

RECORD OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MADE BY AN OFFICER

Decision Maker	Decision Type	Date
Emma Barton	Non-key	20th July 2026

Place Partnership Funding from Arts Council England

Exempt/Confidential Report		No
Key Decision ¹		No

Decision (s) ² Accept the grant offer

Reasons for the decision(s)³

To approve the acceptance of £181,640 funding from Arts Council England's Place Partnership Funds to be delivered by the Local Cultural Education Partnership. This funding will deliver the Oldham Young Creative Producers Programme (YCPP), alongside a requirement to secure £30,000 in match funding.

This funding will be raised through sponsorship and fundraising activity. However, should fundraising not achieve the anticipated level, funding has already been secured to ensure that the full match-funding requirement is met, and project delivery can proceed as planned.

A total of £30,000 in match funding has been identified, comprising £15,000 from the Economic Development and Regeneration Flexible Grant (ED&RFG) (formerly the UK Shared Prosperity Fund) and £15,000 from activity-based projects within the Youth Service. This provides assurance that any fundraising shortfall can be covered, enabling the project to be delivered in full.

Options/Alternatives considered ⁴

¹ If the decision is Key Please use Key Decision Template.

² Brief details of the decision should be inserted. This note must set out the substance of the decision, options considered and the reason for deciding on the chosen option, although care must be taken not to disclose any confidential or exempt information. Please include proposed timescales for commencement and / or completion of implementation as appropriate.

³ Reasons for the decision must be given.

⁴ Options must be given.

Option 1: Accept the Arts Council England (ACE) Funding (Recommended)

Accept £181,640 from Arts Council England and deliver the Oldham Young Creative Producers Programme (YCPP), with a commitment to £30,000 match funding. This option enables the Council to implement a high-impact programme that develops creative skills, supports pathways into employment, and strengthens the borough's cultural infrastructure. It maximises external investment and delivers against key corporate priorities, including skills development, inclusion, and regeneration.

Option 2: Decline the Funding

Decline the ACE funding and not proceed with the YCPP programme. This would result in the loss of £181,640 external investment and associated opportunities for young people. It would limit the Council's ability to address local talent drain, reduce cultural sector capacity, and miss the opportunity to embed youth voice in cultural programming. In addition, this option carries a reputational risk for the Council, particularly in relation to Arts Council England and local stakeholders. It may also negatively impact partnerships within the local Cultural Education Partnership, potentially undermining trust, future collaboration opportunities, and Oldham's position in securing future external funding

Conflict of Interest declared⁵

(Signature of Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive)

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Decision made pursuant to:

- a) General delegation under the Council's officer scheme of delegation. Non-contract decisions up to £250k.**

⁵ If none, please state none. No Member having a disclosable pecuniary interest or officer having an interest in any matter (whether pecuniary or otherwise required to be declared) should take a decision in relation to that matter. Other interests of a non-disqualifying nature should be recorded here. Any dispensation in place in relation to the matter should also be recorded here. This may include other elected Members, officers, stakeholders and the local community.