

Acceptance of Adult Skills Funding Grant

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Economy and Skills

Directorate: Place

Report Author: Jon Bloor

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Date of Decision: 2nd/7th September 2026

1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

To accept the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Adult Skills Funding allocation for the academic year 2026 -2027 for the Lifelong Learning Service and the GMCA LA Grants allocation for the Council.

3. Reason for urgency

The Council will not receive the £3.4m+ of Adult Skills Funding until the funding allocation is accepted. The Council needs to agree to this before the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) can be signed. Therefore all costs incurred will need to be underwritten by the Council until the agreement is signed. Once the GFA is signed then the risks can be managed by the service.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

The Council will need to underwrite the costs of delivery which becomes increasingly problematic as time progresses from the start of the academic year until the end of the financial year as GMCA will seek to reallocate unspent funds.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

The Council could incur upto £3.4m of costs without the funding agreement in place.

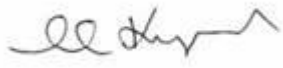
6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer**Name** James Postle**Date** 17/08/2026**Comments**

The Council will need to accept the allocation and enter into the Grant Funding Agreement to receive the grant funding, which is ringfenced to Adult Skills Funding. If the grant funding is not accepted the Council will need to underwrite the costs of providing the service, for which there is no budgetary provision.

b. Monitoring Officer**Name** Alex Bougatef**Date** 17.8.26**Comments**

The exercise of emergency powers should be undertaken in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council. However, the Council has not yet appointed a Leader or Deputy Leader for the current municipal year; it is therefore not possible to consult them. In addition, there is no certainty about when a Leader or Deputy Leader will be appointed as the Council has failed at three successive meetings to do so. For the reasons given in the report, an urgent decision relating to the report is required, and it cannot wait until the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.

Approved by the Chief Executive following consultation with the political group leaders. Decision made under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions.	
Signed:  Shelley Kipling, Chief Executive	Dated: 8 th September 2026
Date of Group Leaders meeting	7 th September 2026