

Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k



Subject:	Acceptance of Grant from GMCA – Re Beale Valley
Decision maker: Senior Officer	Paul Clifford, Director of Economy
Decision date:	23 rd October 2024
Report author:	James Tolan, Principal Regeneration Officer
Ward (s):	St James

Reason for decision

For the Council to approve that it may accept a Grant award from GMCA to assist with an integrated drainage, infrastructure and ground assessment at JPA12 Beale Valley allocation.

The GMCA Grant award is a maximum of £65,000 subject to 35% match funding (ie £35,000).

The GMCA has agreed to make available to Oldham Council the Grant to facilitate Beal Valley/ Broadbent Moss – Integrated Drainage Strategy and Viability Assessment

Recommendation(s) / Options

Option 1 – Not to accept the grant. However, this would delay the transformative economic development that this project could deliver.

Option 2 – Accept the grant on the basis offered.

Recommended Option – Option 2 – accept the grant offer from GMCA.

Background / Proposal

The Growth Locations Revenue Grant funding is provided from the GMCA to support strategic priority projects in Greater Manchester.

Beale Valley / Broadbent Moss is a GM priority project. The location has the potential to drive through significant economic benefit for Oldham. (JPA12) Stakehill is now an adopted allocated location for development of 480 homes plus supporting infrastructure, tram stop and new educational facilities. The GMCA holds the surplus generated through both Housing Investment Fund and Retained Business Rates.

The GMCA has agreed to make available to the Council a £65,000 grant to undertake infrastructure analysis and master planning. The terms of the grant include a requirement for a 35% match funding (ie £35k) from the Council.

Total potential commissions of £100,000 to be funded by way of grant £65,000 (65%) and Council match funding of £35,000 (35%) and as specifically apportioned in the table below.

Location	Description	Total Commission	Grant Amount	£ match	Match %
Beal Valley/ Broadbent Moss	Support to fund the preparation of an integrated drainage strategy for the two allocations to directly inform the Masterplan and subsequent planning applications	£50,000	£37,500	£12,500	25%
Beal Valley/ Broadbent Moss	High level viability assessment and identify indicative costs for infrastructure required as part of the development, to help inform the Masterplan	£10,000	£7,500	£2,500	25%
Beal Valley/ Broadbent Moss	Intrusive ground investigations to ascertain the nature and level of remediation required to bring the land for employment within Broadbent Moss to a safe developable standard.	£40,000	£20,000	£20,000	50%

Consultation

Officers within The Economy Directorate as well as Legals, and Finance have been consulted together with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham.

Risks

The Legal, financial and procurement comments are detailed separately in this report. The proposed acceptance of the grant will enable the infrastructure analysis and planning to be undertaken. Insurance levels that meet at least the minimum level required by the Council should be requested by the service of any contractors appointed under the grant, copies of these insurance should be retain by the Council. The service should ensure all grant conditions are compiled with and that there is sufficient monitoring of the project to ensure it fits in the timelines for completion of the project. The project will also need to be balanced against the current financial situation of the Council especially in view of the element of match funding.

(Vicki Gallacher, Head of Insurance and Information Governance)

Implications

Financial	The Approval to accept the GMCA Growth Locations Revenue Grant will provide the Council with an additional £65k financial resource.
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	<p>As per the report the Council will have to match this grant with £35k of its own funding.</p> <p>This matched funding will be provided from either of the following funding resources; the base budget within the Regeneration cost centre 24080, the Creating a Better Place reserve or funding received from profit share arrangements linked to the Foxdenton/Broadway Green development.</p> <p>There is sufficient Council financial resource to provide the match funding thus enabling the acceptance of the grant allocation.</p> <p>(John Hoskins)</p>
<p>Legal</p>	<p>Regulation 2.40 of the Financial Procedure Rules excludes GMCA from the third-party grant approval processes that require higher scrutiny and approval, treating GMCA grants similarly to those from Central Government without the need for formal appraisal and reporting.</p> <p>The GMCA Grant of up to £65,000 requires 35% match funding, equating to £35,000. Therefore, the Council must be prepared to cover the full amount if it is unable to obtain this contribution.</p> <p>It is expected that any award of Grant Funding will come with a grant agreement detailing the grant conditions and an expectation to spend the money compliantly.</p> <p>Legal Services will be available to review this agreement to ensure the Council's interests are protected however, the service should ensure all grant conditions are complied with and that there is sufficient monitoring of the project to ensure it fits within the timelines for project completion. This will need to be balanced against the Council's current financial situation, especially in view of the match funding requirement.</p> <p>If any monies are allocated to the provision of external goods, services, or works, the Commercial Procurement Unit should be engaged to support procurement that complies with the Council's CPRs.</p> <p>(Pamela Nsofor –Solicitor)</p>
<p>Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Property</p>	<p>Not applicable (John Winterbottom, Divisional Manager)</p>

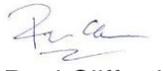
Procurement	<p>Acceptance of the Grant is not subject to any procurement advice or comments. If following the acceptance of the Grant Funding, any monies are allocated to the provision of external good, services or works, the Commercial Procurement Unit should be engaged as early as possible in order to support with procurement which should be compliant with the Councils CPRs and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (or 2024, from October 2024). It is expected that any award of Grant Funding, there will be conditions and an expectation from the funder to spend the money compliantly.</p> <p>(Jasmin Banks-Lee, Head of Commercial Procurement).</p>
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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
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

Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

Not applicable

Report author sign-off	James Tolan
Role	Principal Regeneration Officer
Date of sign-off	10 th October 2024

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	 Paul Clifford
Role	Director of Economy
Date of sign-off	23.10.24