



Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation: Consultation Results and Approval to Support Establishment

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Growth

Directorate: Place

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Date of Decision: 24 August 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 emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

The Chief Executive is asked to exercise emergency powers to take the decisions that would otherwise have been sought from Cabinet through the report titled "Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation: Consultation Results and Approval to Support Establishment".

Specifically, the Chief Executive is asked to:

- note the results of the consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposed designation of a Mayoral Development Corporation for Oldham;
- approve Oldham Council's support for the designation of the proposed Oldham MDC area and the establishment of the Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation;
- authorise the Deputy Chief Executive (Place), in consultation with the Director of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer, Director of Finance / Section 151 Officer and GMCA, to finalise any documentation required to support the designation and establishment process;
- note that, subject to the Mayor of Greater Manchester being satisfied that the statutory requirements have been met, the Mayor may publicise the designation, notify the Secretary of State of the designation and confirm the proposed name, "Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation"; and
- note that further decisions and reports will be required on the MDC Business Plan, governance, appointments, resourcing, budget, powers and implementation arrangements.

3. Reason for urgency

The decision is urgent because the Council is not currently able to progress the Cabinet decision through the ordinary executive decision-making route within the timetable required to maintain the MDC statutory establishment programme. The consultation has concluded, the results have been assessed and the next step requires a formal statement of Oldham Council's support so that GMCA and the Mayor of Greater Manchester can continue the designation and establishment process.

The decision cannot reasonably be delayed until a future Cabinet meeting without creating material programme risk. Delay would interrupt the agreed sequence of Council, GMCA, Mayoral and government activity, reduce momentum with delivery partners and make it more difficult for Oldham to present a clear, investment-ready proposition. The emergency decision is limited to the matters set out in the accompanying Cabinet report. It does not itself establish the MDC, transfer functions, approve planning powers, commit project capital expenditure or determine the detailed governance and budget arrangements, which remain subject to the relevant statutory and decision-making processes.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

If the decision is not taken now, the statutory designation and establishment programme may be delayed and Oldham may be unable to provide GMCA and the Mayor of Greater Manchester with the timely local authority support needed to progress the proposal. Delay would weaken the momentum created through the consultation and Shadow Board process, create uncertainty for GMCA, government, landowners, delivery partners, investors and anchor institutions, and risk Oldham being less able to respond to central government, public-body and private-investment opportunities.

There is also a risk that priority regeneration activity across SportsTown, Northern Roots and the Town Centre continues to be progressed through fragmented arrangements for longer than necessary. This could reduce delivery grip, delay work on land, infrastructure, viability and funding barriers, and weaken confidence in Oldham's ability to coordinate and deliver its wider Live Well regeneration proposition. Not taking the decision would also leave the clear majority support expressed through the public and youth consultation without a timely formal response.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

The emergency decision does not itself approve new capital expenditure or commit the Council to the detailed future operating costs of the MDC. Detailed proposals for the MDC Business Plan, revenue budget, staffing, commissioned support, project funding and any Council contribution will be subject to further financial appraisal and approval through the appropriate governance routes.

If the decision is not taken, however, there is a significant opportunity-cost risk. Delay may reduce Oldham's ability to secure or influence central government, GMCA, public-body and private investment; may require preparatory and professional work to be repeated or extended; and may delay the development of fundable and investable propositions across the MDC programme. The Section 151 Officer should confirm the financial position and any conditions attached to the decision before it is made.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

The accompanying Cabinet report sets out the consultation results, proposed decision, rationale, options, governance and delivery approach, legal and procurement implications, risks, equality impacts and environmental implications. The emergency decision must be taken only after the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer have confirmed that the proposed use of emergency powers and the recommendations are lawful, constitutionally compliant and supported by appropriate financial and governance advice.

a. Section 151 Officer

Name	James Postle
Date	12/08/2026
Comments	There are no direct financial implications for the Council to support the designation of the MDC area and the establishment of the Oldham MDC. Should the MDC be designated, further work will be required to determine the financial implications which will require separate approval.

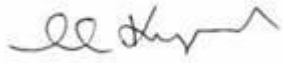
b. Monitoring Officer

Name	Alex Bougatef
Date	14/08/2026
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.
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7. Supporting decision report

This Emergency Powers Decision Report should be read alongside the Cabinet report titled “Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation: Consultation Results and Approval to Support Establishment”, dated 10 August 2026. That report contains the full basis for the proposed decision, including the consultation undertaken from 20 May to 1 July 2026, the public and youth consultation outcomes, the proposed designation and establishment process, the options considered, the risks and the matters that remain subject to future approval.

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