

Delegated Decision Report



Subject:	Oldham Live Well Implementation Fund
Decision maker: Senior Officer	Rebecca Fletcher, Director of Public Health
Decision maker: Cabinet Member	Cllr Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing
Decision date:	24th September 2025
Report author:	Rachel Dyson, Community-led Prevention Lead
Ward (s):	All

Reason for decision

To allocate £535,000 of Oldham's Live Well Implementation Fund to Action Together CIO to support the delivery of the VCFSE led elements of Oldham's Live Well implementation plan

Recommendation(s)

- £535,000 is allocated to Action Together CIO to support the delivery of the VCFSE led elements of Oldham's Live Well implementation plan. As the Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) for the Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham they will coordinate delivery and provide administration support to the distribution of funds to partners within the VCFSE sector as required.

Background

- 1.1 Launched in May 2024, Live Well is Greater Manchester's (GM) movement for community-led health and wellbeing. It aims to support healthier, happier and fairer communities by growing opportunities for everyone to Live Well, providing everyday support in neighbourhoods.
- 1.2 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and NHS Greater Manchester (NHSGM) have created a Live Well Local Implementation Support Fund for 25/26 totalling £10m. This will be made available to each Locality based on the size of their population to invest in the local roll out of Live Well and its key components. For Oldham this investment equates to £844k.
- 1.3 GMCA and NHS GM have set a number of expectations for each locality to meet in order to receive the 25/26 funding. In July 2025 Cabinet agreed to accept the Live Well funds and a grant funding agreement has been put in place between GMCA and Oldham Council to hold the funds on behalf of Oldham Partnership. This agreement included the principle that a minimum of 50% of the funding will go directly to the VCFSE sector. Cabinet delegated authority for the execution of all decisions regarding utilisation of the funding from the Live

Well Implementation Fund to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Current Position

2.1 Oldham partners have developed a Local Implementation Plan as required by GMCA and NHS GM which details the plans for the roll out of Live Well and the utilisation of the funds. The implementation plan has been approved by Management Board, Live Well Sponsorship Group and the Cabinet Member.

2.2 Oldham's Local Implementation Plan includes funds allocated to the VCFSE as per the expectation of GMCA & NHS GM, which are included in the grant conditions. Action Together CIO as the LIO for Oldham will coordinate the delivery of VCFSE-led elements of the Local Implementation Plan and will hold the VCFSE portion of the funds on behalf of the sector and distribute to VCFSE partners in alignment with that plan. Therefore, it is proposed that a grant of £535,000 is awarded to Action Together CIO as per the Local Implementation Plan.

2.3 The activity that will be supported by these funds is outlined below:

1. Live Well Community Spaces and Offers

Strategic Focus: Strengthen Community Wealth and Community Power through investment in Live Well Spaces.

Proposed Actions:

- Capacity Building working in partnership with [Locality](#) : Engage Locality for bespoke strategic planning and sustainability support.
- Infrastructure Investment: Allocate funding to address gaps identified through Locality's work with community spaces —e.g., WiFi, IT upgrades, staffing, and volunteer support.
- Core Funding Support: Provide operational grants to ensure Live Well Spaces can remain open and functional, to enable them to develop their sustainability and financial operating model plans.

2. Community Leadership and Power

Strategic Focus: Foster Community Leadership and Citizen Leadership to embed Live Well principles.

Proposed Actions:

- Community Leadership Programmes: Develop community leadership programmes /initiatives, for people leading grass roots community organisations
- Citizen Leadership Programme: Co-design and deliver programmes that empower residents to lead and influence local plans and strategies.

3. Citizen Involvement and Volunteering Infrastructure

Strategic Focus: Build Neighbourhood Volunteering Infrastructure and support Community Organising.

Proposed Actions:

- Skills Development: Offer training in community organising and participatory governance.
- Neighbourhood Volunteering Support Systems: Develop, test and learn schemes like volunteering passports, reward programmes, and person-centred support for VIOs.
- Citizen Alliances: Establish Live Well Citizen Alliances to participate in neighbourhood governance.

2.4 The funding allocations to support these activities is outlined below alongside enabling investment to support the VCFSE sector to provide leadership and engagement with Live Well development:

Spend Category	Activity	Amount £
Enabler - VCFSE Leadership	Backfill & Capacity for VCFSE Infrastructure Organisation to provide strategic leadership for Live Well	£50,000
Enabler - VCFSE Leadership	Backfill for 4 VCFSE Leadership Group representatives to join the Live Well Sponsorship Group	£25,000
Enabler - Research & Evaluation	Funding to train community researchers who will support the evaluation of Live Well	£30,000
Live Well Community Spaces & Offers	Capacity building working in partnership with Locality	£50,000
Live Well Community Spaces & Offers	Infrastructure investment in community-led spaces	£100,000
Live Well Community Spaces & Offers	Operational grants for community-led spaces	£100,000
Community Leadership & Power	Development and delivery of community and citizen leadership programmes	£30,000
Citizen Involvement & Volunteering Infrastructure	Skills development in community organising and participatory governance and development of volunteering infrastructure.	£50,000
Citizen Involvement & Volunteering Infrastructure	Test and scale participatory budgeting approaches as developed through East Oldham Live Well accelerator	£100,000
Total		£535,000

Alternative option(s) to be considered *(please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s))*

- Option 1 - £535,000 is allocated to Action Together CIO to support the delivery of the VCFSE led elements of Oldham's Live Well implementation plan. This is in line with the expectation of the Live Well Implementation Funds awarded to Oldham by GMCA & NHS GM. As the Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) for the Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Oldham they will coordinate delivery and provide administration support to the distribution of funds to partners within the VCFSE sector as required.
- Option 2 – Do not allocate funds to Action Together CIO. This will result in elements of Oldham's Implementation Plan not being delivered. This would not be in line with the conditions of the grant from GMCA to award a minimum of 50% of funds to the VCFSE so may result in claw back of funds by GMCA.

Consultation

The Local Implementation Plan, and the proposals outlined above, have been developed in consultation with the Live Well Working Group, Oldham Community Centres Network and Oldham VCFSE & Public Sector Forum. It has been approved by Management Board, Live Well Sponsorship Group members and the Cabinet Member.

Risks

There is a small risk that Action Together will be unable to deliver some or all of the activity committed to in the Local Implementation Plan. This risk will be mitigated by their active involvement in the Live Well Sponsorship Group & Working Group which will ensure that any risks to delivery are identified early and mitigations are put in place or revisions to plans or timescales agreed. A grant agreement will be put in place with Action Together, aligned to the grant conditions of the grant with GMCA.

Implications

Financial	<p>The recommended approach (Option 1) is to allocate £535,000 from the 'Live Well' Implementation Fund to Action Together CIO. This funding will support the delivery of the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) led components of Oldham's Live Well implementation plan.</p> <p>In July 2025, Cabinet approved the acceptance of £844,000 in grant funding from the 'Live Well Implementation Fund', administered by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (GMICB).</p> <p>To secure the 2025/26 funding allocation, GMCA and the GMICB outlined several conditions for each locality. These included:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement that at least 50% of the funding be directly allocated to the local VCFSE sector. • A clear and achievable timeline for implementation, with full rollout expected by the end of the 2025/26 financial year. <p>The proposed allocation of £535,000 to Action Together CIO (subject to a formal grant agreement) ensures that Oldham Council meets these conditions within the required timeframe, aligning with the expectations set by the funding bodies.</p> <p>Commissioning of expenditure against the remaining grant balance will be subject to further delegated decision reports.</p> <p>(Matthew Kearns – Finance Manager)</p>
Legal	This is a grant funding agreement. No grant subsidy issues exist. Mike Grocott Solicitor
Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People	The aim of Live Well is to address health inequalities. The investment to the VCFSE will support community-led preventative support to remain available, and to be enhanced within some of our most deprived communities. The investment will also support increased levels of participation and community leadership, to ensure seldom heard voices are included in local decisions.
Other	None


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

1. [Oldham Live Well Implementation - Cabinet July 2025](#)

Report author sign-off	R. Dyson
Role	Community-led Prevention Lead
Date of sign-off	05/09/2025

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	 Rebecca Fletcher
Role	Director of Public Health
Date of sign-off	21/10/2025

Approval	
Member(s) approval sign-off	 Cllr Barbara Brownridge
Role	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing
Date of sign-off	21/10/2025