

## **Report to CABINET**

# **UKSPF Grant Acceptance – E22 Supporting Local Business**

### **Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Reform

Councillor Fida Hussain, Portfolio Holder for Business, Employment and Enterprise

**Officer Contact:** Paul Clifford, Director of Economy

**Report Author:** Jon Bloor, Assistant Director of Economy  
**Ext.** 4188

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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### **Reason for Decision**

Cabinet Members are asked to approve and accept the £1,462,282 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grant allocation following confirmation of award Greater Manchester Combined Authority. This is specifically in relation to Supporting Local Business strand - E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects.

### **Executive Summary**

Cabinet Members are asked to approve and accept the £1,462,282 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grant allocation following confirmation of award Greater Manchester Combined Authority. This is specifically in relation to Supporting Local Business strand - E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects. The fund is split into £1m Capital investment for the Managed Workspace programme in the Spindles and £462,282 revenue to deliver business support to create economic growth (new jobs) and new enterprises (sole traders or new companies). The package of support will be a combination of 1 to 1 enterprise start up and business growth advice and guidance, grants and supporting the Social Innovation Hive.

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The UKSPF programme replaced the European Social Investment Funds and is provided by HM Government and is devolved to Greater Manchester Combined Authority and will conclude by March 2025.

## Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- i) Approve the acceptance of the £1.462m UKSPF grant against the two inventions as set out below:
  - Capital Grant allocation £1m to support the Managed workspace project in the Spindles and;
  - a revenue grant allocation £462,282 to provide business support advice and guidance, alongside supporting the Social Innovation Hive and a series of grants programmes (targeting start-ups and business growth).
- ii) To deliver:
  - 300 enterprises receiving non-financial support;
  - 80 jobs created as a result of support;
  - 40 new enterprises created as result of support;
  - 3201m<sup>2</sup> of commercial space completed or improved
- iii) Note that as accountable body for UKSPF, GMCA has issued a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in respect of the grant, along with supporting documentation, which has been reviewed by the Council 's legal services.
- iv) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) to agree the terms of the MOU issued by GMCA in respect of the grant award in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.
- v) Delegate authority to the Director of Economy or their nominated representative to agree monitoring and evaluation of defined outputs and negotiations thereupon as required over the grant delivery period of 2023/24 – 2024/2025.
- vi) Delegates authority to the Director of Legal Services or his nominees 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.
- vii) Delegates authority to the Director of Economy and/or their nominee to approve the appointment of external legal advisers if required to protect the Council's interests and give effect to the recommendations in this report.

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## UKSPF Grant Acceptance – E22 Supporting Local Business

### 1 Background

1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula.

1.2 Local Authorities were directed to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place and increasing life chances. Local places will be able to use the Fund to complement funding such as the Levelling Up Fund, and mainstream employment and skills provision to maximise impact and simplify delivery. There are three key investment priorities under the Fund:

- Community and Place
- Supporting Local Business; and
- People and Skills

This report relates specifically to the “Supporting Local investment” priority.

1.3 GMCA are the accountable body for the Fund and, following submission of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan to Government at the end of July 2022. GMCA invited local authorities to submit proposals to ensure projects are compliant with Government guidance and will collectively meet the required outputs and outcomes as set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan for the Supporting Local Business Investment Priority.

1.4 Oldham has been allocated £1.462m from UKSPF for this priority with the following required outputs and outcomes:

- 300 enterprises receiving non-financial support.
- 80 jobs created as a result of support.
- 40 new enterprises created as result of support.
- 3201m<sup>2</sup> of commercial space is completed or improved.

1.5 The proposed programme was drawn from the **Creating a Better Place** strategy and action plan and attached to the **Social Innovation Hive** scheme and supports the Corporate Plan’s **Better jobs and dynamic businesses** priority. The fund is split into £1m Capital investment for the Managed Workspace programme in the Spindles and £462,282 revenue to deliver business support to create economic growth (new jobs) and new enterprises (sole traders or new companies).

1.6 The report sets out the agreed programme for approval and a request to sign the Grant Funding Agreement to deliver the outcomes set out in 1.4

### 2 Current Position

2.1 The proposal was submitted to GMCA in September 2023, with formal approval granted early November 2023. Following this decision officers have been in negotiation with GMCA officers to shape the programme to meet the SPF funding rules and to secure delivery within the timeframe which concludes by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The programme has reviewed a range of delivery mechanisms included commissioning business support services (but this was dismissed due to subsidy control and time issues and feedback from soft market testing) and as a consequence the options set out retain control for all delivery within existing Council

services. The report sets out the preferred approach to deliver the outputs and outcomes as set out in the Grant Funding agreement.

- 2.2 There are two core strands of activity proposed to SPF programme which consists of £1m Capital funding and £462,282 revenue funding.
- 2.3 The Capital element provides the Council with £1m contribution to the Spindles Managed Workspace projects, aligned to the Town's Fund/Future High Streets Programmes. DLUHC and GMCA have confirmed that the 3,201m<sup>2</sup> output is combined across all funding streams and is not additional. The SPF element will be used to support the increased exposure caused by inflationary pressures. This includes the Social Innovation Hive project.
- 2.4 The revenue portion of SPF funding will consist of 5 core elements as set out below but in summary include: two grant schemes aimed at supporting the creation of new enterprises, new jobs, and business engagement, revenue funding to operate the Social Innovation Hive/Enterprise Centre within the Spindles development and staffing costs for the BG&I team and Oldham Enterprise Trust (OET) Manager (employees within the Council) to help with the business support offer.

The five workstreams are:

- a. Start-up Grant scheme to be run by Oldham Enterprise Trust. £40,000 with a target of achieving 40 new enterprises created and 40 enterprises receiving non financial support.
- b. Business Growth Grant run by the BG&I team. £180,000 with a target of 72 enterprises receiving non-financial support, 72 new jobs created and 0 new enterprises created.
- c. The Social Innovation Hive - £100,000 investment into Property Services to underpin Council revenue costs with a target of 65 enterprises receiving non-financial support, 17 new jobs created and 9 new enterprises created.
- d. Staffing costs (BGI Team) £76,725 with an target of 123 enterprises receiving non-financial support and 8 new jobs created. This will support activity around account management, and events and traders support for the market move.
- e. Staffing Costs (OET) £63,275 as a contribution to staff costs for running the start-up grants scheme which will result in 40 new enterprises created and 40 enterprises receiving non-financial support (see above). It should be noted the OET costs will fund the OMBC employee attached to OET.

- 2.5 Funding allocation across 2023/24 and 2024/25 with projected outputs are presented in the table below. The Business Growth and Investment team will monitor the targets and expenditure and will report outcomes through to the Programme Management Office, Creating a Better Place Board and to portfolio.

	Allocation	Financial Split			Outputs/Outcomes				Notes
		q4 23/24	2024/25	Total	Number of businesses supported	Jobs Created	New Enterprises started	New commercial Space	
The Hive Rental	100,000	16,000	84,000	100,000	65	17	9		Delivery of Oldham Social Enterprise Network
Grants OET	40,000	8,000	32,000	40,000		0	40		40 start up grants
Grants BGI	180,000	36,000	144,000	180,000	72	72	0		72 grants for equipment per job
BGI staff	79,007	30,000	49,007	79,007	123	8			Business support with advice and guidance
OET staff	63,275	12,700	50,575	63,275	40				Business support with advice and guidance
Revenue Sub total	462,282	102,700	359,582	462,282					
Capital	1,000,000	44,661	955,339	1,000,000				3201m <sup>2</sup>	
SPF Allocated/Total	1,462,282	147,361	1,314,921	1,462,282	300	97	49	3201m <sup>2</sup>	

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2.6 Detailed description of the programme of support is detailed in Appendix 1.

### **3 Options/Alternatives**

#### **3.1 Option 1 – Do not accept the E22 – SPF Grant.**

3.1.1 Option appraisal – The grant has been allocated to Oldham by GMCA with the aim to support new businesses to start and existing businesses to grow creating jobs. Each of the ten local authorities have been awarded an allocation. If the decision is to not accept the grant then the funding would be redistributed across the remaining 9 local authorities. This would disadvantage the local business community.

#### **3.2 Option 2 – Retain the capital funding and procure a programme of business support.**

3.2.1 Option appraisal – The capital funding would be secured and the revenue-based outcomes would be procured/commissioned. This option was examined with the ambition to secure a trans-organisation/partnership response. However, the soft market testing demonstrated a lack of capacity especially within the very short window for delivery. In addition, there were some concerns relating to subsidy control and the length of time that would take to resolve. As a consequence, this option was discounted (due to time constraints and market capacity).

#### **3.3 Option 3 – Deliver the programme as outlined above and in Appendix 1.**

3.3.1 Options appraisal. The grant has been awarded to Oldham Council and will be used to develop the business support element of the Business Growth and Investment team with the intention of seeking to bring in additional investment to the Council, which in turn enables more targeted, local delivery of business support related solutions. The risk is that this programme does not get extended but to achieve budget savings and maintain outcomes then the team will benefit from managing externally funded provision with the aim to proof capability in this arena.

### **4 Preferred Option**

4.1 Option 3 is the preferred option as it secures the highest level of control to deliver the programme within the limited time frame.

### **5 Consultation**

5.1 Consultation has taken place with:

5.1.1 GMCA in terms of programme scope, design alongside outputs and outcomes.

5.1.2 Upturn Enterprises, Growth Company, Oldham Library Service and Oldham Enterprise Trust with regards to partnership alignment (within the programme and across other schemes e.g. Social Innovation, Build a Business and Enterprising You). This shaped the design of the proposed programme.

5.1.3 Property services – in relation to costings for the Hive and the capital element of the SPF funding.

5.1.4 Financial services – in relation to the capital element of the SPF funding.

## 6 Financial Implications

6.1 The UKSPF grant award of £1.462m, which will be received from the GMCA as a section 31 grant, is split across revenue and capital items as detailed in the table below:-

	Allocation	q4 23/24	2024/25	Total
The Hive Rental	100,000	16,000	84,000	100,000
Grants OET	40,000	8,000	32,000	40,000
Grants BGI	180,000	36,000	144,000	180,000
BGI staff	79,007	30,000	49,007	79,007
OET staff	63,275	12,700	50,575	63,275
Revenue Sub total	462,282	102,700	359,582	462,282
Capital	1,000,000	44,661	955,339	1,000,000
SPF Allocated/Total	1,462,282	147,361	1,314,921	1,462,282

6.2 The allocations for each financial year are £147k for 2023/24 with indicative allocations of circa £1.314k for 2024/25.

### 6.3 Capital Comments

6.3.1 The total capital grant receivable from the UKSPF will be £1m, split as £45k in 2023/24 and £955k in 2024/25. The grant is to support the development of flexible working space within the Spindles Shopping centre. The existing capital programme currently funding in full the Spindles office space and has an £8m allocation to fund the Phase 3 Spindles flexible office space.

6.3.2 In addition to the build costs, there are a number of strands of work relating to the transition to Spindles for staff, the market, archives and the event centre that can also be classed as capital expenditure and are included within the overall Spindles redevelopment budget. The total costs for these workstreams are currently being developed and will need to be met from within the existing overall Spindles capital allocation.

6.3.3 The grant funding will be used to increase the overall Spindles redevelopment budget and the budget will be reviewed once the costs for Transition and the Phase 3 works is known. This is to ensure that the transition projects can be completed without the need for any further Council funding.

6.3.4 Any spend to be claimed against the grant will need to be in line with the Grant Funding Agreement and the Council will need to follow the Performance, Payment and Reporting Schedule as set out in the Agreement.

(James Postle, Senior Finance Manager)

### 6.4 Revenue Comments

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6.4.1 There are no additional revenue finance implications relating to the receipt of this grant with all proposed costs fully funded from within the grant.

6.4.2 All revenue expenditure will be spent in line with the 5 workstreams outlined above under para 2.4 and all expenditure will be spent within the terms and conditions of the grant.

(John Hoskins)

## 7 **Legal Implications**

7.1 The Council must be satisfied it can meet the objectives and terms and conditions and milestones of the funding imposed by the funding authority including any obligation to provide match funding and to monitor, keep any necessary records and file any necessary returns. Officers must also check the terms do not conflict with other funding conditions for the scheme/s or project/property already in place and ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and obtain any necessary Environmental Assessments.

7.2 All works, services and goods procured by or on behalf of the Council must be procured in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and all other relevant regulations including, where applicable, the Financial Procedure Rules and Land and Property Protocol. Officers must work with legal colleagues to approve and formalise the terms of any grant agreement in conjunction with Finance and Audit colleagues.

7.3 The Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) and Project Manager must ensure that Subsidy Control is considered in consultation with Legal Services and that all relevant assessments are made and recorded and all relevant regulations and legislation is complied with to the satisfaction of the Section 151 Officer and in compliance with the Financial Procedure Rules of the Council. External advice may be needed to support these activities which will be a cost to the Project.

7.4 The Transparency obligations of the Council must be complied with together with any Framework and obligations referred to in the Procurement comments below.

7.5 Grant arrangements are not subject to the Contract Procedure Rules; however, the grant may amount to a subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Therefore, a subsidy control analysis of the grant funding and what it will be used for is essential before payment of the grant is received. This process will be undertaken by the Project Team led by the SRO with support and input from Legal Services, Finance and other relevant officers.

7.6 The terms of any proposed MOU/Grant Agreement must be reviewed and agreed the SRO along with legal and finance colleagues. Provisions of note and/or provisions with associated risk should be highlighted to officers for consideration.

7.7 Subject to a satisfactory subsidy control analysis and confirmation that the Council is in a position to comply with the terms of the MOU, there are currently no known risks associated with the acceptance of the grant.

7.8 If any grant funds are to be spent on supplies, works or services, the Council must undertake any commissioning activity in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, incorporating relevant national procurement legislation.

7.9 The Report Author has confirmed that the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules continue to be complied with.

## 8. **Co-operative Implications**

- 8.1 The impact of this programme will support the Co-operative agenda by achieving outcomes that contribute to making Oldham a place to invest and do business, and a regenerated town which grows the business base.
- 8.2 The resulting actions will have a direct impact upon the Corporate Plans **Better jobs and dynamic businesses priority**.
- 8.3 The programme supports social enterprise within Oldham and will contribute towards business growth, creation of jobs, and new enterprises, all which will lead to better outcomes for our residents.

(James Mulvaney, Policy Manager)

## 9 **Human Resource Implications**

- 9.1 None.

## 10 **Risk Assessments**

- 10.1 The legal and financial risks are provided separately in this report. The acceptance of the E22-SPF grant will provide the Council with an opportunity for Oldham Council to meet its corporate priorities for better jobs and dynamic businesses. The service should ensure that all terms and conditions of the grant funding are met especially due to the risks of matters outside the control of both Oldham Council and the Combined Authority and to minimise any future clawback of the grant if the outputs are not delivered.
- 10.2 The service should ensure there is sufficient monitoring of the overall programme to ensure it sits with the timescales required by March 2025.

(Victoria Gallacher, Head of Insurance and Information Management)

## 11 **IT Implications**

- 11.1 None.

## 12 **Property Implications**

- 12.1 The proposal will secure the revenue costs associated with the Social Innovation Hive, which is located within the upper floors of the Spindles (asset L00525). The funding will be used to offset some of the operating property costs which de-risks the managed workspace element of this project for the first 15 months. It will also secure £1m capital investment.

(Katy Webster, Assistant Director – Property and Projects).

## 13 **Procurement Implications**

- 13.1 All goods, services, and works must be procured in full compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015); Associated Grant Funding Conditions; and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs). Grants must meet the definition and parameters of a Grant; providing clear distinction between a Grant and the commissioning of goods, services, and works. Grants are not subject to PCR 2015 or CPRs. Officers must work with legal colleagues to agree that a Grant is firstly being entered into, and further to approve and formalise the structure and terms of the grant.



14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 The programme will have no negative environmental or health and safety implications. It should provide assistance to target Green Sector business growth as a key target demographic.

15 **Community cohesion, including crime and disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

15.1 None.

16 **Oldham Equality Impact Assessment, including implications for Children and Young People**

16.1 Yes – see Appendix 2

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 ESR-02-24

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 None.

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1 – Detailed Programme Overview

20.2 Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

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## Appendix 1 – Detailed outline of proposed programme

### 1. Start Up Grant Scheme

OET run an existing start up grants scheme aimed at young entrepreneurs aged between 16 and 31, this is a tried and tested programme with 10 years of operation. It is proposed that this SPF scheme will be provide additionality by support all age groups (18+). Grants will be a maximum of £1,000 depending on the start-up costs, and as such the target is 40 new start-ups but may be more. Applications will be made online via OET's existing portal <https://www.oldhamenterprisetrust.org.uk/fund/> and applications acknowledged and linked to support by OET.

Applicants will be supported to develop a Business Plan and Cash Flow by a partner organisation. Options are Build a Business, Enterprising You, Upturn or the [BuBul](#) online portal.

As evidence for these outcomes, OET will collate documentation from applicants i.e., Business Plan, Cash Flow, Address evidence, Identity evidence, and Credit Report plus any documentation from their Business Adviser i.e. Fund Case Paper.

Local Assessment Panels arranged by OET drawing on their existing bank of Assessors. OET already have a suite of Assessment documentation that could be used.

Post panel support will be arranged by OET with advisers - and can include attendance at Build a Business support events and Start Up Huddle, Enterprising You or separately arranged mentoring.

Grants will be paid out on receipt of relevant documentation including outcome evidence (letter acknowledging support from the applicant and their UTC number validating registration with HMRC, or Companies House)

### 2. Business Growth Grant

The scheme will operate the tried and tested framework which is in place to oversee the delivery of the Business Growth Grant Programme that replicates the one previously used by the Boroughwide Growth Grant scheme run by the BG & I team.

The aim of Oldham Council's Boroughwide Business Growth Grant is to support the growth of businesses in the Borough. Only applications from businesses where growth results in new jobs being created before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 will be considered. Priority will be given to businesses in key sectors including manufacturing, construction, digital and creative and low carbon/green technology. The grant is designed to support business growth through premises expansion projects and the purchase of new machinery linked to innovation and increased productivity. It is a discretionary grant and is subject to eligibility and availability. It is not meant to duplicate existing financial support but instead complement it.

Grants of up to 50% of the eligible costs would be awarded with a maximum grant of £10,000, subject to minimum job creation of £2,500 per job created. Based on an allocation of £180,000, it is estimated that the grant scheme will support the creation of 72 jobs and 72 enterprises receiving non-financial support.

#### Who can apply?

The applications are open to the following:

- Businesses located in or relocating to the Borough of Oldham.
- Businesses operating on a Business-to-Business (B2B) basis. However, Business-to-Consumer (B2C) may be considered subject to economic impact.

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- Businesses in priority sectors: manufacturing, construction, digital and creative and low carbon/green technology.
  - Businesses with growth plans that will result in new jobs being created before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### **Projects that are eligible for financial assistance**

- Capital projects only.
- The expansion of existing premises to support business growth and job creation.
- Relocation to and refurbishment of new bigger, premises to support business growth and job creation.
- Purchase of new capital machinery linked to increased productivity and job creation.

### **Projects that are not eligible for financial assistance**

The following projects are not eligible for financial assistance:

- On-going revenue costs.
- Recruitment, staff and training costs.
- Office furniture and office equipment including, pc's, telephones, i-pads etc.
- Raw materials or product costs.
- Maintenance projects such as new windows, roofs, decoration etc.
- Retrospective projects.
- Professional fees (e.g., architectural, planning application and building regulation fees).
- Initiatives promoting a political party and that conflict with existing Council policies.
- Businesses operating on a B2C basis or providing training or educational services.

Delivery of the grant programme will be led by the Business Growth and Investment Team at Oldham Council. Each business will be allocated an Account Manager (see section on staffing costs below) However, the programme won't be delivered in isolation. Several teams and partners will be involved to ensure a comprehensive package of support is offered to the applicants including:

- Business Growth Hub – to ensure access to the wider business support offer.
- Get Oldham Working – to provide recruitment support.
- Planning Team – to provide support and advice on planning matters.
- Corporate Communications – to provide publicity and promotion, production of marketing materials, communicating key milestones and successes.

### **Application process**

There will be a formal process in place to apply for a Boroughwide Business Growth Grant. It begins with a site visit to the business/new premises by officers from the Business Growth and Investment Team to discuss the proposals in detail. Following this discussion, officers will make recommendations regarding submitting an application subject to eligibility and availability of funding.

To apply for a grant, businesses must complete an application form. To help them with this guidance notes have been prepared and additional help can be sought from their account manager.

Applications must be submitted to the Business Growth and Investment Team with the relevant supporting documentation which includes: accounts, business plans, planning permission etc. Applications should be acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt.

Applications will be reported to the Portfolio Holder for Business, Employment & Enterprise for consideration and approval accompanied by officer recommendations.

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The portfolio holder will not make a formal decision but will make recommendations to the Director of Economy who would then have the power to approve the award of the grant.

Applicants will be formally notified of the decision as soon as reasonably practicable, but in any event within 10 working days of the panel meeting and receiving the approval of the Director of Economy.

### **Grant offers**

Offers of grant assistance will be made via letter and/or email. To accept the offer, the business will have to ensure that a grant agreement is signed between the applicant and the council before any funds are paid over. The legal agreement will be drafted by the Councils' Legal Team.

### **Payment of grants**

Grant money will only be transferred to the applicant on receipt of the invoices and an inspection of the completed works. Should capital grants be issued to businesses and subsequently the grant terms not be adhered to the Council will seek to reclaim all monies from the individual in the form of a capital receipt as per the signed grant agreement.

### **Promotion of the Boroughwide Business Growth Grant Programme**

It is essential that this grant programme is effectively communicated to the business community and attracts interest from existing and inward moving businesses. To achieve this, we will work with partners and the Councils Communication Team to develop and implement an effective marketing plan.

The plan will feature a series of campaigns that will specifically promote the grant as well as promoting the Borough as a great place to do business. It will also be used as a hook to ensure that businesses access the wider funded support on offer to help grow their business in a structured and sustainable way.

### **Staffing – BGI Team**

The existing team role will be to promote and generate pipeline of activity for the grants schemes and Hive activity as well as business engagement and job creation and account management. The team will work with existing support programmes to develop the pipeline and will work closely with colleagues in Get Oldham Working and the Business Growth Hub. They will also be supporting and engaging with businesses as they prepare to move to the new market hall as well as delivering a business engagement programme of events around key topics such as Procurement and Journey to Net Zero. This activity will result in 123 enterprises receiving non-financial support and 8 new jobs created by March 2025.

Businesses will be allocated an Account Manager from within the Business Growth and Investment Team or the Business Growth Hub. The role of the Account Manager is to:

Act as single point of contact for the business.

- Identify business needs and involve relevant officers/organisations to meet those needs.
- Signpost to other relevant services and monitor progress to ensure that the needs of the business are met.
- Promote Council services and initiatives, with particular emphasis on Get Oldham Working and Inclusive Growth.

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- Guide the business through any grant application process, update on progress and chase any outstanding information.
  - Maintain regular contact through the process and continue to act as a single point of contact beyond this to monitor progress, identify and seek to address any issues on-going affecting business sustainability or growth.

The team will programme manage and deliver the Business Growth Grant scheme and be responsible for achieving the outcomes of that scheme.

The Team will be coordinating all the activity and monitoring outcomes and spend of the £462,282 of SPF. They will reallocate any funding in the event of any underperformance or achievement of outcomes.

### **Staffing - OET**

OET run an existing start up grants scheme aimed at young entrepreneurs aged between 16 and 31. They cannot currently engage with or support applicants outside this age range. The new grants scheme will be additional activity currently not funded. There is a potential pipeline of applicants who are already attending the Build a Business programme and Start Up Huddle that would be potentially eligible for this grant scheme even before any publicity is made.

This form of funding is possible as the staff member is employed by Oldham Council.

### **The Hive Rental**

The Social Innovation Hive is a new enterprise space within the Spindles redevelopment project. It is designed to be a space where all entrepreneurs can gather and collaborate particularly around the development of Social Enterprise and Social Value. It is part of the Councils commitment to being a Social Enterprise Place and achieving SEUK Place status. The Hive is due to open in March 2024 and will be run by Upturn Enterprises (a social enterprise) who are currently leading the development of the Social Enterprise Network and running the Proper Good Social Investment Programme in Oldham.

This contribution of £100,000 will go Property Services and will support the running costs of the space and in return the service operator, Upturn will deliver 65 enterprises receiving non-financial support, 17 new jobs created and 9 new enterprises created. This will be through new and existing activity to be based in the Hive.

As evidence for these outcomes, Upturn will collate documentation from their engagements and support i.e., Business Plan, Cash Flow, Address evidence, Identity evidence, and Credit Report plus any documentation from their Business Adviser. Upturn will also be required to provide outcome evidence (letter acknowledging support from the applicant and their UTC number validating registration with HMRC, or similar)

A side agreement will be needed with Upturn regarding the required outcomes and outputs to be achieved by the grants programme, alongside their Heads of Terms..

### **Overview**

The above activity isn't duplicating existing support that is out there. Rather it has been designed in a way that it will complement other programmes such as GOW, OET, social value outcomes and will provide a pipeline of support for existing activity (BGH programmes, Enterprising You, Build a Business and Social Enterprise activity).

In terms of risks of the chosen approach. There is a low risk of not achieving all the outcomes and that we won't have enough applications for the grants scheme. These risks will be mitigated by

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ensuring that we have the necessary promotion and publicity in place to ensure that as many businesses and people know about the opportunities as possible. This will include using existing communication channels of the Council as well as our partners. The BG&I team will have the support in place to ensure pipeline is developed and work collaboratively with our partners and Team Oldham. The BG&I team will also be closely monitoring all the activity as part of their role.