
Briefing to Strategic Portfolio Neighbourhood

Date: 2nd December 2022

Tuesday 6th December 2022

Subject:

United Utilities Green Recovery Fund

For Discussion

Report Author:

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Portfolio holder:

Councillor Hannah Roberts – Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods (Highways)

Sign-off:

Nasir Dad – Director of Economy

Summary of the issue:

Oldham Council's Highways & Engineering have been approached with a bidding opportunity via United Utilities Green Recovery Fund, in collaboration with the GMCA. There is £4m of capital funding available across the GMCA District with targeted initiatives focusing on sustainable urban drainage implementation *or* infrastructure improvement led projects.

as part of

Recommendations to Portfolio Holder

To seek approval to submit an expression of interest on the 9th December 2022 focused on the three Town Centre locations; West St, Curzon St and Rock St, to GMCA to register Oldham Council's interest in an allocation of circa £400K to £1m of United Utilities Green Recovery capital funding to supplement existing capital funded projects/programmes.

1. Report details

- 1.1 The primary objective of the fund is to remove surface water run-off from the adopted highway and manage the water in innovative and sustainable ways. These take the form of sustainable urban drainage (SuDS) measures, namely rain gardens, soak aways and greenspace attenuation.
- 1.2 The current designs being produced for the Accessible Oldham programme (Oldham Town Centre), through Mayors Cycling & Walking Challenge Fund (MCF) offer 'shovel ready' schemes that satisfy the key objectives of the funding eligibility criteria.
- 1.3 The aims of the funding are to:-
- Manage water quantity better and reduce flood impacts on customers
 - Help adapt to changing climate and environment through the installation of 'nature based' solutions, which not only deliver water management benefits but also the wider natural capital benefits.
 - Learn from these schemes and use the results in the upcoming price review where UU aim to be ambitious in how blue green infrastructure and sustainable water management should be embraced in tackling the challenges and drivers associated with climate change, development and urban creep.
- 1.4 Match funding can be provided via existing capital funding i.e. Mayor Cycling & Walking Challenge Fund and/or Future High Street Fund. There is no call on Oldham Council to provide match funding from revenue or other Council funding sources.
- 1.5 This aligns with Oldham Council's Green Initiative/Policy.
- 1.6 It is proposed that the SuDS elements of West St, Curzon St and Rock St (greenspace) are put forward as stand-alone expressions of interest.

2. Options (including recommended option)

- 2.1 Option 1 – Do nothing and forgo the opportunity to increase capital spend in Oldham Town Centre and decline the opportunity to increase scope across the Accessible Oldham programme by virtue of offsetting construction costs against a new influx of capital funding.
- 2.2 Option 2 – Proceed with the submission of three separate expressions of interest focused on the three Town Centre locations; West St, Curzon St and Rock St, to GMCA to register Oldham Council's interest in an allocation of circa £400K to £1m of capital funding to supplement existing capital funding projects/programmes and increase scope by offsetting construction costs against a new influx of capital funding. This opportunity/initiative aligns with Oldham Council's Green Initiative/Policy.

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- 3. Financial implications**
 - 3.1 N/A
 - 4. Legal implications**
 - 4.1 N/A
 - 5. HR / People implications**
 - 5.1 N/A
 - 6. Links to Co-operative Values**
 - 6.1 N/A
 - 7. Strategic Links**
 - 7.1 N/A
 - 8. Communications – comments/implications**
 - 8.1 N/A

Agreed

Hannah Roberts

8/12/2022

