

Report to CABINET

Approval of Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the provision of Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 Phase Three 2025/27

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Elaine Taylor - Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

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Reason for Decision

The report seeks approval to enter into a grant agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to fund the continued delivery of the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 2025/27 scheme. The scheme is a type of temporary accommodation for prison leavers who are open to His Majesty's Probation Service and would not otherwise be owed a statutory accommodation duty by a Local Authority. The initial 12 months' pilot which successfully launched across the region in July 2021 ensured subsequent multi-year grant funding to enable Greater Manchester Authorities to create a unique local authority led model for temporarily accommodating prison leavers.

Executive Summary

For the Council to secure the funding needed to continue delivering this vital service locally and to formalise monitoring and reporting arrangements, it must enter into a grant agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority between 2025-2027. This service has been operational in Oldham since 2021 and is very much embedded locally. It is seen as vital support with the ongoing delivery of its Homelessness Prevention and Reduction Strategy and Central Government's Ending Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet;

- Authorise Oldham Council to agree and enter into a grant agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the continued delivery of the service captured in the grant agreement namely CAS-3.

Approval of Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority**1 Background****1.1 Community Accommodation Service – Tier 3**

1.2 The CAS-3 model is relatively newly created by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) as a third tier to their existing accommodation structure. The purpose of CAS-3 is to provide temporary accommodation to people leaving custody who would otherwise be homeless and have nowhere safe to stay upon release. CAS-3 placements are time limited to 84 nights, with the aim of managing a consistent throughput and to motivate move on activities.

- Tier 1 – Approved Premises (AP)
- Tier 2 – Bail Accommodation and Support Services (BASS)
- Tier 3 – Community Accommodation Service (CAS)

1.3 The original Justice Devolution Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), agreed with the MoJ in July 2019 demonstrated a progressive ambition and strong partnership. The has been enhanced further through a new MoU with the His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) that allowed for a different approach to be taken with GM that, at the time, diverged from national or standard policy guidance and direction.

1.4 The MoJ via HMPPS and GMCA made funding available for Oldham and the nine other districts to develop CAS-3, the objective was to give GM Authorities autonomy to deliver suitable accommodation and support based on local knowledge and partnerships.

1.5 During the pilot year which commenced on 30th July 2021 – 30th June 2022, Oldham received funding to provide 10 bed spaces. Oldham delivered the required 10 bedspaces across three sites within the borough. The Council's CAS-3 service has been exemplary at delivering remarkable outcomes that embody the overarching purpose of CAS-3.

1.6 Based on this success in October 2024, Oldham Council received confirmation from HMPPS of an uplift of 4 additional bedspaces, taking the provision to 15 bedspaces in total

1.7 The proposed grant agreement with the GMCA would make sufficient funding available for Oldham to continue delivering CAS-3 accommodation until December 2027. This will contribute positively to Oldham's efforts to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough.

2 Current Position

2.1 Oldham has been successfully delivering CAS-3 since 2021. The 15 bedspaces provided support GM wide objectives to reduce and eliminate homelessness. CAS-3 supports and compliments this agenda by creating and funding an accommodation pathway that is accessible by individuals who would otherwise be ineligible for housing assistance under statutory duties.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 The two available options are:

3.2 Option 1 – Do not enter into grant agreement with GMCA. Proceeding with this option would result in the Council being unable to deliver the project detailed in this report and increased numbers of rough sleepers in Oldham during a period of significant homelessness and pressure, which is further exacerbated by the cost of living crisis.

3.3 Options 2 – Enter into agreement with GMCA to continue delivering provision of CAS3. Taking this approach would enable the Council to continue funding provision that prevents rough sleeping in the borough. The grant available will fund ongoing temporary accommodation placements for individuals open to HMPPS, who would otherwise be homeless and are not owed a statutory accommodation duty by the LA. The funds will also make resources available that would stimulate move on into alternative, settled accommodation.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 Option 2 is the preferred option. Proceeding on this basis would formalise ongoing activities and arrangements. Additionally, it would provide the Council with sufficient resources to continue the delivery this vital service in the borough.

5 Consultation

5.1 All relevant stakeholders have been consulted with regards to the proposals set out in this report, this includes, elected members and the Senior Leadership Team.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Costs incurred through participation within the pilot will be fully funded from this allocation. There is no expectation for the Council to contribute any Council resources to this pilot. (Mike Roberts)

7 Legal Services Comments

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 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 already in place.

The Council must ensure that its use of the grant complies with the Subsidy Control Rules. 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. Officer must work with legal colleagues to approve the terms of any grant agreement. (Pamela Nsofor - Solicitor).

8 Procurement Implications

8.1 As this relates to the allocation of grant funds to Oldham there are no procurement implications related to receiving the funds. There may however be procurement implications for how the money is spent, and this will need to comply with CPRs and PA23/PCR2015 as appropriate. CPU and Legal should be consulted in the spending of any funds to ensure compliance. James England – Procurement Manager

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- 9 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**
- 9.1 Yes
- 10 **Key Decision**
- 10.1 Yes
- 11 **Key Decision Reference**
- 11.1 HL/07/25
- 12 **Background Papers**
- 12.1 None
- 13 **Appendices**
- 13.1 None.