

# Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k



<b>Subject:</b>	Award of grant funding to Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK
<b>Decision maker: Senior Officer</b>	Neil Consterdine Director of Communities
<b>Decision date:</b>	February 2026
<b>Report author:</b>	Virbai Kara, Senior Communities Officer Stronger Communities Service
<b>Ward (s):</b>	Boroughwide

## Reason for decision

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award grant funding to the voluntary, community and faith sector, namely Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK, during the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027

## Recommendation(s)

The recommendation is to award funding at the same level in 2026/27 (i.e., £36,000 to Oldham Interfaith Forum and £4,400 to Stop Hate UK).

## Background

Funding has been allocated for several years as a contribution towards overheads and running costs to organisations which support the Council to deliver community cohesion related activity namely Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK.

### Oldham Interfaith Forum

Oldham Council awards £36,000 per annum to Oldham Interfaith Forum (OIFF). OIFF supports the Council in building good relations in Oldham with a particular focus on improving understanding between people from different faith backgrounds (particularly young people through work in schools) and supporting dialogue within and between faith communities about issues of concern.

OIFF employs two members of staff who assist the Council in managing community tensions and preventing conflict and providing mechanisms to work constructively with faith leaders through the OIFF and Oldham Mosques Council. They offer support to the Council in engaging with faith communities and ensuring that Council services are sensitive to the needs of faith communities.

### Stop Hate UK Helpline

Oldham Council awards £4,400 per annum to Stop Hate UK to provide a third-party helpline for victims/ witnesses to report hate crimes and incidents.

The 24 hour 'Stop Hate Line' provides an additional means for reporting incidents of hate crime and takes forward Recommendation 16 of The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report: 'That all possible steps be taken by police services at local level, in consultation with local government and other agencies and local communities, to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes. This should include:

- The ability to report at locations other than police stations.
- The ability to report 24 hours a day.'

The Stop Hate Line covers the five monitored strands of hate crime which are:

- Race
- Faith
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity

### **Alternative option(s) to be considered**

There are no alternative options to be considered at this stage.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable

### **Risks**

The report provides details of the opportunities provided by the funding to OIFF and Stop Hate UK who support the Council to deliver community cohesion and an alternative reporting mechanism for Hate Crime victims. The Stronger Communities Service will continue to monitor activity to ensure the most appropriate use of resources from the organisations.

### **Implications**

Financial	<u>Revenue Implications</u>  The preferred option, as outlined above, is to award grant funding to the voluntary, community, and faith sector, specifically to Oldham Interfaith Forum and Stop Hate UK.  Grant Allocations for Financial Year 2026/27 (1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027):
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oldham Interfaith Forum: £36,000</li> <li>• Stop Hate UK: £4,400</li> </ul> <p>Provision for these allocations has been incorporated into the Stronger Communities base budget for 2026/27.</p> <p>(Matthew Kearns - Finance Manager)</p> <p><u>Capital Implications</u></p> <p>There are no capital implications as a result of this proposal.</p>
Legal	<p>There are no immediate legal issues arising from the report, but in due course, should there be a proposal to reduce or withdraw funding, then any such decision should be informed by appropriate consultation and/or equality impact assessment. The grant funding is already built into the Stronger Communities base budget for 2026/07. Should the service require specific grant agreements, they should liaise with legal services. (Alex Bougatef-Legal Services)</p>
Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People	<p>There are no adverse equality and diversity implications arising from the proposals contained within this report. However, an Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken in the event that funding to the groups is to be reduced or withdrawn at any future point</p>
Procurement	<p>If the money is awarded to providers as a grant, then there are no procurement implications, however Subsidy Control may need to be considered. A grant does not require the grantee to deliver any services or goods and therefore does not constitute a contract for services. If a contract is required, then spend would need to be compliant with the CPRs. The business unit should seek support and guidance from CPU for any spend over £30k (inc. VAT) that is not issued as a grant. (James England – Procurement Manager)</p>
Other	Not applicable

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	Yes
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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. None

## Appendix

1. None

Report author sign-off	<i>V. Kara</i>
Role	Senior Communities Officer
Date of sign-off	10/02/2026

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	<i>N. Constable</i>
Role	Director of Communities
Date of sign-off	10/02/2026

Approval	
Member(s) approval sign-off	<i>E. Paylor</i>
Role	Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Date of sign-off	10/02/2026