

## Delegated Officer Report

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| <b>Decision Maker:</b>   | <b>Richard Lynch - Director of Education, Early Years and Skills, Oldham Council</b> |
| <b>Date of Decision:</b> | July 2021  |
| <b>Subject:</b>          | <b>Oldham Opportunity Area -Twinning with Tameside</b>                               |
| <b>Report Author:</b>    | <b>Sally Robson – Opportunity Area Programme Director</b>                            |
| <b>Ward (s):</b>         | <b>N/A</b>   |

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### **Reason for the decision:**

This report seeks approval for an award to Russell Scott primary school in the Borough of Tameside. This project forms part of the Year 4 Department for Education priority to share learning wider than the Opportunity Areas themselves through “Twinning” with areas facing similar issues. £94,800 of Oldham’s Opportunity Area funding was set aside for Twinning activity with Tameside.

### **Summary:**

Both Oldham and Tameside have faced a disproportionate impact of the Pandemic and high infection rates have meant that children and young people in the boroughs have had to undertake higher levels of remote learning. In September 2020, Oldham OA Partnership Board had taken the decision to fund through Oldham Learning high quality CPD and setting up of Subject experts in Digital and remote learning. In Twinning discussions with Tameside, they also felt that this was a need that would support children and young people in Tameside to access the best possible home learning.

A Memorandum of Understanding (enclosed – appendix 1) was created with Tameside LA and Russell Scott Primary School, who were to be the project leads on behalf of Tameside LA.

This project has had the following objectives –

1. Tameside schools-led expertise to support **practice sharing, resolving commonly-faced problems**, and supporting equality of **access**.

2. Establish a **means to share resources focused on age phases and platforms** so that schools can access support and ideas more easily:
3. Some resources to be focused on **addressing the needs of vulnerable groups** which struggle to engage:
4. Schools to enhance existing remote learning practice:
5. Tameside Schools supported to develop a **sustainable long-term focus on digital learning**

***What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):***

There are no alternative options available as this project has already been agreed in principle.

***Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.***

Consultation took place with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Councillor Shaid Mushtaq in September 2020 at the Oldham Opportunity Area Partnership Board. There were no conflicts of interests declared.

***Recommendation(s):***

That approval is granted for the Year 4 payment to Russell Scott Primary School for delivery that has already taken place in the academic year 2020-2021.

**Implications:**

*What are the **financial** implications?*

*Amount for this project is £34,100*

This report seeks approval for an award to Russell Scott primary school on behalf of Tameside Local Authority, delivery of the project has taken place during the 2020-21 academic year, total project value **£34,100**. This can be wholly financed from within the Council's existing Opportunity Area Grant - Year 4 allocation. As such there are no direct revenue consequences for the Council.

*What are the **legal** implications?*

This should have been processed as a legally binding Grant Agreement clearly specifying the purpose for which the grant is being made and the deliverables and reporting and monitoring provisions. The OA Programme Director has confirmed that all the activities have been successfully undertaken by the school and the above financial comments confirm within budget and it is therefore unnecessary to execute a Grant Agreement

retrospectively. Legal Services has undertaken to work with OA to agree a standard template Grant Offer for their use. (Sukie Kaur)

What are the **procurement** implications?

The delivery of the project has been taken place during the 2020-21 period through Grant funding. A grant can be made subject to conditions and the grant can be clawed back if the conditions are not met. This work was done during pandemic time to encourage remote learning. Mohammad Sharif

What are the **Human Resources** implications? None

**Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment** attached or not required because (please give reason)

Not required as this will be completed by Russell Scott School

What are the **property** implications?

None

**Risks:**

**None as the programme has already been running successfully and is delivering on all targets**

**Mitigation**

Not required

**Co-operative agenda**

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| Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? | Yes |
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| Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? | Yes |
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| Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? | No |
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**List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:**  
**None**

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| <b>Report Author Sign-off:</b> |  |
|                                |  |
| <b>Date:</b>                   |  |

Please list and attach any appendices:-

| <b>Appendix number or letter</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Appendix 1                       | Memorandum of Understanding<br><br><br>Twinning MOU RM<br><u>edits10385 (003).doc</u> |

In consultation with Managing Director of CYP



Signed :

Date: 12 August 2021