authority be delegated to the Director of Legal Services to carry out all necessary legal formalities.

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- 6.2 In line with government policy, for 2025/26 the DHSC have made the decision to amalgamate the grants into a single Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG).
- 6.3 The DATRIG has been allocated for a 12-month period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and consolidates previous grant funding provided through the SSMTRG, RSDATG and IPD grant.
- 6.4 The consolidated DATRIG grant is no longer classed as ring fenced grant. Instead, it has been included in the Council's Local Government Finance Settlement figure for 2025/26.
- 6.5 The confirmed grant of £707k has been allocated to the Public Health base budget for 2025/26, all decisions regarding utilisation of the funding from the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Improvement Grant 2025/26 will therefore be delegated to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, Director of Finance and Borough Solicitor (or their nominee).

Matthew Kearns – Finance Manager 20/03/2025

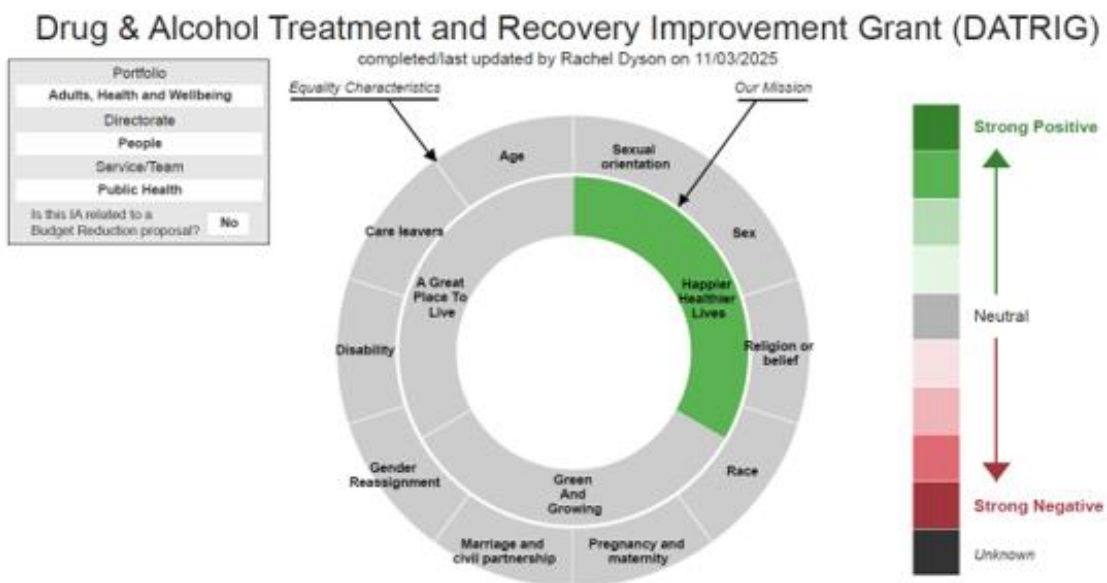
7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The acceptance of grant funding is outside of the Contract Procedure Rules, so the main considerations are whether the Council is in a position to comply with the terms and conditions of the DATRIG. These terms and conditions are outlined in this report along with some commentary.
- 7.2 In spending the grant, it is essential that any procurement activity is conducted in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules and, if applicable, the Procurement Act 2023.
- 7.3 Further, any grant schemes must be designed in line with the approved purposes of the DATRIG. The Council must also consider the subsidy control regime in allocating grant monies.
- 7.4 Whether or not the Council is contracting for the delivery of projects aligned the objectives of the DATRIG or it is awarding grant funding, suitable forms of contract or grant agreement will be needed and advice from Legal Services (particularly in relation to subsidy control) must be taken.
- 7.5 It is anticipated that all activity using the DATRIG will be low risk, but it is important to note that a breach of the Contract Procedure Rules or a flawed grant scheme decision could trigger a claim for judicial review (albeit in limited circumstances), and a breach of the Procurement Act 2023 could trigger the remedies regime under that Act.

Sarah Orrell – Commercial & Procurement Solicitor

8 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

- 8.1 Yes



9 Key Decision

9.1 Yes

10 Key Decision Reference

11.1 HSC-04-25

12 Background Papers

12.1 None

13 Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 - Overview of use of additional drug and alcohol treatment and recovery grants for 2024/25 (EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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