

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker:	Paul Clifford, Director of Economy
Date of Decision:	25 September 2023
Subject:	Grant acceptance – Connected Places Catapult area-based retrofit scheme feasibility
Report Author:	Andrew Hunt, x6587
Ward (s):	TBC

Reason for the decision: To accept a grant of £50,000 from Connected Places Catapult as part of a collaboration with Carbon Co-op to deliver a feasibility study on the opportunity to create an area-based “able to pay” retrofit programme for Oldham borough.

Summary: The Council has been in discussions with Connected Places Catapult (CPC, the national innovation accelerator for cities, transport and place leadership) about a potential collaboration to co-develop of a retrofit delivery demonstrator which addresses localised challenges to health and climate resilience within privately owned housing stock.

The aim of the project is to co-create and demonstrate with a 'location partner' a programme of work that:

- Addresses some of the key local challenges in the residential retrofit market.
- Promotes holistic approaches to home retrofit as a key enabler of healthy and climate resilient homes for the future.

- Accelerates innovative approaches to retrofit that meet the needs of health and climate resilience in local communities.

The purpose of the project is to develop and demonstrate a retrofit-based solution to solve key health and climate resilience challenges in privately-owned housing stock within a targeted location and community.

Through the project, the aim is to collaborate with stakeholders to develop methodologies to accelerate innovative approaches to retrofit that meet the needs of health and climate resilience in local communities. The resulting solution will be the development of an operational model for a new retrofit service or innovation.

Grant funding of up to £140,000 is available from Connected Places Catapult to fund the Location Partner's activities on this project. Project delivery will take place between 1st October 2023 and 31st March 2024.

Connected Places Catapult have notified the Council that they wish to work with Oldham as the Location Partner. The £140,000 grant funding will be split between the Council (£50,000) and Carbon Co-op (£90,000) who will develop the feasibility study and operational model, working with the Council. No match funding is required either from the Council or from Carbon Co-op. CPC will contract directly with the Council and Carbon Co-op via a Collaboration Agreement so no procurement of Carbon Co-op by the Council will be required or take place.

The feasibility study / operational model will be used to form part of the specification of an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner (commercial infrastructure provider) in 2024-25.

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

Option 1: Do not accept the grant funding. Under this option, the Council will not progress with the collaboration with Connected Places Catapult, and the feasibility study / operational model output for an area-based retrofit scheme in Oldham will not be included in the procurement of an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner in 2024-25.

Option 2 (recommended option): Accept the grant funding. Under this option, the Council will progress with the collaboration with Connected Places Catapult, and the feasibility study / operational model output for an area-based retrofit scheme in Oldham will be included in the procurement of an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner in 2024-25.

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

Consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources.

Recommendation(s):

Option 2 (recommended option): Accept the grant funding. Under this option, the Council will progress with the collaboration with Connected Places Catapult, and the feasibility study / operational model output for an area-based retrofit scheme in Oldham will be included in the procurement of an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner in 2024-25.

Implications:

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

The acceptance of the £50k revenue grant will enable the Council to undertake a fully-funded feasibility study/operational model for an area based retrofit scheme. The costs of the operation of the scheme are currently expected to be incurred as part of the Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner arrangements.

[James Postle]

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

Legal Services supports the recommendation to accept the grant funding. A Collaboration Agreement will need to be signed by all parties which will need to include provisions protecting the Council's position.

[Sukie Kaur – Solicitor]

*What are the **procurement** implications?*

There are no procurement implications as this report relates to the acceptance of funding.

[Emily Molden]

*What are the **Human Resources** implications?*

N/A

Oldham Impact Assessment Completed (Including impact on Children and Young People)

N/A

What are the **property** implications

N/A

Risks:

There appear to be limited risks associated with the acceptance for the grant in relation to developing a feasibility study with Carbon Coop. The service should ensure all grant conditions are complied with and that there is sufficient monitoring of the project to ensure it fits in the timelines for completion in March 2024.

[Vicki Gallacher. Head of Insurance and Information Governance]

Co-operative Implications

Accepting the grant will enable a project which will ultimately support Oldham home-owners to improve the energy and carbon performance of their homes, reducing their energy bills in the process. The collaboration with Connected Places Catapult will strengthen Oldham's reputation for co-operative working with key Government-funded specialist organisations as well as strengthen the Council's relationship with Carbon Co-op, already a key partner in the delivery of social value and community wealth building outcomes related to climate change projects and programmes.

[Jonathan Downs, Corporate Policy Lead]

Community cohesion disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

None

Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

Environmental: this collaboration will help to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 carbon neutrality target for Oldham borough set out in the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy 2025-2030.

[Andrew Hunt, Green Energy & Sustainability Manager]

Health & Safety: N/A (feasibility study only)

IT Implications

None.

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

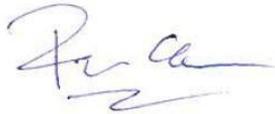
Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

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

There are no background papers for this report

Report Author Sign-off:	
Andrew Hunt	
Date: 9 October 2023	

In consultation with Paul Clifford, Director of Economy:



Signed : _____ Date: _____ 16/10/23 _____