

Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k



Subject:	Exemption from the Contract Procurement Rules and grant of a new 6 month contract for the RSI (Rough Sleeping Initiative) Navigator services to Sanctuary Trust from 1st April 2026 – 30th September 2026
Decision maker: Senior Officer	Decision A: Nasir Dad – Director of Environment Decision B: Neil Consterdine – Director of Communities
Decision maker: Cabinet Member	Cllr Elaine Taylor - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Decision date:	27 th April 2026
Report author:	Seyi Adeyemi – Senior Housing Needs Officer
Ward (s):	None

Reason for decision(s)

Decision A: To seek an exemption under rule 21 of the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) in respect of the procurement procedures which must be followed under rule 4 of the CPRs, based on contract value.

Decision B: Subject to the approval of the exemption request under Decision A, to approve a direct award of a 6 month contract of the RSI Navigator services to the Sanctuary Trust for a total contract fee of £25,614 (exclusive of VAT)

The most recent contract for the provision of the RSI Navigator Services followed a competitive tender process. The contract was awarded to the Sanctuary Trust for a term commencing on 1st April 2023 and expiring on 31st March 2025. The contract value was £48,260* for 2023/24 and £49,588* for 2024/25.

*These amounts included provision of a small personalisation fund for rough sleepers of £5,000 per annum.

On 4th March 2025 Oldham Council received confirmation from GMCA that a further £79,935 in grant funding has been secured to extend RSI Navigator & Dual Diagnosis provision (procured by Public Health) until the end of March 2026. However, the contract in place until 31 March 2025 had no right of extension and there was insufficient time to seek approval to modify the term and implement any agreed variations prior to the

contract's expiry.

Oldham have now received indicative funding confirmation for 2026-2029 due for sign of at GMCA on 27th March 2026

	2025/26	2026/2027	2027/28	2028/29
Oldham	£79,935.00	£83,931.75	£88,128.34	£92,534.75

In order to guarantee continuity of service and minimise disruption for its users, this report seeks authorisation to:

- (a) Waive the requirements of rule 4 of the CPRs to enable a direct contract award to the Sanctuary Trust; and
- (b) Subject to approval of (a), to award for 6 months from 1st April 2026 to 30th September 2026 at a value of £25,614.

A multi-year funding settlement has been confirmed post March 2026 from which the Council will seek to reprocur RSI Navigator services via competitive tender.

Recommendation(s)

Decision A:

That the Delegated Officer for Decision A approves Option 1, and that using the exemption powers under rule 21 of the CPRs, the Delegated Officer waives the requirement to comply with rule 4 of the CPRs, which would enable Decision B to be made by Delegated Officer.

Decision B:

Subject to approval of the recommendation of Decision A of Option 1, to directly award and enter a new contract for the provision of RSI Navigator services with the Sanctuary Trust for 6 months from 1st April 2026 to 30th September 2026 at a value of £25,614 (this includes a personalization fund of £1,500).

Background

Oldham Council have commissioned an RSI Navigator service using grant monies awarded to the council since October 2019, with the service being recommissioned in each funding round through a competitive process.

The most recent grant award of RSI Navigator funding is made by GMCA and runs from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2029.

The RSI Navigator service ensures that we are working towards ending rough sleeping within the borough and is based on assisting with the delivery of the three principles identified in the Oldham Rough Sleeping Plan;

1. Prevention - Stopping people sleeping rough for the first time.
2. Intervention – Support to those currently sleeping rough to move off the streets.
3. Recovery – Support to those who have slept rough to ensure they don't return to the streets

The appointed RSI Navigator provider is tasked with sourcing accommodation and building effective networks of support for rough sleepers in the borough.

The RSI Navigator provider is key to tenancy sustainment for the cohort of identified entrenched rough sleepers. The ongoing support provided by the RSI Navigator provider continues with service users through their journey in temporary accommodation schemes such as A Bed Every Night (ABEN) and stays with them when they are housed in an independent tenancy, in either the social or private sector.

3 eligible bids were received for the advertised opportunity to deliver an RSI Navigator service between 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2025, bids were evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria, with weightings of:

- 90% Technical Capacity
- 10% Social Value

Price was included as a pass/fail for this opportunity due to there being definitive levels of grant funding available. The price attributed to the contract is as follows:

- Year 1: £48,260*
- Year 2: £49,588*

NB. The amounts provided above include provision of a small personalisation fund for rough sleepers of £5,000

Following evaluation, the Sanctuary Trust Limited were assessed as the successful bidder, having provided a good level of assurance around innovative and flexible approaches to non-engagement, the importance of lived experience and co-production in shaping rough sleeping services in Oldham, and reporting outcomes meeting both the service specification and GMCA's expectations around service provision.

The Sanctuary Trust Limited successfully delivered the services under the now expired contract. It had been intended to seek approval to modify the contract term under the previous contract to enable it to continue for a further year; however, the grant award

was only communicated to the council from the GMCA on 4 March 2025, and there was insufficient time to seek approval to a modification and to formalise it before the contract's expiry on 31st March 2025. As a result, an exemption and direct award was sought from 1st April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The funding post March 2026 is not due to be signed off by GMCA until 27th March 2026, and as such need to request exemption from procurement rules and grant of a direct award for 6 months whilst a procurement exercise is undertaken.

Alternative option(s) to be considered

Option 1

Decision A: Approve an exemption in respect of rule 4 of the Contract Procurement Rules by utilising rule 21 of the CPRs, and

Decision B: subject to approval of Decision A, directly award and enter into a 6-month contract to the value of £25,614 with the Sanctuary Trust Limited for the provision of the RSI Navigator services from 1st April to 30th September 2026.

Option 2

Do not approve an exemption of the requirements of rule 4 of the Contract Procedure Rules by utilising rule 21 of the CPRs.

This means that no request for a direct contract award to Sanctuary Trust Limited could be made and that any appointment of a service provider to deliver the RSI Navigator services until 31 March 2029 would be subject to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. There would be a gap in service whilst the council re-procured the services. This option may cause unnecessary disruption to the service, the cohort and objectives of the funding. There is an additional risk that no submissions would be received for such a small contract value. It is therefore not recommended that this option is pursued.

Option 3

Deliver in-house: Oldham Council would face significant staffing resource issues with statutory service delivery, which we are legally obliged to provide if this is considered a viable option. It is therefore not recommended that this option is pursued.

Consultation

Cabinet Member is fully supportive of continued RSI provision within Oldham. No conflict of interest declared. A consultation has been undertaken with service users and partner agencies.

Risks

Reputational risk could arise if a decision is taken not to continue to provide RSI funded services as delivered across GM.

There is a risk that if put out to tender no provider would bid, given the relatively low amount of funding available. If this is the case, the £25,614 proposed award to Sanctuary Trust may need to be renegotiated/rescinded, or other aspects of RSI work scaled back.

The Council will need to manage any contract awarded in accordance with the grant conditions

Implications

Financial	<p>As per the indicative GMCA Grant Agreement 2026/27 the value of Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant approved for Oldham Council for the period 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027 is £83,931.75. To allow the direct award of a 6-month contract of the RSI Navigator funding to Sanctuary Trust RSI Navigator & Dual Diagnosis provision (procured by Public Health) until the end of September 2026.</p> <p>RSI Navigator services £25,614</p> <p>The value of the works proposed for approval with Sanctuary Trust Limited will be contained within the full value of the grant. There are no additional costs to the Council.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(John Hoskins)</p>
Legal	<p>Rule 21 of the CPRs permits the Council to waive the requirement for competition where justified. The exemption is necessary due to the timing of the GMCA funding confirmation, which did not allow sufficient time to conduct a compliant procurement process before the existing contract expired. The report sets out a rationale for the direct award, namely continuity of service, avoidance of disruption to vulnerable rough sleepers, and compliance with GMCA grant conditions.</p> <p>The justification meets the requirements of Rule 21, and the total contract value is below the Procurement Act threshold so the proposed award does not trigger the need to undertake a full above threshold procurement procedure. Given the low contract value, short duration, and the urgent operational need within a grant-funded service, the direct award represents a proportionate and compliant approach.</p> <p>The service is advised to liaise with legal to ensure that the contract is finalised and that all GMCA grant conditions are adhered to.</p> <p>Pamela Nsofor (Solicitor)</p>

Procurement	<p>This is a compliant solution for the council. This does not alter statutory obligations. This meets compliance expectations.</p> <p>As this does not increase financial risk to the Council and is considered necessary to maintain a safe, compliant service delivery and ensures continued compliance with GMCA grant conditions.</p> <p>There is no Procurement risk here this is a compliant solution.</p> <p>Angela Porter – Senior Category Manager Corporate & Environment</p>
Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People	No change to service. Previous EIA assessment applies
Other	N/A

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?	Yes

Report author sign-off	Victoria Wood
Role	Head of Housing Needs
Date of sign-off	27 th April 2026

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	 Neil Consterdine

Role	Director of Communities
Date of sign-off	1 st May 2026

Approval	
Member(s) approval sign-off	
Role	
Date of sign-off	