

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker: Sayyed Osman, Deputy Chief Executive (People)

Date of Decision: 13th June 2023

Subject: Award of grant funding to Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK

Report Author: Natalie Downs, Stronger Communities Manager

Ward (s): None

Reason for the decision: The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award grant funding to the voluntary, community and faith sector, namely Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK, during the financial year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Summary: The proposal seeks to approve grant funding to Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK from the Council's community cohesion funds. A wider review of the work of the Oldham Interfaith Forum has commenced and this will be reflected in the grant agreement.

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s): There are no alternative options to be considered at this stage.

Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted. None.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended that the proposed allocations are awarded in 2023/24.

Implications:

<i>What are the financial implications?</i>	This expenditure represents Revenue Expenditure, the proposed amounts to pay Oldham Interfaith forum (£36,000) and Stop Hate UK (£4,400) are already built into the Stronger Communities base budget for 2023/24, and thus fully funded. (Mike Ward, Senior Accountant)
<i>What are the legal implications?</i>	There are no immediate legal issues arising from the report, but in due course, should there be a proposal to reduce or withdraw funding, then any such decision should be informed by appropriate consultation and/or equality impact assessment. (Alex Bougatef)
<i>What are the procurement implications?</i>	The report concerns the commissioning of grants. There are no matters relating to the procurement of services. The grants issued should be backed up with robust grant agreements and managed accordingly to ensure payments match agreed outcomes. (Steve Boyd)
<i>What are the Human Resources implications?</i>	There are no HR implications at this stage as no staff are affected. (Adele Savage, HR Advisory Operations Manager)
Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason)	There are no adverse equality and diversity implications arising from the proposals contained within this report. However, an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the event that funding to the groups is to be reduced or withdrawn at any future point.
<i>What are the property implications</i>	None.
Risks:	The proposals as set out in the report do not seem unreasonable from a risk perspective. (Mark Stenson)
Co-operative agenda	The grant awards support the Council's Co-operative Agenda by providing funding which contributes towards the core running costs of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations and ensures that they are able to provide services that help communities address disadvantage, equality of opportunity and improve life chances for residents. Furthermore, core funding helps organisations attract further investment into the borough, as well as providing

volunteering opportunities to residents
(Mahmuda Khanom)

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No.

Report Author Sign-off:	
Neil Consterdine, Assistant Director for Youth, Leisure and Communities	
Date:	13.06.2023

Please list and attach any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
Appendix 1	Background to the decision

In consultation with Deputy Chief Executive, Sayyed Osman

Signed: 

Date: 13.06.2023

APPENDIX 1: BACKGROUND TO THE DECISION

1. Background:

- 1.1 Funding has been allocated for several years as a contribution towards overheads and running costs to organisations which support the Council to deliver community cohesion related activity namely Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK.

2. Current Position:

2.1 Oldham Interfaith Forum

Oldham Council awards £36,000 per annum to Oldham Interfaith Forum (OIFF). OIFF supports the Council in building good relations in Oldham with a particular focus on improving understanding between people from different faith backgrounds (particularly young people through work in schools) and supporting dialogue within and between faith communities about issues of concern.

OIFF employs two members of staff who assist the Council in managing community tensions and preventing conflict and providing mechanisms to work constructively with faith leaders through the OIFF and Oldham Mosques Council. They offer support to the Council in engaging with faith communities and ensuring that Council services are sensitive to the needs of faith communities.

2.2 Stop Hate UK Helpline

Oldham Council awards £4,400 per annum to Stop Hate UK to provide a 3rd party helpline for victims/ witnesses to report hate crimes and incidents.

The 24 hour 'Stop Hate Line' provides an additional means for reporting incidents of hate crime and takes forward Recommendation 16 of The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report: 'That all possible steps be taken by police services at local level, in consultation with local government and other agencies and local communities, to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes. This should include:

- The ability to report at locations other than police stations
- The ability to report 24 hours a day.'

The Stop Hate Line covers the five monitored strands of hate crime which are:

- Race
- Faith
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The recommendation is to award funding at the same level in 2023/24 (i.e. £36,000 to Oldham Interfaith Forum and £4,400 to Stop Hate UK).