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## Report to CABINET – PART A

# Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant Acceptance

### Portfolio Holders:

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Building a Better Oldham

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Value for Money and Sustainability

**Officer Contact:** Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Report Author:** Chris Lewis, Assistant Director Creating a Better Place

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

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### Reason for Decision

Cabinet Members are asked to approve and accept the £2,175,336.90 Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant Programme (LGPFPG) grant allocation, previously known as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), following confirmation of award from the Integrated Settlement Fund and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in April 2025.

### Executive Summary

Oldham has been allocated a £2.175m grant from LGPFPG. We have focused our proposals on accessible public realm; rehabilitation of green space including infrastructure for community and visitor use; town centre infrastructure and cultural events programme and supporting local business growth to improve the local shopping environment.

The proposed programme is drawn from the Creating a Better Place strategy and action plan and will support a range of projects that will meet the core 3 interventions, namely:

- E1 – Accessible Oldham –
  - Jubilee Park Phase 1 – increase accessibility into and around the town centre park.
  - Town Centre Park Staff Members – facilitate the expansion of the town centre green space that has been created in the Town Centre
- E6 – Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme
  - Co-design cultural events to support Oldham's Place Marketing approach, a core element of the Cultural Strategy and will support the emerging Creative Improvement District and Night-Time Economy strategy and action plan. Creating a safe, welcoming and vibrant town centre with wayfinding and town centre wardens / ambassadors.
- E22 – Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support

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- Providing financial assistance to owners and tenants who wish to enhance their shopfronts. Supporting local business growth, improves the local shopping environment, and raises the town's appeal.

## Recommendations

Cabinet Members are asked to:

- i) Approve the acceptance of the £2,175,336.90 LGPFG grant against the three interventions approved for funding by GMCA broken down as follows:
    - **E1 – Accessible Oldham – allocation £1,131,786.90**
      - Jubilee Park Phase 1 – increase accessibility into and around the town centre park.
      - Town Centre Park Staff Members – facilitate the expansion of the town centre green space that has been created in the Town Centre
    - **E6 – Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme – allocation £543,550**
      - Co-design cultural events to support Oldham's Place Marketing approach, a core element of the Cultural Strategy and will support the emerging Creative Improvement District and Night-Time Economy strategy and action plan. Creating a safe, welcoming and vibrant town centre with wayfinding and town centre wardens / ambassadors.
    - **E22 – Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support – allocation £500,000**
      - Providing financial assistance to owners and tenants who wish to enhance their shopfronts. Supporting local business growth, improves the local shopping environment, and raises the town's appeal.
  - ii) Note that as accountable body for LGPFG, GMCA has issued a Funding Agreement in respect of the grant, which has been reviewed by the Council's legal services.
  - iii) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) to agree the terms of the Funding Agreement issued by GMCA in respect of the grant award in consultation with the Directors of Finance and Legal Services and approve appointments of professional teams and contract award in respect of the agreed budgets.
  - iv) Delegate authority to Director of Legal Services or their nominated representative to finalise and enter into the Funding Agreement issued by GMCA in respect of the grant award subject to the completion of any necessary due diligence on subsidy control compliance and authority to agree and complete any project change requests under the Funding Agreement.
  - v) Delegate authority to the Director of Legal Services or their nominee to formalise any necessary legal requirements including signing and/or sealing any documentation referred to and/or required to give effect to the recommendations and/or delegations in this report.
  - vi) Delegate authority to the Director of Economy or their nominated representative to agree approval of spend, works or individual grants for the Accessible Oldham projects, Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme projects and Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support project.
  - vii) 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 2025–2026.
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- viii) Note and endorse that the internal governance and administration for the LGPFG grant will be performed via the Creating a Better Place Programme Board (CAPB) structures.

**Local Growth and Place Flexible Gant Acceptance****1 Background**

1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has provided £2.6 billion of funding for local investment from April 2022 to March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula. The Local Growth and Place Flexible Gant Programme (LGPFPG or the Fund) is replacing UKSPF.

1.2 The Governments Integrated Settlement fund is made up of six themes which the LGPFPG is one of the key investment priorities under the fund:

- Local Growth and Place
- Local Transport
- Housing and Regeneration
- Adult Skills
- Buildings Retrofit
- Employment Support

This paper relates to the Local Growth and Place investment priority.

1.3 GMCA are the accountable body for the LGPFPG Investment proposals. GMCA invited local authorities to submit proposals in March 2025 to ensure projects are compliant with Government guidance and will collectively meet the required outputs and outcomes as set out in the Integrated Settlement Investment Plan for the Local Growth and Place Investment Priorities.

1.4 Oldham has been allocated £2.175m from LGPFPG across the key interventions of the programme namely E1, E6 and E22. We have focused our proposals on accessible public realm; rehabilitation of green space including infrastructure for community and visitor use; town centre infrastructure and cultural events programme and supporting local business growth to improve the local shopping environment.

1.5 The proposed programme is drawn from the Creating a Better Place strategy and action plan and will support a range of projects that will meet the core 3 interventions, namely:

- E1 – Accessible Oldham –
  - Jubilee Park Phase 1 – increase accessibility into and around the town centre park.
  - Town Centre Park Staff Members – facilitate the expansion of the town centre green space that has been created in the Town Centre
- E6 – Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme
  - Co-design cultural events to support Oldham's Place Marketing approach, a core element of the Cultural Strategy and will support the emerging Creative Improvement District and Night-Time Economy strategy and action plan. Creating a safe, welcoming and vibrant town centre with wayfinding and town centre wardens / ambassadors.
- E22 – Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support

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- Providing financial assistance to owners and tenants who wish to enhance their shopfronts. Supporting local business growth, improves the local shopping environment, and raises the town's appeal. See Appendix 1 for detailed outline of proposed shop front grant programme.

Details of the expenditure profile, outputs and outcomes are set out in the tables below.

Project Name	Total Project Costs	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		TOTAL		
		Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Total
E1 - Accessible Oldham - Jubilee Park Phase 1	£1,027,786			£342,595		£342,595		£342,595		£1,027,786	£0	£1,027,786
E1 - Accessible Oldham - Town Centre Park Staff Members	£104,000	£10,000	£22,000	£2,000	£22,000	£2,000	£22,000	£2,000	£22,000	£16,000	£88,000	£104,000
E6 - Town Centre Infrastructure and Events Programme	£363,550	£20,000	£50,200	£20,000	£41,950	£10,000	£95,200		£126,200	£50,000	£313,550	£363,550
E6 - Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme - Town Centre Wayfinding	£60,000		£2,500	£15,000	£12,500	£15,000	£12,500		£2,500	£30,000	£30,000	£60,000
E6 - Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme – Night-Time Economy	£70,000		£10,000		£25,000		£25,000		£10,000	£0	£70,000	£70,000
E6 - Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme - Town Centre Wardens and Ambassadors	£50,000		£10,000		£20,000		£10,000		£10,000	£0	£50,000	£50,000
E22 - Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support	£500,000	£20,000	£70,000	£40,000	£70,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£210,000	£290,000	£500,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£2,175,336</b>	<b>£50,000</b>	<b>£164,700</b>	<b>£419,595</b>	<b>£191,450</b>	<b>£444,595</b>	<b>£239,700</b>	<b>£419,595</b>	<b>£245,700</b>	<b>£1,333,786</b>	<b>£841,550</b>	<b>£2,175,336</b>

Note: revenue grant in year can be capitalised if additional capital funding is required.

Project Name	Outputs				Outcomes (Measure)		
	Amount of public realm created or improved	Number of local events or activities supported	Number of enterprises receiving grants	Number of Businesses Supported	Increased footfall	Jobs Created	Jobs Safeguarded
E1 - Accessible Oldham - Jubilee Park Phase 1	4,854 m <sup>2</sup>						12
E1 - Accessible Oldham - Park Staff Members							3
E6 - Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme		55			69,850		
E6 - Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme - Town Centre Wardens and Ambassadors						2	
E6 - Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme - Night-Time Economy		8		10			
E22 - Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support			25				
<b>TOTAL OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES</b>	<b>4,854</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>69,850</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>

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## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 Oldham's funding proposals were submitted to GMCA in March 2025 after seeking the views of the Members and the Council's senior leadership. Oldham's proposals were presented and subsequently agreed by GMCA.
- 2.2 In April 2025 GMCA issued a Grant Funding Agreement setting out the terms of the LGPFG Payment and Reporting requirements. The Council's legal services and finance officers have reviewed this document.

## **3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 Option 1: Do nothing. Failure to accept the grant allocation of LGPFG would reflect negatively on the perception of the town and its ambitions. It would have significant implications for delivery of the project budgets and, therefore, the achievement of regeneration ambitions and objectives.
- 3.2 Option 2: Formally accept the LGPFG award allocation for £2.175m and enter into the Grant Funding Agreement as set out in this report.

## **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 Option 2 is the preferred option to help ensure delivery of the projects to original timescales and budgets and, therefore, the achievement of regeneration ambitions and objectives.

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Oldham's proposals were submitted to GMCA in March 2025 after seeking the views of Members and the Council's senior leadership. Oldham's proposals were presented and subsequently agreed by GMCA.
- 5.2 Consultation and engagement work has taken place over the few years with stakeholders, partners, Council teams and services, elected members, public sector organisations and different voices from our local communities to help clearly define regeneration ambitions, and to ensure that the projects referenced in this report align with local priorities, ideas and suggestions.
- 5.3 Specific detailed project consultation will take place at the applicable time in conjunction with standard practice for project development considerations.

## **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Details contained within Part B report.

## **7 Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 Details contained within Part B report.

## **8 Equality Impact, including Implications for Children and Young People**

- 8.1 Yes (see Appendix 2)

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**9 Key Decision**

9.1 Yes

**10 Key Decision Reference**

10.1 RBO-05-25

**11 Background Papers**

11.1 None

**12 Appendix**

12.1 Appendix 1 – Detailed Outline of Proposed Shop Front Grant Programme.  
Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment for Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant Acceptance