

Report to CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

The Local Improvement Fund – Project Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Sean Fielding, Council Leader

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Reason for Decision

To date the Local Improvement Fund (LIF) has funded 20 projects, totaling £499,260. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic many of these projects have been delayed or require additional resource to successfully deliver. This paper provides an update on the progress of all 20 projects, including additional resource requirements.

Recommendation

Review the project updates and agree additional resource requirements if applicable.

Reviewing District Working in Oldham**1 Background**

- 1.1 At Annual Council on the 22nd May it was agreed that a Local Improvement Fund (LIF) should be established to support district priorities. The LIF is a £500k capital fund that all elected members and District Teams can access through a bidding process.
- 1.2 The LIF launched in July 2019 and required elected members to submit expressions of interest for funding, with two funding rounds held in November 2019 and February 2020. In total the LIF funded 20 projects, totalling £499,260. Appendix 1 provides an update on all 20 projects, including additional funding requirements.
- 1.3 To date three projects have requested additional funding:
- I. Application 6 – Hollinwood War Memorial – £2,273 over budget.
 - II. Application 10 – Turn Lane Footway – £5,000 over budget (please note, £2,500 has been found by the service to support the delivery of the project, so the requirement from the LIF would be an additional £2,500).
 - III. Application 13 – Lees Village Centre – £5,000 over budget.
- 1.4 To date one project has been delivered under budget:
- I. Application 14 – Martha Street and Ripon Street Play – £3,644.13 underspend.
- 1.5 There is a further £500k allocated for the Local Improvement Fund. However, further funding rounds have been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 Do Nothing – This is not a preferable option as without additional funding the three projects detailed above cannot progress.
- 2.2 Allocate additional funding – Review Appendix 1 and agree which projects should receive additional LIF Funding.

3 Recommended Option

- 3.1 Review Appendix 1 and agree which projects should receive additional LIF Funding.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The current Capital Programme includes £0.500m to support the Local Improvement Fund for Districts. A further £500k has been provisionally provided in 2021/22.

Shortfall

Application 6 – Hollinwood War Memorial	£2,273.00
Application 10 – Turn Lane Footway	£2,500.00
Application 13 – Lees Village Centre	£5,000.00
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	£9,773.00

Surplus

Application 14 – Martha Street and Ripon Street Play	(£3,644.13)
	<u>(£3,644.13)</u>

Net Shortfall

<u>£6,108.87</u>

4.2 If approved, the shortfall of £6,108.87 can be managed within the overall capital programme approvals.

4.3 Colleagues are reminded that expenditure on all approved schemes must meet the statutory definition of expenditure for capital purposes. (J Kara, Senior Accountant / Andy Moran, Assistant Director of Finance)

5 Legal Services Comments

5.1 The purpose of the Local Improvement Fund Sub-Committee is to allocate funding from the Local Improvement Fund to projects across the borough which promote and pursue the aims and objectives of the individual District Priorities.

5.2 The Sub-Committee is a constituted meeting of the Council and is subject to the Council's procedure rules, Cabinet procedure rules and the access to information procedure rules, as set out in the Council's Constitution, unless stated otherwise in the terms of reference. (Colin Brittain)

6. Co-operative Agenda

6.1 As a co-operative council, we are committed to reforming public services and encouraging innovation, leading to better outcomes and delivery. The Local Improvement Fund will ensure that Districts are best able to meet the needs of both elected members and the residents they represent. (Jonathan Downs – Corporate Policy Lead).

7 Human Resources Comments

7.1 None

8 Risk Assessments

8.1 None

9 IT Implications

9.1 None

10 Property Implications

10.1 While the purpose of the Local Improvement Fund is to promote and pursue the aims and objectives of the individual district priorities, many of the projects identified are for improvement works to corporate properties around the borough.

10.2 Due to the coronavirus, all property decisions are being managed through the Tactical Recovery Group to ensure CV19 workplace safety compliance. Any decisions to reopen buildings for community use / urgent works / improvements / maintenance needs engagement with local members, community groups and Estates / Accommodation teams to ensure that CV19 and H&S requirements are at the forefront of decisions. This might

result in some delays and additional costs – as with all project work – however this is outside the control of the Council given the pandemic and associated circumstances.

10.3 Cabinet have recently approved the Creating a Better Place strategic programme which includes c£8.5m revenue savings. There are significant independencies between the LIF programme and the current asset review work, which aligns with place-based working discussions and service review priorities. This needs consideration and engagement with the Estates / Accommodation team with local members to ensure priorities, work programmes, commissions and timescales are in alignment.

10.4 There are further independencies between the LIF programme and Community Asset Transfer programme, which was updated and reviewed last year. Supporting communities to own, manage and run local community centres is at the heart of the Oldham Model – as it is fully recognized that local members and local communities understand the needs of local residents to help ensure services can be delivered / accessed and positive outcomes achieved.

(Emma Barton, Director of Economy)

11 **Procurement Implications**

11.1 The Council's procurement procedures must be followed when commissioning works. Given the value of the proposed works the Council's agreed frameworks can be utilised. Early engagement with the procurement team will be required to ensure compliance.

12 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

12.1 None

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

13.1 None

14 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

14.1 No

15 **Key Decision**

15.1 No

16 **Key Decision Reference**

16.1 N/A

17 **Background Papers**

17.1 Establishing a Local Improvement Fund for Districts – 24.06.2019

18 **Appendices**

18.1 Appendix 1 – Local Improvement Fund, Funded Project Updates

